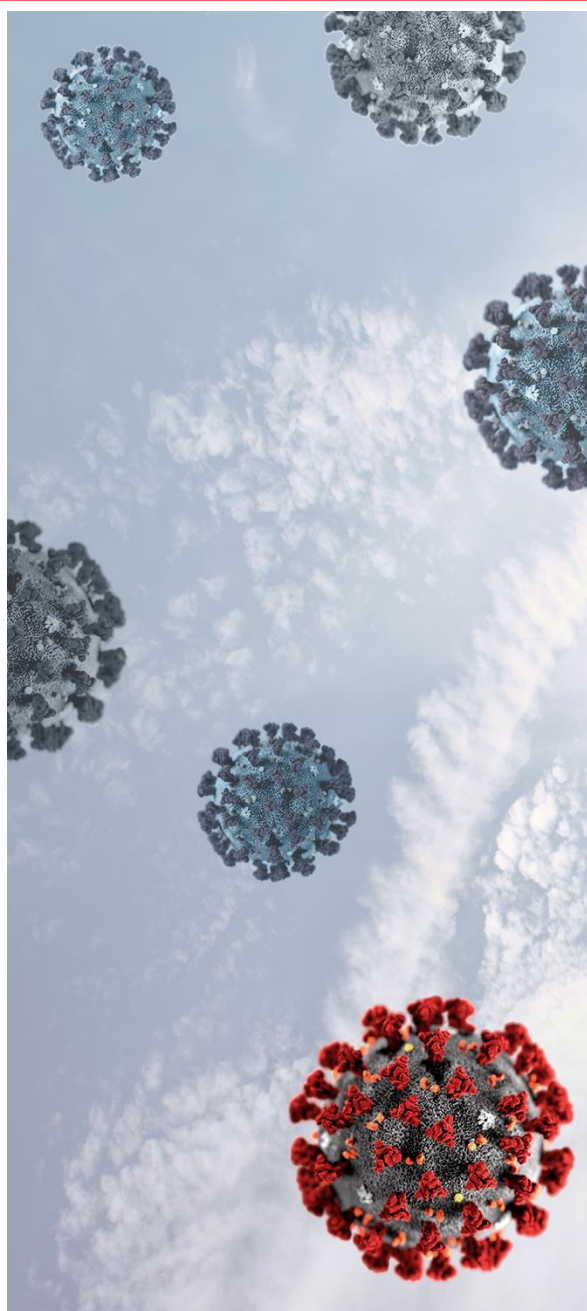

COVID-19: News from the cultural sector

Newsletter | Portugal

February 24, 2021



- > **Exceptional measures for cultural and entertainment performances**
- > **Regulation of cultural support measures**



I. Exceptional measures for cultural and entertainment performances

The new general lockdown, imposed from January 15, 2021, has led to the temporary closure of establishments and venues where cultural and artistic activities are organized, and the cancellation or postponement of live artistic performances, similar to what happened during the first wave of the pandemic, in March and April 2020.

At the time, Decree Law 10-I/2020, of March 26, established an exceptional framework to protect cultural operators involved in organizing performances that could not or would not be able to be held due to the pandemic, and that were scheduled between February 28 and September 8, 2020.

Under this legislation, affected performances should be rescheduled within a given period, without affecting the validity of tickets already sold or the possibility of exchanging the ticket for another performance, at the spectator's request. If rescheduling is not possible, the show must be canceled and the cost of tickets already sold reimbursed, together with the amounts paid in advance to the owners or operators of the place where the performance was to be organized, within the periods established in that law.

Now, in light of the restrictions imposed during the current general lockdown, it has become necessary to extend the application scope of the measures established in Decree Law 10-I/2020. Decree Law 6-E/2021, of January 15, establishes that:

- the system created by Decree Law 10-I/2020 is now applicable to the rescheduling and cancellation of performances not held up to March 31, 2021; and
- the rescheduled performance must take place by September 30, 2021.

II. Regulation of cultural support measures

From January 15, new restrictive measures were adopted as part of the state of emergency that was imposed, establishing new periods during which artistic and cultural activities are suspended and cultural facilities are closed.

Therefore, it has become necessary to reinforce the support measures for the cultural sector to help the cultural and artistic community to not only meet its short-term commitments, but also to contribute to maintaining and relaunching its activities during and after the pandemic.

Therefore, a set of strategic measures was planned for 2021 aimed at alleviating the negative effects of the pandemic on the cultural and artistic sectors, adapting and extending pre-existing financial support measures while also creating new ones.



On February 15, Ordinance 37-A/2021, approving the Regulation of Cultural Support Measures (the “Regulation”) was published, entering into force immediately.

The Regulation establishes the following cultural support measures, which cut across the entire sector:

- Garantir Cultura (Guarantee Culture) Program
- Extraordinary support for artists, authors, technicians, and other cultural professionals
- Support under the Directorate-General of Arts (DGARTES)
- Support under the Directorate-General of Cultural Heritage (DGPC)
- Support under the Directorate-General of Books, Archives and Libraries (DGLAB)
- Support under the Regional Directorates of Culture
- Support under the Cinema and Audiovisual Institute (*Instituto do Cinema e do Audiovisual, I. P.*)
- State program for purchasing contemporary Portuguese art

Garantir Cultura Program

The **Garantir Cultura Program** aims to develop artistic projects, production, and programming in all areas of the cultural sector, including performance arts, visual arts, exchange across disciplines, books, cinema, and museum studies. This translates into the creation of assistance, in the form of grants, that covers the entire cultural sector, including individuals and organizations from all artistic sectors, as well as micro, small and medium-sized companies.

This program is divided into two sub-programs:

- **Garantir cultura – corporate world:** this involves assistance, in the form of grants, to artistic and cultural activities, particularly cultural production and programming, whether in physical or digital format, aimed at micro, small and medium-sized companies operating in the cultural sector.
- **Garantir Cultura – non-profit individual and collective artistic organizations:** this involves assistance, in the form of grants, aimed at individuals and organizations from the artistic sector, for cultural production and programming in both physical and digital formats.

This program has a maximum limit, by the end of 2021, of EUR 42 million, of which EUR 30 million is meant for the first sub-program, i.e., the corporate world, and the remaining for artistic individuals and non-profit organizations.

These grants cannot be combined with each other, but the program can be combined with the other support measures under the Regulation.



Extraordinary support for artists, authors, technicians, and other cultural professionals

The **Extraordinary support for artists, authors, technicians, and other cultural professionals** aims at extending the effects of the additional social support line to artists, authors, technicians, and other cultural professionals, created under the Economic and Social Stabilization Program, approved by Resolution 41/2020 of the Council of Ministers, of June 6 (PEES), and regulated by Ordinance 180/2020, of August 3. It is meant for individuals who are **exclusively** freelancers and who, as of January 1, 2020, are registered with the tax authorities with one of the main activities or with one of the main CIRS codes included in the Regulation.

Each applicant may benefit from a maximum amount corresponding to a Social Support Reference Rate (EUR 438.81). These grants are issued in the order the applications are received, and it is done through a single payment to each eligible applicant. The applications for support are submitted by filling in and submitting the appropriate form online, which must be done within 20 working days from the date the form is published.

This support measure can also be combined with the other support measures under the Regulation, as well as the additional social support established in Ordinance 180/2020, which we described in our COVID-19 Newsletter of August 6, "Support measures to the cultural sector," which you can read [here](#).

Support under the Directorate-General of Arts

The main goals of this support measure are to promote the artistic sector, contributing to its stabilization while upholding the requirements of artistic quality and cultural relevance, and encouraging, through other structural measures, the consolidation and renewal of Portugal's professional arts.

The Regulation establishes the terms of these emergency financial support measures, for 2021 and 2022, to be granted by DGARTES. The potential beneficiaries of this measure are:

- > organizations that have benefited from financial support, wholly or partially, as sustained support, whose contracts end on December 31, 2021;
- > eligible organizations that have not received any support in the Sustained Support Program 2020-2021 competition;
- > eligible organizations that have not received any support in the Project Support Program 2020 competition; and
- > regional orchestras, under Order 11156/2018, of November 28.

These grants can also be combined with the other measures under the Regulation.



Support under the Directorate-General of Cultural Heritage (DGPC) and under the Regional Directorates of Culture

Following the reactivation of the ProMuseus (Museum Support Program of the Portuguese Network of Museums) by Regulatory Order 9/2019, of April 1, a new ProMuseus competition is planned for this year, to be opened by a notice published in the *Official Gazette of the Portuguese State (Diário da República)*, in the first quarter of 2021, with overall financial support amounting to EUR 600,000, to be granted by the DGPC.

The Regional Directorates of Culture are also committed to launching processes leading to the issuing of grants to non-professional artistic organizations, in the first quarter of 2021, amounting to EUR 407,000, to be distributed among the different Regional Directorates of Culture listed in the Regulation.

Support under the Directorate-General of Books, Archives and Libraries

There are also support measures aimed at the publishing sector, across all categories, to alleviate the negative effects of the pandemic, while also stimulating and encouraging all the activities tied to the publishing chain. The intention is to promote literary production by Portuguese authors and to contribute to the circulation of books, update collections of public municipal libraries, and safeguard the book publishing and retail market in Portugal.

The Regulation provides for the following:

- The awarding of 24 scholarships, amounting to EUR 270,000, under the Literary Production Scholarship Program 2020, and the opening of the Literary Production Scholarship Program for 2021, under the regulation approved by Ordinance 123/2017, of March 27.
- The creation of a support system for bookshops, with overall financial support amounting to EUR 300,000 for small and medium-sized retail bookshops. In exchange, the bookshops will have to provide copies of books selected by the libraries belonging to the National Public Library Network. The regulation of this support measure will be published in the first quarter of 2021.
- The creation of a support measure for publishing, assigning an overall financial support of EUR 300,000 to small and medium-sized publishing houses for publishing unpublished works of poetry, narrative fiction, drama, comics, children's literature and young adult fiction, or essays in the areas of arts and cultural heritage, written in Portuguese by Portuguese authors. The regulation of this support measure will be published in the first quarter of 2021.



Support under the Cinema and Audiovisual Institute (*Instituto do Cinema e do Audiovisual, I. P.*)

The Cinema and Audiovisual Institute (*Instituto do Cinema e do Audiovisual, I. P.*) reinforces the group of exceptional support measures for resuming and maintaining activities of the sector and its regular functioning, reinforcing exceptional support measures with an additional amount of EUR 1,440,000, which complements some of the financial support programs for 2020.

State program for purchasing contemporary Portuguese art

To give continuity to the State's progressive investment in acquiring contemporary art, initiated in 2019, the amount available to the State's program for acquiring contemporary Portuguese art is reinforced this year by EUR 150,000.



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