

EUROPEAN FESTIVALS ASSOCIATION

MOTIVATION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE WORK OF THE ACCESS TO CULTURE PLATFORM

Two essential issues make EFA a strong and important partner in the definition of the work programme of the Access to Culture platform:

- [**EFA as a network:** EFA's representativeness (profile of membership), EFA's expertise (as an active network in the dialogue with EU decision makers), EFA's relation with partner networks (member and partner of important colleague initiatives), EFA's activities (see [cultural coalition for a citizens' Europe](#), the [European House for Culture](#)), and its commitment to contributing to the shaping of an informed dialogue on the role of culture in Europe makes the Association an important player in the process of implementing the European agenda for culture.

- [**Festivals as a cultural formula** – Festivals as no other arts form are wonderful platforms to allow access to and participation in cultural activities. Festivals create an uplifting experience in society. As few other public platforms, festivals succeed in reaching the public sphere, communicating vision and ideas and introducing a sense of reflection; through offering a challenging, sometimes surprising, provocative exposure of the artists' work, festivals support a tolerant and open society. Creativity, direct communication with the audience, projects in and with society, reflection and discussion platforms are only some of the cornerstones festivals offer to develop the European integration process further.