

Monitoring Government Action to Implement Social and Fiscal Measures for Self-Employed Artists (Selected European Countries)

For more information see especially chapters 5.1.4 "Social Security Frameworks" and 5.1.5 "Tax Laws" of the *Compendium* country profiles.

Trends:

- *Social security and fiscal measures as such, and particularly those concerning self-employed artists, continue to be a very complex field of public policy and administration where nearly all countries surveyed maintain, or even newly introduce, specific national solutions;*
- *Most of the former socialist countries abandoned previous social schemes, some of them resorting to tax privileges or merit-based benefits;*
- *Comprehensive social security systems for freelance artists (such as those in Austria or Germany) remain exceptions or are abandoned (Italy);*
- *Most countries surveyed gradually introduced special tax rates or exemptions (VAT or income tax) for creative work and/or copyright income.*

Country	Status at the end of the 90s	Situation following the turn of the Millennium	Developments after 2010
1. Austria	Only artists in music and visual arts sectors were covered by specific social security provisions. Several funds aimed at helping artists to pay part of their social security insurance, e.g. the <i>Künstlerhilfe Fonds</i> for visual artists. The <i>Employment and Social Security Law Amendment Act 1997</i> provided initial steps to enable freelance artists in all fields to be treated as professionals on a self-employed basis.	A new law on social security measures (<i>Künstler-Sozialversicherungsfondsgesetz</i> , January 2001), treats all freelance artists similar to those in other self-employed professions and established a social security insurance fund (<i>Künstlersozialversicherungs-Fonds</i>). The law was heavily debated among unions and other stakeholders, including in stakeholder conferences and in a study for the Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture (2008). However, reforms in 2009 and 2011, where the law was renamed <i>Artist's Social-Security Insurance Structure Act</i> , provided only small changes, including the opportunity for artists to sign off from the obligatory insurance in order to benefit from unemployment insurance.	In 2015 the law was amended again: to achieve the minimum level of income, since 2014 all earnings are taken into account (before: income <i>minus</i> expenses), including up to 50% income from second occupations (e.g. teaching in the cultural field). The period for the averaging of the minimum income was expanded to three years, and five bonus years are conceded, during which a subsidy can be received without a repayment obligation, even if the minimum income is not achieved.
2. Azerbaijan	According to the Constitution, all citizens of Azerbaijan have the right to social protection (Chapter III, <i>Article 37</i>). Therefore, social welfare issues are regulated in general laws, e.g. <i>On Social Insurance (1997)</i> , <i>On Medical Insurance (1999)</i> , <i>On Pension Guarantees for Citizens (1992)</i> or <i>On Prevention of Disability, Rehabilitation and Social Protection of Disabled People (1995)</i> . In addition, the <i>Law on Culture (1998)</i> provided some social security measures for cultural workers as well as provisions to improve the working conditions of artists and scientists (e.g. artists and sculptors received working space with low rents).	With the exception of a <i>Decree on the Wage Augmentation for 50% of Artists (2003)</i> , social welfare issues (health insurance, occupational accidents, disability, unemployment and pension) continue to be regulated in general laws for all people, e.g. in the <i>Law on Employment (2001)</i> or in the <i>Decree on Measures Towards Improving the State Pension System (2003)</i> . As well, the Presidential Decree on <i>Additional Measures in the Sphere of State Provision of the Development of Entrepreneurship in the Republic of Azerbaijan (2002)</i> with reductions of taxes and broader applications of the simplified tax system includes also self-employed artists.	The new <i>Law on Culture (2012)</i> sustained social security measures for creative workers that were already part of the previous law from 1998. However, salaries in cultural institutions with national status are well above those that do not enjoy this status. Workers who were actively involved in the country's cultural development, and have long service, may receive special pensions after retirement. Changes and additions to the <i>Tax Code</i> take effect almost every year, resulting e.g. in an increase of the number of cultural bodies liable for VAT and income tax.

3. Belgium	No social security provisions existed for self-employed artists. Artists Associations united under a <i>National Platform of Artists</i> to campaign the government for improved conditions and status.	On July 1 st 2003, a new regulation of the Federal Parliament aimed at improving the social security system for artists by providing complete coverage (sickness-disability, health care, family benefits, unemployment, annual holidays, old age pension, employment injuries and occupational diseases) for the entire artistic workforce and, at the same time, freedom of choice between self-employed status and affiliation to the salaried workers' scheme, through the intermediation of an artists' bureau accredited by the Regions. This regulation allows freelance artists to also work, at the same time, more easily with short-term employment contracts. As well, administrative procedures for employers are eased.	Stakeholder debates focus on those aspects of the 2003 reform which have not yet been put in place such as: alternative funding models, adjustment of the time periods to qualify for social security coverage, and extension of all social security benefits including unemployment, fiscal status for artists. Effective from the tax year of 2009, a new tax regime stipulates advantageous rates for income generated from copyright and related rights, including legal and compulsory licenses provided for in the <i>Copyright Act</i> .
4. Bulgaria	Social security for artists is regulated by the <i>Labour Code</i> and the <i>Ordinance on Social Security of Persons Who Practise a Liberal Profession or Engage in Trade, or Work without Entering into an Employment Relationship</i> . Under these laws, artists are treated equally with registered companies of sole traders or partners in commercial corporations under the <i>Commercial Code</i> . Artists have two options: First, to pay compulsory social security contributions at the rate of 22% of an income of their choice, OR to pay voluntary contributions at the rate of 32% for all types of social insurance.	Social security and economic laws supporting artists were reviewed and revised including tax exemptions and unemployment benefits. An amendment was made to the <i>Transitional and Final Provisions of the Protection and Development of Culture Act</i> which entitles artists who have worked for at least 4 of the past 12 months (without entering into an employment relationship in artistic associations) to obtain unemployment benefits.	Artists pay taxes under the <i>Personal Income Tax Act</i> , which allows them to deduct 50% of their expenses from taxable income received for the creation of works of art, science and culture, folk arts and crafts, and copyright royalties. Taking into account the specificity of creative work, the law provides an opportunity for income averaging derived from creative work undertaken in the course of more than one year (e.g. the writing of a book), but not exceeding four years.
5. Canada	1995 <i>Status of the Artist Act</i> created a framework to regulate professional relations between self-employed artists and cultural institutions/producers under federal jurisdiction (e.g. national broadcasting company). As labour law is under provincial jurisdiction in Canada, the <i>Status of the Artist Act</i> applies only to freelance artists engaged by the federal government. It does not apply to artists working for provincial institutions. 2 provinces have separate legislation: Québec and Saskatchewan.	A 2002-2003 review of the <i>Status of the Artist Act</i> concluded that the legislation by itself is insufficient to significantly improve the social economic status of artists and other complementary measures are urgently needed such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • freelance artists to claim dual status in order to benefit from income tax deductions; • income averaging schemes to help stabilize artists' economic status (exists only on the provincial level, e.g. in Québec since 2004); • access to unemployment insurance; • a classification for artists as preferred or secured creditors in case of bankruptcy; • improved access to pension plans, occupational health, safety measures, etc. 	Additional provinces have passed legislation on the status of artists (Ontario and Nova Scotia). Information on new developments is currently not available.

6. Croatia	The <i>Law on the rights of self-employed artists and on the promotion of cultural and artistic creativity</i> gives self-employed artists the right to health, pension and disability insurance. Contributions are paid from the State budget via the Croatian Freelance Artists Association (HZSU). They also have the right to receive tax benefits.	Protests of independent artists and a public debate with the Ministry of Culture over plans of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Social Affairs' for a new law on retirement benefits and health insurance in the cultural sector were successful (but overall reforms are still needed).	In May 2016, 1319 freelance artists were registered at the HZSU to receive social security contributions (if their income is below that of fully employed artists). Among the tax benefits for this group: 25% of authors' fees are tax-free and another 30% admitted as business expenses.
7. Czech Republic	The former strong role of artists' unions regarding social benefits has been abolished. Self-employed are included in the general State social security regime for all workers, but have only minimum coverage for certain areas, e.g. occupational diseases and employment injuries (with the chance to opt out of the public programmes via private insurance).	Up to the end of 2008, artists did not have to pay pension insurance if they claimed that they were not engaged in continuous employment. Since 2005, independent artists benefit from income tax allowances for expenses (40%) and from "income averaging" schemes (3 years), some professions, e.g. authors, also from a reduced VAT rate (5%).	Since 1 January 2009, all artists must pay pension insurance (including contributions to State unemployment policy), because an amendment to the <i>Act on Pension Insurance</i> assumes continuous employment. Royalties for contributions to newspapers, radio and television are partly exempted.
8. Estonia	No socio-economic framework for artists. Self-employed artists had the right to income averaging and to deduct expenses. Writers treated as entrepreneurs and subject to normal tax rates. Composers and musicologists have access to a health insurance provided by their Union.	An <i>Act on Creative Artists and Creative Artists' Unions</i> was adopted November, 2004 and has been amended in 2006 to introduce additional sources of government funding and new means to calculate the yearly subsidies for unions. The Act provides freelance artists the same tax benefits as for registered entrepreneurs, a guaranteed minimum income during six months for freelance artists who lack other sources of income as well as social and health insurance. The income scheme is administered by the artists' unions.	Since 2009, the scheme of monthly supports for freelance artists who lack other sources of income can be extended to another six months. This support can only be granted once in any two years.
9. Finland	No specific social security protection covers self-employed freelance artists. <i>Act on the Pensions of Artists and Some Particular Groups of Short-Time Workers</i> (1985) provides pensions to freelance artists as a part of the wage earners pension system and thus excludes self-employed artists.	Demands for reform exist in three areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to include unemployment insurance and pension payments as part of the social security costs, even with regard to shorter-term grants; • to make the tax-deductions, pension and social security system of artists and freelancers relate better to the uneven and varied flow of artists' income; and • to improve the rights of artists as freelance entrepreneurs. 	Some of the proposed reforms were taken up in a government bill to amend the 1985 Act. After ratification by the Parliament, the amended Act entered into force on 1 January 2009. Self-employed artists and those on short-time grants are now able to enrol in the pension and social security systems of agricultural entrepreneurs. Information whether the target groups have used this opportunity is not yet available.
10. France	First attempts to improve the status self-employed reach back to 1946 (<i>Caisse nationale des lettres</i>) and 1975 (law n° 75-1348 on social security for artists and authors). From 1969, performing artists and interpreters were also covered, followed by technicians in the performing arts. With this regime, named " <i>intermittence du spectacle</i> ", performing	Preserving this exceptional regime has frequently come under scrutiny, partly because of its cost and of certain abuses (cf. circular of the Prime Minister of 6 August 2003 on the mobilisation of State departments relating to the economic and social situation in the audio-visual, cinema and performing arts sector).	2014 and 2016 several festivals were troubled, sometimes cancelled, theatres were occupied. Following the work of a conciliation board, the social partners of the concerned sectors came to an agreement in April 2016, to maintain the regime while modifying some points (increasing partici-

	artists and technicians benefit from the presumption that they are salaried: consequently, they have access, despite discontinuity in their employment, to various measures for social security coverage (health insurance, unemployment benefit, insurance for incapacity and death, retirement pensions, housing aid, etc.) and professional training.		pation of employers to the financing, for instance). There exist a number of tax exemptions or reductions for creative artists (cf. http://www.culture.gouv.fr/culture/infos-pratiques/fiscal/index.htm).
11.Germany	The results of two studies based on interviews with 4,700 authors and artists (<i>Der Autorenreport</i> , 1971; <i>Der Künstler-Report</i> , 1975) as well as lobbying on the part of artists' unions prompted the Federal Government to develop a special social insurance law for self-employed writers, journalists and artists. The 1981 <i>Artists' Social Security Act (KSVG)</i> established a scheme (<i>Künstlersozialkasse - KSK</i>) with strong links to the public social security system. It provides health insurance, old age pensions and nursing care but no access to unemployment benefits. In principle, contributions to the system are shared between individual freelance professionals (50%), enterprises regularly using their works and services (30%) and the Federal Government (20%). In 1987, the highest German court declared the law to be constitutional.	In January 2005, over 145,000 persons were insured by the KSK, of which 38% were visual artists/designers, 26% musicians or composers, 25% authors, translators and freelance journalists, and 11% actors, directors and other performing artists. To be accepted into the KSK, artists have to prove a) that they are self-employed and b) that they earn a minimum income (then €3,900 per year) from their artistic work, with exemptions of newcomers, e.g. graduates from arts colleges. In September 2008, the attempt of some federal states (Länder) to abolish the <i>Social Security Act for Artists</i> failed, due to broad protests. In early 2006, new regulations on unemployment outside of the KSK gave at least some freelancers access to the regular unemployment schemes.	On 1st January 2015, the <i>Artists' Social Insurance Stabilisation Act</i> came into force. The aim is to insure the regular review and advisory services of the employers concerning the social insurance levy, in order to stabilise the rate of charge and to pursue levy justice. Now the German pension insurance audits compulsorily every 4 years all companies and employers with more than 19 employees. In January 2016, 185.500 professionals were insured by the KSK. German tax laws recognize a reduction of VAT from 19 to 7% for income derived from creative work. In addition, freelance artists have the right to income averaging.
12.Hungary	The <i>EKHO law (Act CXX/1995)</i> offers a simplified social insurance payment scheme for artists and a number of similar professions, both freelance and employed. EKHO is also an incentive to turn quasi independents into employees. It is estimated that over 75% of actors, dancers, musicians, arts organisers, technicians, designers and other cultural operators working for a variety of clients formed limited partnership companies (<i>Betéti Társaság – Bt.</i>) or other quasi entrepreneurial structures, even if they were <i>de facto</i> employed by e.g. a theatre. Basic healthcare costs and maternity allowance were covered by the minimum social insurance payments. Independents were not able to claim unemployment benefit. Most independent artists paid into a private pension fund to top up the state pension.	The <i>EVA law (Act XLIII/2002)</i> offered a tax regime which allows freelance artists and all other individual entrepreneurs to pay a so called simplified flat rate enterprise tax of 25%. The basis of the tax is the gross amount of the invoices (including 20% VAT). This eliminates the need to keep receipts that would otherwise be required to deduct professional expenses. It is considered favourable in comparison with regular taxation rates. This simplified enterprise tax replaces the corporate tax, capital return tax and personal income tax which would otherwise have to be paid. <i>Act XCIX/2008 on Performing Arts</i> stabilises the status of artists employed in theatres and orchestras, in line with UNESCO recommendations.	Old age support (de facto pension) exists for artists and writers who had been paying members of the so-called "Art Fund" before 1992 (later: Hungarian Public Foundation for Creative Art - MAK). The budget for 2014 of the Ministry in charge of culture contained a subsidy of HUF 1,5 billion for these pensions. General income tax rates for individuals were replaced with a 15% single rate from 2016 (+ incentives to families with children). State prizes, awards and fellowships are tax exempt; artists may claim material expenses on their income tax and the tax on income generated by copyright or other royalty payments may be reduced by 50%.
13.Ireland	Tax-exempt status for self-employed creative artists resident in Ireland was introduced in the 1969 <i>Finance Act</i> (lauded internationally as an imaginative	Tax scheme for artists' income capped at €250,000 in 2007. Income is subject to the Universal Social Charge and may be subject to Pay	The <i>Artists' Exemption Scheme</i> from paying tax on earnings was threatened following a 2009 report of the Commission on

	piece of legislation): Income from sales or copyright fees in respect of original and creative works of cultural or artistic merit is exempted, as are Arts Council bursaries, <i>Aosdána</i> annuities or foreign earnings. No specific social security frameworks exist for artists outside of the general social security regime.	Related Social Insurance, VAT and High Earners' Restriction.	Taxation, with the Arts Council and a new National Campaign for the Arts arguing for its retention, In 2014, the provision was revised with a limit of exemption on the first €50,000 of profits or gains, but extended also to non-resident artists.
14.Italy	Contrary to performing artists covered by <i>ENPALS</i> since 1934 because of their often intermittent work, visual artists and writers enjoy only a "virtual" social insurance framework, as <i>ENAPS</i> – their respective public institution – has traditionally been too under-financed to provide any meaningful protection.	The financial crisis fuelled plans to abolish privileges and to harmonise the country's social frameworks. Income from copyright royalties is subject to flat-rate reductions.	Following <i>Law n.214/2011</i> , <i>ENPALS</i> has been suppressed and merged – for budget-saving reasons – with <i>INPS (Istituto Nazionale Previdenza Sociale)</i> , Italy's general social security organisation.
15.Latvia	There are no special social security laws for artists.	In 2004 a Law was adopted on "Long-service pensions for performing artists employed by state and local government professional orchestras, choirs, concert organizations, circuses and theatres". Currently, 8 laws in different fields regulate service pensions, but there are plans to restrict such benefits and to raise the age limit.	2011, the Council of the Creative Unions of Latvia initiated a discussion on the development of legislation on artists' social security. A <i>Law on the Status of Creative Persons and their Social Protection Framework</i> is at preparation stage for some time, but has not been implemented.
16.Lithuania	There are no special social security laws for artists. 1 st and 2 nd rate state pensions are available to artists.	A law defining state obligations towards artists is passed in 2004 (and amended 2010), the <i>Law on the Status of Art Creators and their Organisations</i> . It has been designed to improve the legal status of artist organisations and the social and economic status of self-employed artists.	Since 2011, state support for art creators from the Social Protection Programme covers social and health insurance of self-employed artists. One of the purposes of the Programme is to pay a minimal monthly wage for "creative idle time" of artists.
17.FYR of Macedonia	The special status of freelance (unemployed) artists in comparison with other cultural workers has been acknowledged in a <i>Law on Independent Artists</i> (1982). The Ministry of Culture provided budgetary resources to cover monthly health, retirement and disability insurance taxes. In 1998, this law was abolished with the <i>Law on Culture</i> that defines an artist as a person who creates or performs an authored artistic activity. Once registered, a freelance artist is covered by related rights and obligations available to other freelance professionals.	Independent artists must pay their own health, retirement and disability insurance duties, but the Minister of Culture can provide them with financial resources to that effect. In 2000, a Book of Rules outlined the selection criteria to be used in the allocation of public funding to freelance artists. An annual competition is announced each September in the newspapers. In 2001, 31 freelance artists were successful, in 2002 and 2003 their number rose to 39, in 2009 to 73, many of the latter from entertainment, fashion, crafts etc.	In 2011, the Ministry of Culture announced the introduction of a new position: "national artist". The title is reserved for the most significant artists for their contribution to the development and popularization of the Macedonian culture. The "national artist" should have a kind of honourable status, but also other important benefits. Until September 2016, six artists and writers have received this honour.
18.The Netherlands	Local and later also national programmes (in particular the <i>Beeldende Kunstenaars Regeling - BKR</i>) focused on visual artists who could "rent" or donate their art works for a monthly fee and other benefits. Social security legislation for entrepreneurs was modified in the <i>WIK (Artists Income Act, 1998)</i> .	Because of too large stocks of works of art in public hands, the BKR was dissolved. From 2005 to the end of 2011, the <i>Wet werk en inkomen kunstenaars (WW&IK)</i> gave artists the chance to supplement their income for four years (maximum) if they were in financial difficulty.	Special social and tax regulations in favour of artists are largely abandoned. Instead, a "cultural entrepreneurship" programme (2012-2016) has been launched. Currently, general laws for self-employed (including social security) also apply to artists.

19.Norway	General social security for all occupations, no special provisions for self-employed artists. The <i>Act on National Insurance</i> provides daily cash benefits for all unemployed people. Legal measures in terms of fees and compensations partly constitute the economic conditions for individual artistic activity	Income tax averaging schemes (3 years) for visual artists. VAT reduction/exemption for creative artists/writers.	No new developments.
20.Poland	There is no comprehensive legal framework for self-employed artists in Poland. General social security measures are based on legislation of 1998: <i>Act on the Social Security System</i> and <i>Act on Pensions from the Social Security Fund</i> . In 1991, the state implemented a provision enabling creative artists to deduct 50% of their income from creative work as expenses for income tax purposes.	In 2006, the government attempted to dismantle the 1991 income tax provision for creative artists (50% deduction). After public debate and strong protests against this plan, the tax provision remained unchanged. Special retirement rules exist for dancers / acrobats (40 years of age for women, 45 years for men), singers (45/50 y.) and musicians (55/60 y.).	The amended <i>Tax Law (2012)</i> reserved the 50% tax-deduction scheme for artists whose income from creative work remains below a threshold of 85,528 PLN (after deduction of pension scheme and health insurance dues).
21.Russia	By the end of the 1990es, self-employed artists lost most 'privileges' previously enjoyed by members of the Artists' Unions and were treated like other liberal professions. As such they had to count on general social security rights, tax reductions and access to facilities provided by their Unions.	A law on <i>Creative Workers in Literature and Arts and on their Creative Unions</i> has twice passed through the Parliament, but has been twice declined by the President, as it was perceived to provide privileges and exemptions from existing laws, in particular as regards "special norms of taxation for creative workers".	The law on <i>Creative Workers in Literature and Arts and on their Creative Unions</i> has been under revision, together with the <i>Basic Law on Culture</i> . The government approves a list of tax-exempt national or foreign grants and cultural or media awards.
22.Serbia	The status of freelance artists is regulated by the <i>Law on the Rights of Self-employed Artists</i> (1998): Freelance artists would be entitled to health, pension and disability insurance, which are paid by the municipalities. Freelance artists are usually organized in different professional arts associations, which keep a register of their status.	As of 2005, the law had not yet been put into force and free-lance artists continue to be treated as any other self-employed professionals. This provoked a huge protest and revolt from art associations and they are currently asking for a revision of their status (which, however, has not been successful until today).	According to the <i>Income Tax Law</i> (2009), artists are allowed a tax deduction of between 40-65% on their earnings for expenses related to their work (without documentation). Similar deductions exist for income derived from intellectual property.
23.Slovakia	No socio-economic framework for artists. Self-employed artists have the right to apply an income averaging and to deduct expenses. Until 2003 self-employed artists had the right to apply a flat rate tax 2% on income.	The <i>Labour Code</i> adopted in 2001 does not contain any special provisions on the social status of self-employed artists. The tax reform in Slovakia (2004-2006) led to a unified individual income tax rate and VAT in the amount of 19% from the tax base.	No new developments reported.
24. Slovenia	The social security scheme for freelance artists introduced in the socialist period (legal provisions giving self-employed artists the right to get health, pension and disability insurance paid by the state budget) was preserved. However, in 1994 a so-called <i>financial census</i> was introduced: Freelance artists with an income above 20,200 EUR lost that right.	The <i>National Programme for Culture 2008-2011</i> stipulated, inter alia, "better conditions for the production of art and cultural activities" and a "comprehensive solution of the status of self-employed artists", to be prepared by a special commission comprised of representatives from different Ministries.	In 2012, 1,494 self-employed artists out of 2,278 registered had been given a special tax and social security status. The <i>Decree on self-employed professionals in culture</i> (2012) aimed at clearer and more transparent criteria for obtaining this status, but was criticised for its focus on "excellence".

25.Spain	There is no specific legislation for self-employed artists in Spain. There are, however, a few tax provisions available for self-employed artists related to income tax deductions, income averaging, company tax benefits and reduced levels of value-added tax.	The <i>Intellectual Property Act</i> (2006) obliges copyright societies to set up welfare and support services for "authors, performing artists or cultural workers" and to spend 20% of their copyright fees on such services. Artists benefit from a tax exemption of important literary, artistic or scientific prizes.	Debates on the status of artists were halted by the severe economic crisis and tax reforms also affected culture (<i>20/2012 Royal Decree Act</i>), whilst the services of writers, composers or visual artists, which are linked to copyright, continue to be exempt from VAT.
26.Ukraine	The status of freelance artists is determined in the Law of Ukraine <i>On professional artists and artistic unions</i> (1997). The creative activity is defined as the key source of revenues. According to the law, the professional artist has the right to minimal pension, to additional space (studio) and to lower rent payments for studios.	Debates initiated by independent artists and cultural producers focus on issues such as special rent rates for artists and cultural organisations as well as on the protection of freelance artists (as the current regulations do not include government support related to health insurance or taxation for self-employed artists).	The <i>Tax Code of Ukraine</i> (2010 with amendments 2011-2013) envisages VAT exemption for the "creation, delivery, promotion, restoration and distribution of the national cultural product" which, however, would not result in specific tax breaks or other such benefits for artists.
27.UK	<p>No specific social security provisions for artists.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public Lending Right Act 1979 ● Visiting entertainers, sports people and (where applicable) artists subject to Withholding Tax above a certain threshold (relief for expense and normal tax returns). Registered artists can claim back VAT on supplies and services. ● Grants are non-taxable if they are "in respect of training schemes or to enable artists to devote time to research and development". All other grants are taxable (1979 agreement on arts grants between the Arts Council and the Inland Revenue, though different rules apply to companies). Tax can be spread over a number of years if an artist can demonstrate fluctuating income. ● 1998: Change to National Insurance payments for 'entertainers' to enable actors to claim Job Seekers Allowance whilst 'resting'. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2001: HM Revenue & Customs replaces the income averaging rules for creative artists with a profits averaging system. ● Artists, taxes and benefits - an international review, Clare McAndrew, ACE Research Report is published in 2002. ● 2004: The New Deal for Musicians (NDfM) was introduced to enable unemployed musicians, who are eligible for either the New Deal for 18 to 24 year olds or New Deal 25+ programmes, to pursue a career in the music industry. ● EU Directive on Artists' Resale Right introduced into UK law from January 2006. 	<p>Still no specific labour or social security measures governing the cultural sector in general or for freelance artists in particular.</p> <p>The book sector is specially treated for VAT purposes, being zero rated, as are some artist's supplies. On the other hand, Inland Revenue has ruled that grants and awards to artists are taxable (income tax).</p>

Source: Council of Europe/ERICarts, "Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends in Europe, 19th edition", 2017 (with occasional updates from national sources).