

Towards a Frascati 7.0, which includes the Arts and Arts Research

The European League of Institutes of the Arts – ELIA in collaboration with the SHARE Academic Network, a group of art universities and academies across Europe, working on the promotion of the third cycle of arts research, are glad to respond to your consultation on the 2013-2014 Programme of Work of the OECD Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy (CSTP). We welcome the anticipated revision of the Frascati Manual and are very optimistic that the next version of the Frascati Manual will acknowledge the appropriate status of the Arts and Arts research¹.

In a letter dated 12 January 2012, ELIA and the SHARE Network already informed your Head of Economic Analysis Division Science and Technology of the need for changing the classification and argued that the Arts should be a field of its own on the 1-digit level and arts research should be included, making this field visible in future statistics.

In a letter dated 26 November 2010 the Swedish National Agency for Higher Education and Statistics on the initiative of the Swedish art universities proposed these changes for the next revision of the Field of Science and Technology Classification.

Our proposals reflect the widely shared conviction among the European Higher Education sector that arts research should constitute a field of its own. It fully represents the views of more than 300 ELIA member art universities and academies across Europe and also the SHARE group of 39 art universities and academies who are collaborating on the enhancement of the third cycle in arts research and education. At the latest SHARE conference in May 2013 in Brussels, the SHARE partners considered this an urgent issue and called once more on ELIA to undertake action to propose changes in the classification, in particular the listing of Arts and arts research at 1-digit level. It is our firm opinion that the substantial advancement of arts research within Europe and the rest of the world over the last decade fully justifies such a listing.

Arts research has increasingly gained recognition within national research bodies and environments. It is practiced both inside and outside the institutional framework of arts universities. The key locus for arts research development is in the interaction between the institutions of higher education, the creative economy sector and the various national, regional and European cultural agencies.

¹Across Europe, slightly different general terms such as Arts & Design Research, Creative Research, Artistic Research, Research in & through the arts, Artscience and Practice-Based Research are being used.

Across Europe, there is a large variety in the institutionalization of Arts & Design Research and in the numbers of researchers. In trendsetting countries such as the United Kingdom and Finland, more than 1500 (UK) and 400 (Finland) PhD researchers are active at art universities. In Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Austria, Netherlands, Belgium, Spain and elsewhere arts research has gradually become recognised at national level. A key enabler at a European level has been the stimulus for programme innovation provided by the inclusion of the 3rd cycle in the Bologna Process, which has stimulated art schools and art faculties at universities across Europe to initiate 3rd level /PhD programmes.

Answers to the specific questions

1. Have you used the Frascati Manual, and if so, how and for what purpose? Please provide examples.

In the last years ELIA has been alerted by art universities and academies to the fact that the OECD Frascati Manual classifies Arts under the 2-digit topic 6.3. Arts, which in turn is placed under 6 Humanities. Art universities and academies from different countries have also reported that they experienced difficulties in promoting research in the arts in their country because of the exclusion of arts research within the Frascati Manual. This exclusion presents an obstacle to the development of artistic research, because the Frascati Manual sets the international standard in 'providing internationally accepted definitions of R&D and classifications of its component activities'. For instance, applications and reports for the 7th Framework Programme (FP7), the EU's research funding scheme, have to state the Frascati classification number of the discipline. Also, arts research does not appear in EUROSTAT research statistics.

2. What specific contents of the Manual have you used / consulted / referred to?

We refer to the phrasing in Table 3.2. Fields of science and technology which wrongfully excludes 'artistic research of any kind' and only lists the Arts under 6.3 Other humanities [philosophy (including the history of science and technology), arts, history of art, art criticism, painting, sculpture, musicology, dramatic art excluding artistic "research" of any kind, religion, theology, other fields and subjects pertaining to the humanities, methodological, historical and other S&T activities relating to the subjects in this group.)

3. Were the guidance, examples and other content helpful for your intended purposes? Can you explain why?

We consider the five objectives for the revision mentioned under 'Towards Frascati 7.0' appropriate and they support our proposal for the revision of the Frascati Manual. In particular objective 1, which talks about the changes in the nature of R&D are applicable and relevant to Arts research. Arts research has become more and more central to

innovation in arts and culture and refers to a wide range of increasingly multi-disciplinary outcomes and methodologies. Research in the arts results in new arts and cultural practice, media formats and content development and generates innovative products and services across the culture, entertainment, and education sectors. It also includes participatory design, rapid prototyping, practice-led research, real-world situated and responsive enquiry, and creative content development.

4. Did you find any of relevant information missing, inaccurate or of limited relevance to your purposes?

We already explained this above.

5. Are there, in your opinion, any changes in the content, presentation and navigability of the material that would help improve your use of the Manual? If so, could you please list them?

We believe that the Arts should be listed at 1-digit level within the fields of science and technology and that Arts Research should be included in the classification.

We would highly appreciate the opportunity to further clarify our proposal and to be consulted with regard to the rephrasing of terminology and specific use of terms.

Kieran Corcoran,

President European League of Institutes of the Arts - ELIA