

## **Review of the Balance of Competences Between the United Kingdom and the European Union**

Museums Galleries Scotland (MGS), the national development body for museums and galleries in Scotland, welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Review of the Balance of Competences Between the United Kingdom and the European Union.

The MGS response covers the culture specific questions and the general questions.

### **Culture Questions**

EU funding is very important to the UK cultural sector, and more could be done in relation to culture. EU programmes often addresses an area not covered by other funding bodies which are often focused on domestic rather than on international activity. Examples where it has been particularly valuable are in the digital area with large projects such as Europeana as well as large trans European projects around a particular theme such as food and drink or industrial heritage. The EU's focus on a shared cultural heritage is beneficial as it recognises the cultural diversity of the EU. This opens culture up and helps to make it more accessible and inclusive for everyone.

### **General Questions**

MGS welcomes the new Creative Europe framework and in particular the Horizon 2020 programme for research and innovation<sup>1</sup> and the three key objectives for activity.

MGS is a UNESCO accredited NGO in regard to the "2003 Convention for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage<sup>2</sup>" (ICH). This role has an international dimension, as MGS belongs to the ICH NGO Forum consisting of representatives from throughout the world. The forum enables NGOs to share knowledge and identify opportunities for partnership working. EU funding can provide a way for potential partnership projects including EU countries to be realised.

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index\\_en.cfm?pg=home](http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm?pg=home)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/index.php?lg=en&pg=00503>

The 2005 "Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society<sup>3</sup>" shares the ethos of the UNESCO convention. Both highlight the importance of cultural heritage and the role of communities in the defining and management cultural heritage.

In addition to partnership funding, the availability of 100% funding would be greatly beneficial to the UK. The lack of 100% funding has been a barrier to the UK taking up EU opportunities. There has also been a capacity issue around identifying partners and more support for supporting partnerships and mechanisms to promote potential partners would be very helpful, perhaps a bank of projects looking for partners.

August 2013

---

<sup>3</sup> <http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/en/Treaties/Html/199.htm>