

Culture Action Europe

CultureAndHealth Platform

ArtWell network

11 December 2025



Kornelia Kiss
Head of Culture and Health
Co-author of the CultureForHealth report



Who are we?

Major European cross-sectoral cultural network

✓ We advocate for culture and the arts!

Decode EU language for our members

Encode our member's messages towards the EU institutions

✓ We connect and facilitate exchange and dialogue!

✓ We co-create and share knowledge!

✓ We lead projects and campaigns!

Over 290 members in 35 countries

European and National Networks, National Associations

Public and Private organisations & companies

Cities & Regions

Foundations & Cultural Institutes

Individuals & freelancers



Four action areas

ACTIONS

encoding cultural
ecosystems
knowledge

ACTIONS

Publications
Future images



ACTIONS

decoding the political
arena for the
ecosystem

Geographical hubs -
national/regional
advocacy

ACTIONS

Projects
Events



CAE Strategy 2025-2028



✓ Culture as a Workplace

- Working conditions
- Sustainability
- Artistic Freedom

✓ Culture as a Sector and a Vector

- Culture and Wellbeing
- Epistemic recognition of culture

✓ Cultural Leadership

- Strengthening Cultural democracy
- Shaping the Future
- Sustainable Development Goal- Culture



Care as a guiding principle

The concept of care is Culture Action Europe's strategic pillar. It demonstrates a commitment to a cultural ecosystem that is sustainable, inclusive, and democratic.

- Culture's contribution Wellbeing 2016
- CultureForHeath –EU preparatory action (2021-2023)
- CultureAndHealth Platform (2024-2028)
- Care project (2024-2027)

Key resources to build on

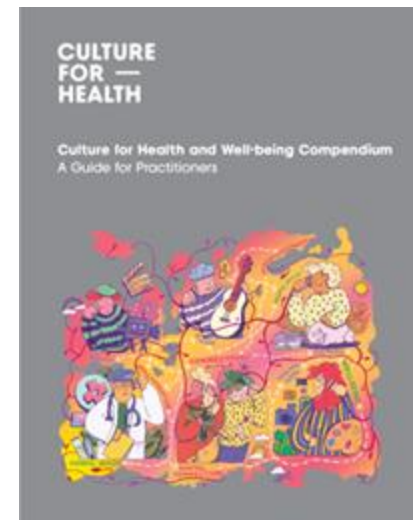
www.cultureforhealth.eu



850+ projects in
the database of projects

CULTURE FOR — HEALTH

2021-2023



Europ
e - BE



Rom
ania



Slov
enia



Den
mar
k



Northern
States,
Latvia



Europ
e - SE

CultureForHealth Report Policy Recommendations

Dedicated strategic and financial support

- Include culture as an integral part of the EU's health strategy and as a core pillar of the EU's mental health strategy – complement medical approach
- Increase investment in prevention and health promotion (2018 EU average: 3%) Cultural activities are cost-effective
- Embed dedicated provisions in policy documents
- Promote the use of culture-based social prescribing across the EU

Knowledge and awareness building

- Recognise cultural activities as complementary to traditional medical responses
- Support further research
- Raise awareness of the evidence and of the cost effectiveness

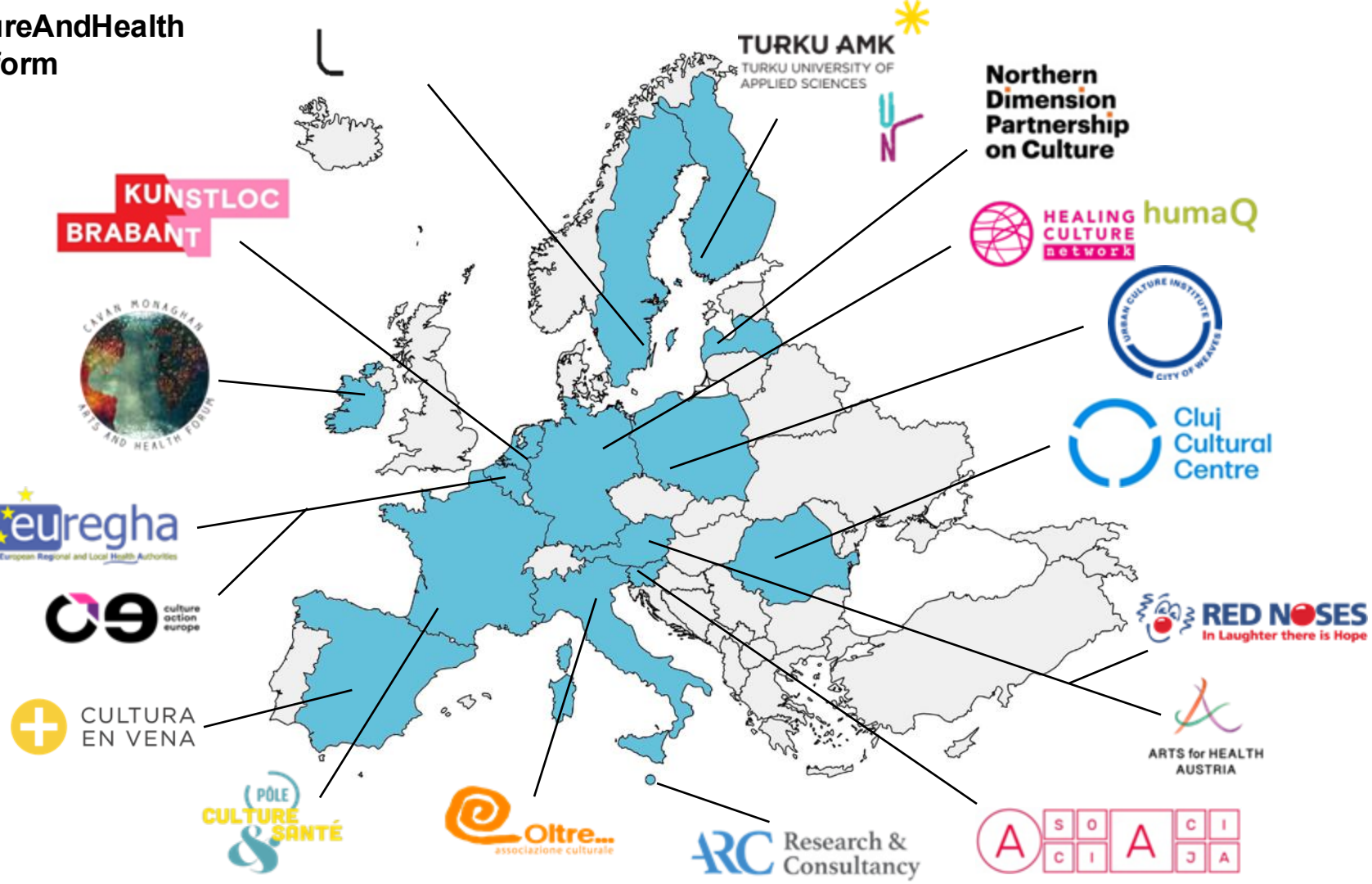
Training and peer learning

- Encourage joint training and life-long learning in culture for health and wellbeing – equal level
- Support the development of training and enable peer learning and exchange of good practices

Localising Culture, Health and wellbeing R&D policy discussions

- Support the creation of a dedicated platform for exchange
 - Short term: platform / Think tank @ a university | Mid term: embed a department in EU -level health organisation dedicated for European Culture, Health and Well-being
- Encourage MS, regions, cities and organisations to establish their own culture, health and wellbeing strategies and assign dedicated finance and personnel

CultureAndHealth Platform



CultureAndHealth Platform

- 1 November 2024 – 31 October 2028
- *Objective: to support and promote **emerging European artists** working in the **interprofessional space of culture, health, care and social sectors***
- Aims:
 - **Provide financial support for artist-led projects** that bridge culture and health
 - Support and **build artists' capacities**
 - Enable international **mobility**
 - **Increase visibility** and **networking** opportunities
 - The platform will also **raise awareness** about the vital role culture plays in **health** and well-being
- Minimum 200 artists will be supported in 4 years
- www.cultureandhealth.eu

Platform Actions



Financial support for projects

- National level calls
3 artist/year*12 countries*4
- EU level calls
8 artist/year*3



Mentoring

Support- intersectoral
National networking



Support and build
Artist capacities

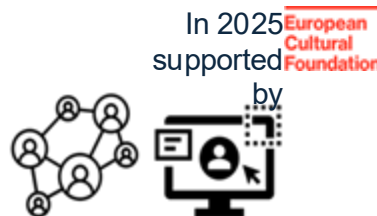
- online trainings
- live trainings



Increase visibility &
showcasing of the
work of artists
1 int. mega event
/year



**Artist shadowing /
peer-learning**
programme



Cross-border Networking

- Online Artist roundtable
- Peer support
- Year 4: online artist database

**CULTURE
AND –
HEALTH**
PLATFORM

 Co-funded by
the European Union



Support Artist
mobility to learn
cross-border
10 artists /year*4

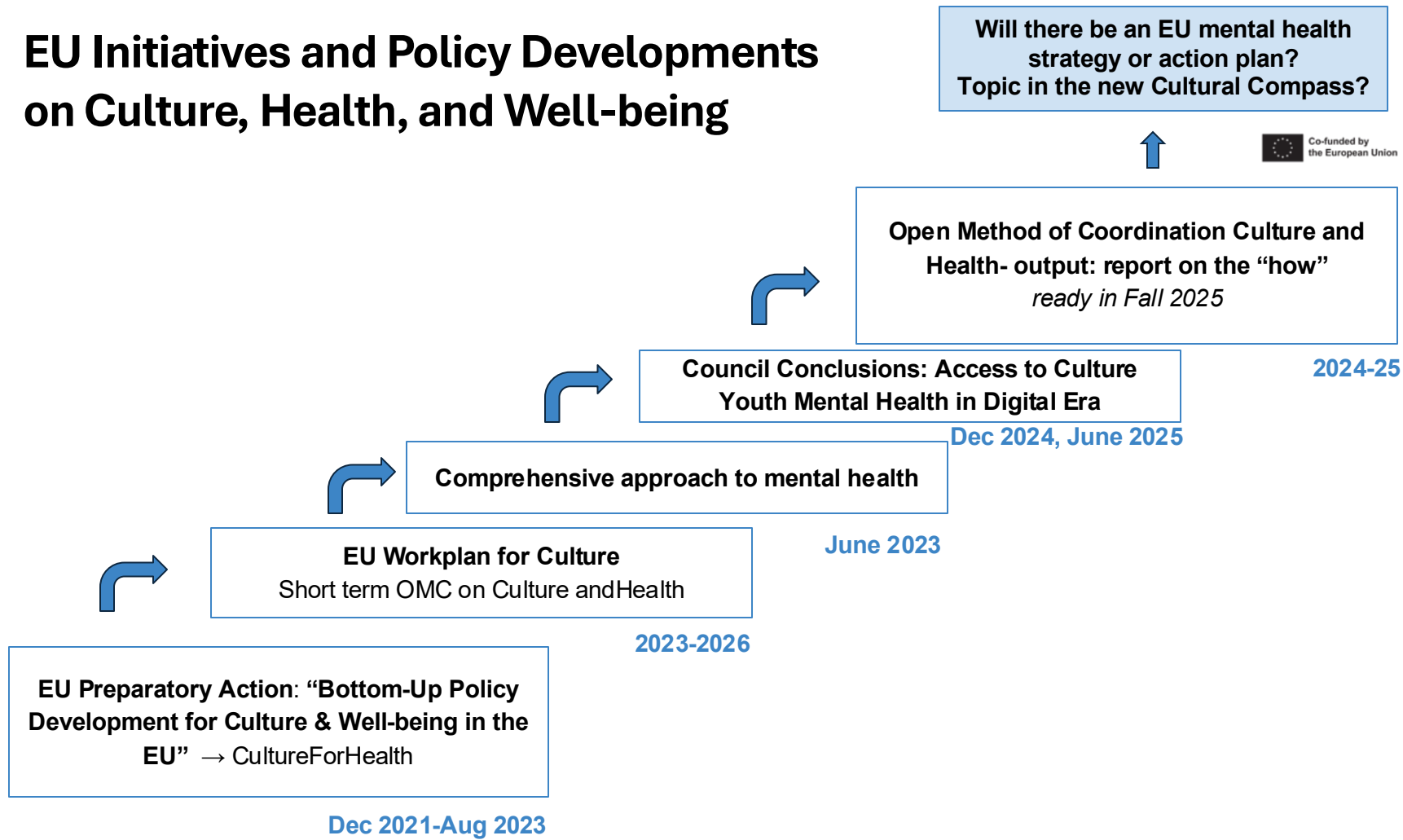


Awareness
raising
Webinars for the
**Health and
Social sectors**

CAE + CultureAndHealth Platform

- CAE members on arts & health: 32 + lot of networks related
 - Network of Museums Organisations, Amateur arts network, Choral associations, Dance networks, etc.
- CultureForHealth linked in followers: 3887, FB: 860+, Insta 570+
- Newsletter subscribers: 353 and growing - 60% and higher opening rate
- Combined strength:
- The total external communication channels reach – all partners combined -- is approximately 750,000 people reached
 - 70 newsletters- reaching 117.824 people
 - 80 website articles
- Dissemination 3400 people reached in 48 events in 1 year

EU Initiatives and Policy Developments on Culture, Health, and Well-being





2023

EU Council Conclusion on Comprehensive approach to Mental Health

*RECOGNISING that strengthening protective factors, such as regular sports and physical exercise as well as **participation in cultural activities**, can boost the overall mental health and well-being of people and reduce the risk of mental health conditions*

Invites Member States to:

- Implementing a mental health, across all-policies approach (...)such **as access to culture**
- focus on **strengthening protective factors for good mental health** and mental health resilience **such as participating in sports and culture**



EU Council Conclusion on Improving and Fostering Access to Culture

Invites Member States to:

Consider incorporating cultural activities (...) by **harnessing the potential of culture in relation to mental health**, and promoting, for instance, **cultural prescribing projects**.

EU Council Conclusion on Promoting and protecting the mental health of children and adolescents in the digital era (June 2025)



"cultural activities as alternatives to screentime"

Calling for Regulation of BIG TECH +

socialising with peers, **cultural participation, creative activities**, (...) have a positive impact on (...)adolescents' mental health by building up their self-esteem, self-acceptance, self confidence and self-worth

invites Member States to:

Offer offline methods to **creative expression through engaging, non-digital alternatives** (...) developing green spaces and recreational areas ,**libraries, cultural hubs...**

Promote healthy lifestyles, emphasizing a balanced approach,(...) such as **participating in physical and cultural activities, reading books**, spending quality time with family and friends.

Culture and Health: Time to Act

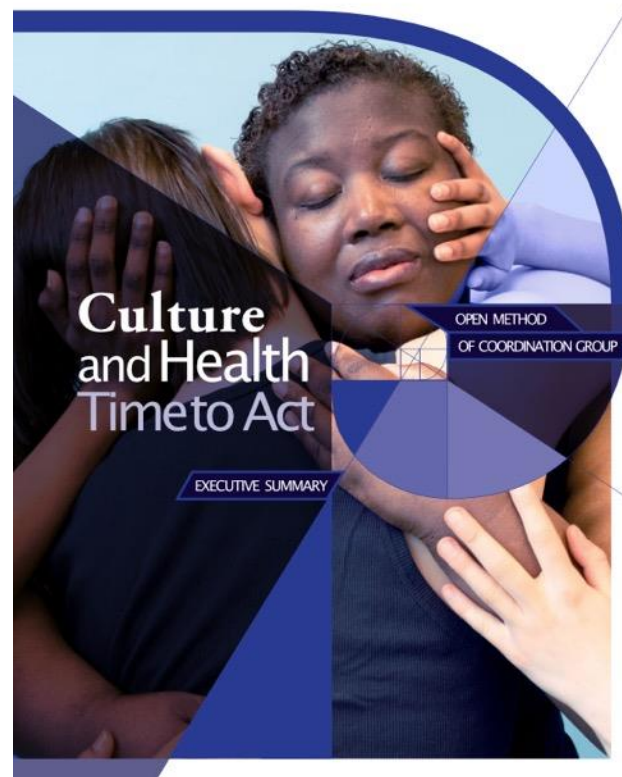
Open Method of Coordination on Culture and Health



Education, Youth, Sport and Culture



Education, Youth, Sport and Culture



CULTURE
AND
HEALTH
PLATFORM



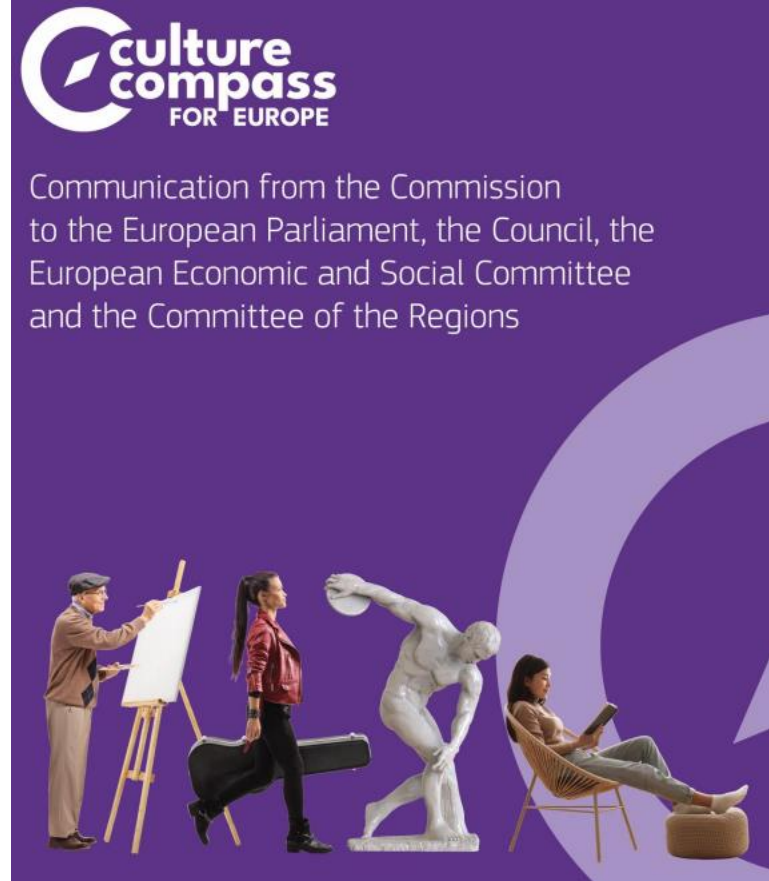
Launched:
29.09.2025

New EU Cultural Strategy- Culture Compass for Europe

CULTURE
AND —
HEALTH
PLATFORM

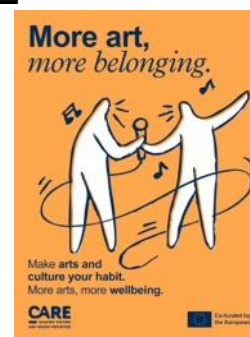
2) An EU that empowers artists and cultural professionals, and supports people;

- [Enhancing health and well-being through culture](#)
- Refers to: OMC report on Culture and Health
- Action in 2028: **develop an EU guidelines on culture, health and well-being for policy makers and stakeholders.**
- It will also continue encouraging regular exchanges of good practices in this field, supporting cross-border collaboration through Creative Europe.



What can YOU do?

- Raise awareness and advocate for culture and health
- Advocate
- Share your project on the CultureForHealth database
- Follow & share opportunities on the cultureandhealth.eu website- connect?
- Share the “More art, more wellbeing” **social media campaign** of the CARE project!!!
- Sign the Ask-Pay-Trust the artist campaign of CAE



Coming Up

Open for all Artists' Roundtables:

03.12.25 | 14.00 CET **Arts in Institutional Health and Care Settings**

11.02.26 | 11.00 CET **Culture and Arts in Community Based Settings**

20.05.26 | 14.00 CET **Arts in Educational & Youth focused Spaces**

Call for project proposals

Eu- wide call opens 12 Dec 2025 – info session 16 December 2025

National calls in the C&H platform's countries (Jan-Feb 2026) – Italy: 16 January 2026

Training & Capacity building

11 December- Online book preview: 'ART CURE, The Science of How the Arts Transform our Health' – with author Prof. Daisy Fancourt

26 Jan - MATADOC Training for Music Therapists and Musicians



Conferences

26-27 February 2026 - Culture, Health & Wellbeing Conference in Leuven, Belgium

3-5 June 2026 Vilnius Lithuania –CARE mobile hub

7-11 September 2026 – Culture and Health Platform Conference in Vienna, Austria

CARE Awareness raising campaign



EU Call for Projects: Culture and Health

Stage 1 deadline: 2 Feb 2026 – 12:00 CET

- For artists or artist collectives working in culture, health and well-being
- 8 X 8000 EUR to implement the project between May 2026-April 2027
- 2 stage process
- Requirement: partnership with an organization from the health/social/educational sector (eg. Hospital, care home, health authority) as we are looking for projects with potential of long term sustainability
- Proposals are welcome both from the prevention (eg socially engaged arts) and management and treatment areas
- See eligible countries + other national calls
- Artist need to be fluent in the language of the community they are serving

CULTURE
AND —
HEALTH
PLATFORM





Thank you!

www.cultureactioneurope.org

Join our membership!

www.cultureforhealth.eu

www.cultureandhealth.eu

f @CultureActionEurope
t @actforculture
i culture_action_europe
in Culture Action Europe



Kornelia Kiss she/her
Head of Culture and Health
kornelia@cultureactioneurope.org

**CULTURE
AND —
HEALTH**
PLATFORM