

SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVE WORKING GROUP – MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Number	03
Date	18/03/2025
Time	09:30 – 11:30hrs
Venue	Arts Council Malta Offices, Mrieħel
ACM	Adrian Debattista, HoS ACM Mary Ann Cauchi, COO (F&S) (ACM)
PCOs	Daniel Azzopardi, AD SK Rupert Cefai, EC SK
Present Members	Alex Bezzina, Rebecca Anastasi, MPA Charlie Cauchi, MPA Maria Galea, MEIA Jeanine Rizzo, MEIA Kristina Borg, Lisa Gwen Chetcuti, Moirā Zahra Glen Calleja, ACM (left after the first section of the meeting dedicated to the Charter for the Status of the Artists)
Excused	Christabel Borg, OD NAPA
Absent	Diane Portelli
Co-Chairs	Adrian Debattista / Mary Ann Cauchi & Moira Zahra
Rapporteur	Daniel Azzopardi, AD SK

Agenda Item		Action
1.	Approval of Minutes	
2.	<p>Charter for the Status of the Artist: Fair Practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adrian provided an overview of the section’s key points. He emphasised that ACM will prioritise fair practices and social security, as these have the greatest impact on equity and fairness within the sector. - Glen Calleja clarified that the Charter serves as a source of guidance rather than a legislative tool. It will act as a foundation for discussions with key stakeholders. - Rupert proposed developing a practical guidance tool for practitioners, along with a roadmap outlining present and future aims and targets to support better self-auditing. - Kristina highlighted the issue of invisible labour, which often goes unrecognised and undervalued, a reality reflected in the offered fees. - MEIA is conducting a public consultation exercise to develop a sectoral rate card that will serve as a reference. - The panel discussed that rate cards should offer a broad spectrum of options that reflect different industry realities and resource availability. They must be based on qualifications, experience, effort, and collaboration. - It was suggested that these rate cards be developed by independent bodies. - The Charter aims to protect all industry stakeholders, not just professionals. - Together with the Charter there need to be sustained capacity-building initiatives that champion good practices and empower professionals. - Greater synergy between Ministries is crucial, particularly through transversal collaborations. When restructuring fund schemes, incentives should be introduced for managers and agents, recognising their roles within the ecosystem. 	<p>ACM will continue working on engaging stakeholders to endorse the Charter and ensure the effective implementation of good practices.</p>

	- A collaboration framework is being established between Solidajetà and MEIA.	
3.	<p>Transitioning from Cheques to Modern Payment Systems and Payment amendment from 60 days to 30 days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To professionalise the sector, there is a need for swifter and more practical payment methods, as cheques slow down processes. - Late payments create significant challenges for artists, affecting their ability to operate sustainably. 	ACM will transition in phases from cheques to bank transfers, improving payment efficiency and swiftness.
4.	<p>Media & the Arts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concerns were raised about the lack of cultural journalists, with articles often being biased, written by individuals directly involved in the projects rather than independent voices. - There is a need to restructure related funding schemes to incentivise independent writing. - The PCOS can provide support structures to nurture and develop new cultural journalism. - Any revamp of the funding system should be designed within the broader context of the sector's ecosystem. - Funding schemes should reflect the evolving media landscape, offering incentives for online and digital platforms rather than focusing solely on print media. 	ACM will explore restructuring the funding framework related to media exposure and collaborate with stakeholders to nurture and cultivate cultural journalism.
5.	<p>Meeting wrapped up</p> <p>Suggestions for the next agenda to be accepted via email</p>	Suggestions to be made by SRWG members

Next Meeting Number	4
Date	22/04/2025

Time	09:30 – 11:30hrs
Venue	ACM