

Cultural Heritage & Tourism Working Group Meeting

Culture, arts and mental health

Tuesday 30 June 2026 | 14:00 – 16:30

ERRIN Office, Rue du Luxembourg 3, 1000 Brussels

Mental health challenges affect nearly one in four people in Europe each year, with significant consequences for quality of life, social cohesion and participation in the labour market. The European Commission's *Communication on A Comprehensive Approach to Mental Health* highlights the important role that cultural participation can play in supporting well-being, strengthening social connections, fostering belonging, boosting self-esteem and helping to reduce isolation, stress and loneliness.

This contribution of culture to health and well-being is further emphasised in the *Culture Compass* and in the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) report on culture and health, both of which underline the added value of cultural participation at local and regional levels.

In collaboration with ERRIN's Health Working Group, this meeting, taking place on 30 June at the ERRIN premises, will explore **regional best practices and case studies** at the intersection of culture and mental health. The session will also highlight relevant EU policies and discuss opportunities for future EU-funded activities.

14:00	Welcome and introduction Martina Hilger, co-leader of the Cultural Heritage and Tourism WG Cédric Daumas, co-leader of the Health WG
14:10	Culture, arts and mental health – an evolving policy perspective Thomas Isenberg , German representative on the former EU-WTO Working Group on Culture & Health Marco Di Donato , Project and Policy Manager, EUREGHA Monica Urian , Policy Officer, DG EAC, European Commission (tbc)
15:10	Culture, arts and mental health: regional best practice examples George Sand Hospital, Bourges - Marine Lerouge, Deputy Director of Projects and Corporate Sponsorship at Centre Hospitalier George Sand Sindssyg God Søndag & the MIND Museum – Steen Moller, Head of Culture and Leisure, Middlefart Commune Culture, arts and mental health in Malopolska - Tomasz Włodarski, Director, Malopolska Institute of Culture

	Arts on Prescription – Stine Keiding, Lead Partner of the Interreg BSR project Arts on Prescription on the Baltic Sea Region and partner in BSR Mental Health Platform, Imke Seifert, Freie Hansestadt Bremen Q&A
16:15	Closing remarks
16:30	End of the meeting