

CULTURAL DEAL FOR EUROPE: SIGNIFICANCE FOR UKRAINE

Iryna Sikorska,

Associate Professor, Mariupol State University

The Cultural Deal for Europe was adopted on November 18, 2020 by three distinguished organizations: Culture Action Europe, the European Cultural Foundation (ECF) and Europa Nostra. The Cultural Deal for Europe stands as a transformative instrument fostering unity across the diversity of European nations. This initiative embodies the European Union's commitment to cultural cohesion, transcending geographical and historical boundaries to strengthen the bonds that connects its member states together. Embracing this initiative opens new avenues for cultural exchange, dialogue, and collaboration, ultimately contributing to a more integrated and united Europe.

At its core, the Cultural Deal for Europe seeks to celebrate and preserve the cultural capital that defines each European nation while promoting intercultural understanding. By emphasizing the shared values that underpin European culture, this inventiveness becomes a catalyst for fostering a sense of belonging and solidarity among nations. Ukraine, with its diverse

linguistic, ethnic, and historical mosaic, stands to benefit immensely from this initiative. For Ukraine, a country with a rich cultural heritage, the Cultural Deal for Europe presents a unique opportunity to deepen its integration into the European family.

One of the pivotal aspects of the Cultural Deal for Europe is its potential to bridge historical divisions. Ukraine has a complex history, marked by periods of foreign rule, time of struggles for self-determination, and finally – independence. The Cultural Deal acts as a unifying force, encouraging a shared narrative that transcends historical grievances and focuses on the commonalities that can bind European nations together.

The Cultural Deal for Europe provides a platform for the exchange of artistic expressions, ideas, and traditions. This allows Ukraine to showcase its vibrant heritage on a broader stage that enriches the European cultural landscape. For Ukraine, the importance also lies in its potential to strengthen national identity, and to foster a sense of belonging within the larger European community.

Key words: *cultural deal for Europe, European member states, the EU, Ukraine, cultural diversity, integration*

Bibliographic list:

A Cultural Deal for Europe, 2020. A central place for culture in the EU's post-pandemic future. 18 November 2020. Available at: www.cultureactioneurope.org [Accessed 25 September 2023]