

OPEN CALL CULTURE OF SOLIDARITY FUND
Stage 2 June-September 2020
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Re-submissions from 1st round

My proposal was not selected in the first round. Can I apply again? Can I re-submit my proposal in the second round?

If you applied for funding in the first submission round, but were not selected, you are more than welcome to apply again. You may do so with a new project but could also consider re-submitting your original project. Please note that although the general framework of the call remained the same, the guidelines and criteria have been slightly adapted for the second submission round. We recommend that you have a thorough read of the full guidelines before you apply to see whether your proposal needs some rethinking and/or adjustments.

How many people apply per round? What are the chances that I get funding?

The turnout for the first submission round significantly exceeded any expectations we had: we received nearly 2500 applications. With 29 projects awarded (as opposed to the originally communicated 12-15 projects/round which we later expanded due to the overwhelming response), this means a success rate of 1.16%. We expect that this coming second round will be equally competitive, as unfortunately we have limited funding available.

General inquiry, project pitches

We are really interested in the Culture of Solidarity Fund and would love to know more about it.

Would it be possible to speak with someone at ECF about this fund in particular, and get some advice whether our project is eligible and what exactly the ECF is looking for with this grant?

Generally, unfortunately we're not able to engage in conversations about the eligibility of applicant's proposals or project pitches, given the large number of incoming requests and in order to ensure fair and equal treatment of applications. As for the type of projects the call is looking to fund, we recommend that you take a look at the list of awarded projects from the first round:

<https://www.culturalfoundation.eu/library/culture-of-solidarity-first-round-grantees>. If you have any additional, specific questions about the application or selection process that are not covered in this FAQ, you can share them with us at cos@culturalfoundation.eu.

Geographic scope, European dimension

What is the geographic scope of the Fund? Are UK organisations eligible?

Applicants can be based anywhere in the world, but their proposal must clearly contribute to a European Culture of Solidarity, the overall focus of the Fund. This means that UK organisations are also eligible to apply.

In terms of presenting a "European culture of solidarity", does this mean the project should aim to connect between different European countries or is it sufficient to focus our efforts in one European country?

You do not necessarily have to collaborate with another European country for maintaining and/or re-building Europe's culture of solidarity. However, the fund is about reaching beyond national borders and overcoming the current relapse into finding solutions on national levels instead of joining forces on pan-European level. Therefore, your project should definitely address issues and/or propose ideas in/for more European countries or the whole of Europe.

In addition, this second round especially welcomes proposals that involve or aim to build European, cross-border alliances in order to reach a broader, collective impact on a European scale. Such proposals will also receive special attention during the assessment process.

Partnerships

Do applicants need to have European/international partners for the project to meet the criteria?

No, there is no explicit requirement for applicants to secure international (European) partnership for the project. However, given the special focus on cross-national alliances as referred to above, we encourage applicants to consider joining forces with other (local) initiatives and reaching beyond their direct local contexts. In any case, we expect that applicants demonstrate a strong European dimension to the proposal in terms of their relevance and scalability potential.

Is it only confirmed partnerships that can be included in the application or can I also add intended partnerships (ie: the ones I will establish once the project succeeds to get funding from you)?

It is not a prerequisite that your project partnerships are confirmed (by binding agreements) at the time of the application submission. In the form you may list partners that are already confirmed (if applicable) as well as those that you intend to approach or may already be in talks with. However, make sure you clearly indicate the status of these partnerships in your application.

Eligible activities

Do you have any preference for a specific discipline or field of culture and creative industries? How broad is your interpretation of "cultural initiatives"?

No, we do not have any preference for a specific field or discipline within culture or creative industries. We understand 'culture' as a very wide field covering work far beyond the classical arts and culture domain. The Fund is about a Culture of Solidarity in its broadest sense, and for example includes fields like education, knowledge sharing with non-cultural actors that are affected by the crisis. Keep in mind however that your project should, in the widest sense contribute to maintaining/re-building an overall cultural (value) framework of pan-European Solidarity, and we cannot per se support all the many, many social emergencies that become apparent locally directly.

Given the uncertainty around how the virus develops, are you particularly looking for digital versions of otherwise live-artworks so that they can be carried out regardless of the restrictions over coming months/year?

There are several possible, imaginative ways to share experiences, stories and maintain cultural life and social experiences particularly in times of social distancing. Many of these artists and cultural workers have already been exploring. One of such ways of course is capitalising on the digital sphere, although we would not explicitly prioritise digital solutions over other possible examples.

At the same time, -as also pointed out in the call- in case of digital projects, we will prioritise proposals that demonstrate a strong awareness on the use of safe and open digital tools and

platforms that provide alternatives to the market-driven and mainly non-European online platforms where dis-/and mis-information easily spreads and threatens democracy.

Are activities that are planned to take place after the pandemic eligible?

There are no limitations as to when - during or after the pandemic - activities within the framework of the proposal need to take place, so in principle, activities planned for after the pandemic are eligible. However, such activities must still be driven by the overall focus of the call and indirectly respond to the cultural, social aftermath of the crisis.

Are doctoral research projects eligible?

In principle yes, research projects can be eligible for funding, as long as they demonstrate a clear match with the overall focus and objectives of the Fund.

Number of applications per individual/organisation

Can we for now apply for a pilot of our project and later apply again for the entire project?

No, one project can receive funding only once through the Fund. You may choose to submit a proposal for the pilot or for the entire project.

May I submit more than one application?

Although we do not encourage it, you are allowed to submit more than one application provided that they are for entirely different projects.

Is there any limit regarding the number of approved projects from one organisation?

We do not have explicit limitations as this depends greatly on the number, quality and spread of the applications. However, please note that given the very large number of applications we expect to receive and the limited number of grants/submission periods we will be issuing, chances of multiple proposals by the same organisation are rather low.

Timeline of eligible activities, grant term

Is there a timeline in which the projects should take place? Can projects continue into 2021?

We have no strict limitations regarding project timelines. As mentioned in the call, project activities may start before the submission of the application, provided that they are still ongoing at the time of the selection of awarded projects (mid-September). The complete timeline of the project may be up to 24 months.

Budget, administration and reporting

Do I have to select the size of the grant upon submission of the application? Or is it possible to opt for the largest amount (40 000€) and if not selected, be automatically awarded with a lower amount?

You have to indicate in your proposal, for which grant amount you are applying. It is also this amount based on which you will need to complete the budget form (including the total budget and any other income you may have secured for the project). This also means that in case your project is not selected, you will not be automatically considered for a lower amount.

Could some part of the funding be allocated to the establishment of an organization and the related administrative costs?

Theoretically, yes, but your budget proposal has to make sense and should be reasonable. If you plan to establish a new initiative for answering the specific goals of maintaining and reviving European Culture of Solidarity, yes. Please note however, that it is highly recommended organisational and personnel costs do not exceed 80% of the total requested budget unless clearly justifiable. Therefore, if you plan to establish your own organisation for a larger mission than what we support with the call, our fund might not be the right fit for you.

Can we apply for a grant to cover 100% of the project budget? Is there a minimum percentage of own resources or co-funding necessary for the project to be eligible?

Yes, you may apply for 100% of the budget. It is not necessary for you to have own resources or co-funding in order to be eligible for funding. That being said, a balanced budget with diversified resources can significantly improve the feasibility of the project, which is one of the main components based on which applications will be assessed.

If our proposal is selected, when will the grant be made available to use?

You may request the first instalment (usually 70% of the total amount) of the grant upon the signing of the grant agreement. The remaining amount will be paid upon the completion of the project and submission of the final report.

What kind of reporting is required at the end of the grant term?

Upon the completion of the project, grantees must submit a narrative and financial report. Grantees will receive a list of guiding questions for the narrative report as well as a budget template to work with.