



Asociacija

DRUŠTVO NEVLADNIH ORGANIZACIJ IN  
SAMOSTOJNIH USTVARJALCEV  
NA PODROČJU KULTURE IN UMETNOSTI  
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**Dear Prime Minister Borut Pahor and Minister Franc Križanič,**

We are appalled at the planned financial projection of the supplementary budget of the Republic of Slovenia, which, as we understand from the published projections, includes a drastic reduction of funds earmarked for culture, i.e. a cut in the amount of EUR 38 million.

Upon hearing this news, we wonder whether the Slovenian government and the Ministry of Finance understand the dimensions and the consequences of such a drastic intervention into live culture. We also wonder whether the Slovenian government understands that culture is an integral part of contemporary society and a distinctly diverse industry with positive and broad microeconomic and social effects. Culture is a public good, the basis of a creative and innovative society that inspires the development of contemporary values and creates a sustainable living environment. Cutting the funds for culture means cutting the funds for NGOs – which are already underfinanced as it is – which inevitably leads to the impoverishment of creative and cultural diversity and the citizens active in this field. We wonder whether the Slovenian government is following the example of the intolerant colleagues in the Netherlands who launched an attack against their own exemplary cultural production systems.

We unanimously oppose the discriminatory and disproportionately high share in the reduction of planned funds, which drastically endangers the implementation of cultural programmes and the social security of people, especially the most vulnerable groups – the self-employed professionals in the field of culture. Last but not least, this threatens also the implementation of projects and programmes we are bound to by contractual obligations to European partners. This is why we decided to call on you to take reasonable and balanced action in planning the additional economy measures you intend to adopt. We do not oppose the cuts as such, but the discriminatory and disproportional allocation of financial burdens. Why should culture bear four times the burden of other sectors?

Because we do not want to repeat the old formulae about Slovenian culture being the basis of Slovenian identity in the Europe of nations and an important part of European cultural heritage, we inform you that artists and cultural workers in Slovenia do not intend to accept such sinister and shortsighted measures, for we know that culture is an important pillar of contemporary society and an invaluable public good. **We call on you not to adopt the planned proposal of burden sharing, which includes a EUR 38 million cut in the funds earmarked for culture. We call on you to act reasonably.**