

Dear Madam or Sir,

We, the Board and the members of **AMATEO**, ask you to listen to our collective voice through the attached manifesto. As the European Network for Active Participation in Cultural Activities, our shared manifesto enjoins you to act in the service of a Europe that is creatively innovative, democratically sound, and culturally prosperous.

In the light of the European elections, our unified message provides you with a firsthand account of the contribution and impact of the amateur arts and participatory culture. A sector greatly underestimated and rarely prioritised, 38% of Europeans who actively engage in creative pursuits in their free time also directly benefit from voluntary artistic practise.

Now more than ever, let us acknowledge the unifying power of the amateur arts that facilitate camaraderie and mutual respect; celebrate similarities and embrace differences; and stand firm against the rise of populism and regional fragmentation. Thus, we advocate for a Europe that provides access and opportunities for all European citizens to enjoy, participate in, and benefit from creative and cultural experiences of their choosing—whatever their background and circumstances may be, and wherever they live.

**AMATEO**, in fact, represents a network of more than 40 organisations all over Europe, which, in turn champions the artistic cause of millions of individuals and groups from 18 European countries. The role and influence of amateur dance groups, community choirs, photography enthusiasts, (to name a few) in European society and economy must be properly recognised, supported, and placed at the forefront of the European policy agenda.

**AMATEO** urges you as political leaders and policy makers to empower us by endorsing and enacting legislation in support of amateur arts and culture. You are in the esteemed position to provide the resources and channels that would allow citizens and communities in the amateur arts to lead the way towards **the new European Agenda for Culture**.

May our manifesto inspire you to engage us in lively discussion or debate over its content.

That being said, please do not hesitate to contact us through our secretariat in Belgium:  
**AMATEO** c/o Steunpunt voor Bovenlokale Cultuur, Abrahamstraat 13, B-9000 Ghent, Belgium  
[info@amateo.org](mailto:info@amateo.org) or [president@amateo.org](mailto:president@amateo.org).

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you soon.



Susan Fazakerley  
President  
On behalf of the AMATEO Board and Members

***The European Network for Active Participation in Cultural Activities***

[www.amateo.org](http://www.amateo.org)

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