

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru / National Assembly for Wales
Pwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chyfathrebu / The Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee
Ymchwiliad byr i oblygiadau ymadael â'r Undeb Ewropeaidd / Short inquiry into the implications of Brexit
CWLC(5) BREXIT05
Ymateb gan Llenyddiaeth Cymru / Evidence from Literature in Wales

The possible impacts of Brexit on the areas within the committees' remit in Wales are far-reaching and long-lasting. Much will depend on the terms of the withdrawal from the EU and what/if a deal can be agreed. We are certain that a no deal Brexit would be deeply damaging to the areas of concern for this inquiry and would leave Wales financially worse off, more isolated from the rest of the world and culturally poorer. Restricting freedom of movement to and from the EU would make many cultural exchanges, projects and activities burdensome and difficult, and especially smaller organisations might no longer be able to take part in these.

Literature Wales attended the 'Moving Beyond Brexit: Uniting the Cultural and Creative Sectors' workshop in Brussels at the end of September (organised by British Council, the European Cultural Foundation and BOZAR Centre for Fine Art in Brussels). This expert workshop made specific recommendations for UK policy makers with regards to the implications of Brexit on the arts and cultural sector. These are all relevant and of interest to this inquiry and are available here:

<https://www.culturalfoundation.eu/library/moving-beyond-brexit-uniting-cultural-and-creative-sectors>

Drawing on these recommendations, there are equally three particular areas Welsh Government should carefully consider and plan for:

1. Funding & Partnerships

- Any restrictions to access and full participation in European funding schemes (from Creative Europe, Horizons 2020, Erasmus+, Tandem and many others) would limit Wales' ability to engage with the wider world, bring talent to Wales, export its arts and culture, research and education sectors and severely limit its ability to generate income and maximise opportunities for growth.

- Limiting access to long-established European networks and funding programmes in the culture, education and research sectors would isolate Wales further, damage its ability to perform and deliver and would likely stop new opportunities in culture, creative industries, film and TV and limit Wales' global reach. It would make Wales less visible to the rest of the world, at a time when more should be done to raise visibility and awareness for Wales and the Welsh language (compare British Council Wales' report on *Wales Soft Power Barometer 2018*:

https://wales.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/wales_soft_power_barometer_2018_0.pdf)

Recommendations for WG

- The UK should guarantee continued participation in these schemes, plan contingencies for existing projects in case of a no-deal Brexit and ensure visa/work permit exceptions are devised for participants in such schemes, if necessary.
- WG should ensure continued participation for Wales in all major EU funding schemes, including influencing the future development and evolution of these programmes itself.
- Given the devolved nature of culture and education matters, WG should and could do this even if the UK government does not wish to continue full participation in any or all of these programmes and should carefully plan and explore the implications of such a scenario. For instance, if the UK wishes to leave Creative Europe as an active participant, Wales could remain, but this might have costly financial implications. Such scenarios should be considered carefully by WG.

2. Mobility

- Restriction of movement of people and goods would limit the ability for major companies to tour, generate revenue and attract talent.

Smaller companies, artists and individuals who frequently move around and engage with European partners would also suffer.

Recommendations for WG

- There is no comprehensive data on the movement of labour in the arts and cultural sector from/to the EU in Wales. This should be gathered as a matter of urgency. How many people, projects, partnerships would be directly affected?
- Welsh Government should collate this data, make the results public and plan to mitigate as much as possible against restrictive administrative procedures.
- Creative expression defines our nation and arts, culture and language make us who we are. WG should clearly state its intention and desire to work with EU partners in areas of concern for this enquiry, should champion internationalism and send clear signals to EU residents here that they continue to be welcomed (and should position itself in opposition to the UK government's stance, if necessary).

3. Legal issues

- Specific consideration should be given to copyright law, standardisation, competition law, workers' rights in the arts and cultural sector and recognition of professional and academic qualifications.

Recommendations for WG

- (See recommendations from the 'Beyond Brexit' workshop:
<https://www.culturalfoundation.eu/library/moving-beyond-brexit-uniting-cultural-and-creative-sectors>)