

The State supports arts and culture

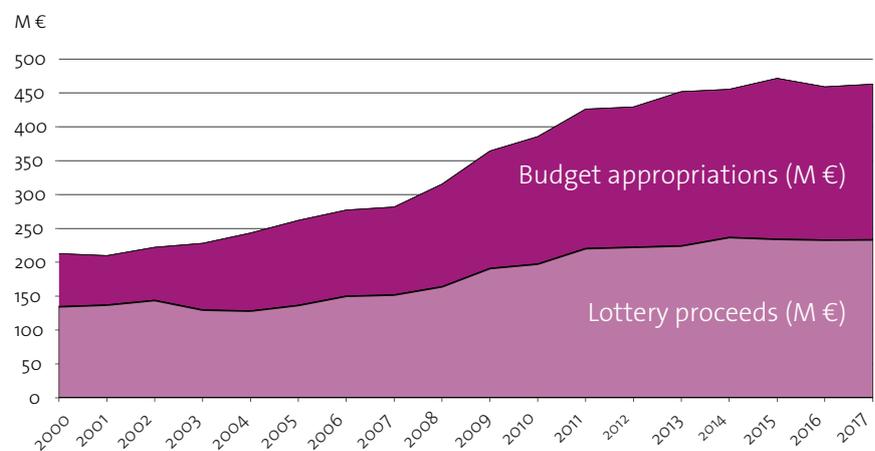


The state and the municipalities fund most of the expenditure on arts and culture. The Ministry of Education and Culture is the most important central government provider of funding for arts and culture. Arts and culture receive funding from both the general Budget and the lottery proceeds.

In Finland, public funding plays a major role in the field of arts and culture, mainly because of small domestic markets. The state and the municipalities are responsible for the public funding of arts and culture. The state funds the operations of national arts and cultural agencies and institutions as well as other activities relating to national tasks. It also grants central government transfers to municipalities as well as to arts and cultural institutions that provide regional services. Discretionary government transfers are granted to support, for example, the activities of third sector operators in arts and culture.

In other respects, the municipalities fund their own activities in the field of arts and culture. The combined funding by the municipalities is slightly higher than funding by the state. In addition to public funding, also foundations fund different kinds of arts and cultural projects, and they have increased their funding in recent years. Otherwise private funding is rare.

Appropriations for arts and culture in 2010–2017

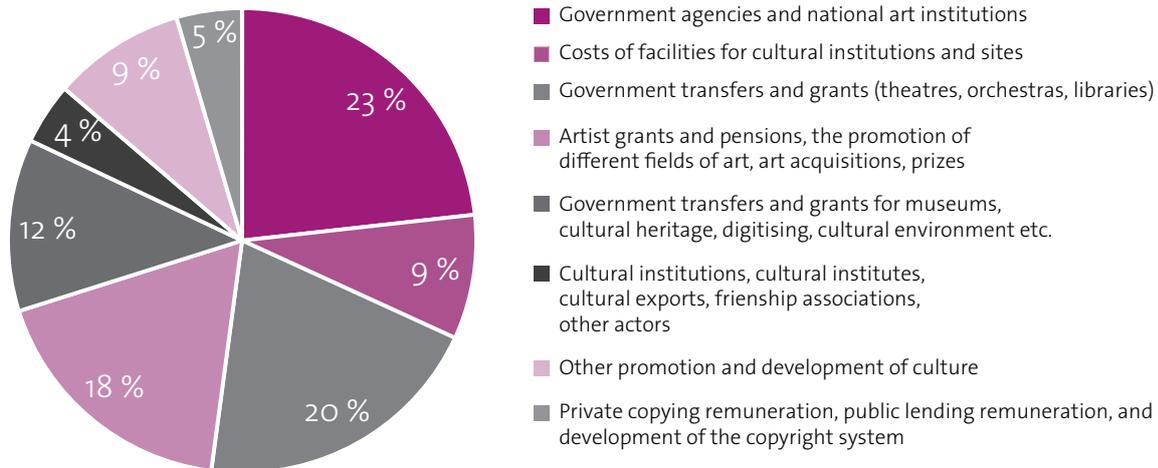


Arts and culture was allocated some EUR 463 million in the 2017 Budget, accounting for 0.8% of the total Budget. The arts and culture budget is under the Ministry of Education and Culture's main title of expenditure. While funding for arts and culture increased in the first decade of the 2000s, the growth stagnated in the 2010s due to poor

central government finances.

The arts and culture field gets funding even from other parts of the Budget than the arts and culture budget. The Ministry of Finance provides the funding for central government transfers to public libraries in municipalities as part of the basic public services budget. Education in arts and culture receive its

Appropriations for arts and culture



funding from the education and training appropriations. National public service broadcasting and some other media-related expenditure are also funded from other sources than the arts and culture budget.

Around half of the expenditure in arts and culture are funded with lottery proceeds. This is an established practice. Lottery proceeds are used to promote sports and physical education, science, arts, youth work as well as third sector operators in healthcare and social welfare. In arts and culture, lottery proceeds are mostly used to fund grants and discretionary government transfers.

A significant share of the funding for arts and culture goes to cover the activities and facilities of national art institutions and government agencies performing national duties. The national art institutions include the Finnish National Opera and Ballet, the Finnish National Theatre and the Finnish National Gallery. Agencies performing national duties include the National Board of Antiquities, the Arts Promotion Centre and the National Audiovisual Archive. Central government transfers to municipalities are another significant expenditure item: they are

allocated to arts and cultural institutions safeguarding regional access to arts and cultural services. The third major share of the funding goes to discretionary government transfers allocated to different kinds of purposes.

THE MINISTRY DOES NOT MAKE ALL THE FUNDING DECISIONS

The Ministry of Education does not always decide who receives the central government transfers included in the arts and culture budget. The Arts Promotion Centre operating under the Ministry decides who gets state grants to artists as well as other grants and awards amounting to just over EUR 30 million annually. The division of responsibilities between the Ministry and the Arts Promotion Centre is mainly based on the arm's length principle. The art councils under the Arts Promotion Centre decide, based on peer review, the artists who are awarded a state grant. State grant to artists are granted for different durations. Every year some 570 artists receive a state grant, representing some three per cent of all the artists in Finland. The tax-free grant is about EUR 1,700 per month.

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