

Open Call



# culture of solidarity fund

Stage 2 - June-September 2020

*We invite you to apply for the second round of the European Culture of Solidarity Fund.  
Set up at the beginning of the pandemic crisis, the Fund continues to support imaginative  
cultural initiatives that reinforce European solidarity and the idea of Europe as a shared  
public space.*

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**European  
Cultural  
Foundation**

# Reviving a European Culture of Solidarity

We are living in truly transformative times. The coronavirus crisis has brought along profound global challenges with an outcome yet unknown. Will we remember this time as the starting point for drifting away from each other along national divides, into fragmented societies and conflicted communities? Or will this turn out to be a historical moment that makes us realise how much better Europe solves its problems through cooperation and solidarity?

The past months have seriously contested our public health systems and economies. Social cohesion has been severely shaken all over Europe. As the sounds of spontaneous balcony choirs and collective applause fade away, the coronavirus crisis continues to challenge our perception of 'normality'. Europeans take to the streets again in solidarity with the worldwide Black Lives Matter movement, and global questions of climate justice, shifting power systems and inequality further push us to reconsider our entire way of life.

The way Europeans deal with this situation after the immediate emergencies and lockdowns are over will have deep implications on how we build the future of Europe. We will only successfully resurface from this crisis by nourishing a European sentiment of care and support across borders. We need to make a European culture of solidarity tangible and real.

## What are we looking for?

The Fund continues to support **imaginative cultural initiatives - big or small - that reinforce solidarity and deal with the aftermaths of the pandemic for European societies.**

This second round also looks to re-unite Europe and its people in solidarity through supporting local cultural players in building alliances across nations, borders and differences with a broader European idea in mind. **It specifically welcomes proposals that grow immediate crisis responses into more future-oriented solutions and extend from local levels to building cross-national alliances and initiatives of pan-European solidarity.**

Since the beginning of the pandemic, courageous local initiatives and rapid crisis responses established strong roots for what could grow into much larger alliances of thinking and acting in European solidarity. They provided immediate hope to people while tangible answers from the EU still needed to gain momentum.

This is yet another attest to the power of local communities. Their issues, institutions and cultural expressions are key public domains where people experience their daily lives and imagine their futures as locals and Europeans. But now is the time for local initiatives to join forces, to unite across reopening borders, for the benefit of all Europeans and for finding solutions collaboratively. On their own, they can and do have an effect in their local contexts, but if they work together, build strong coalitions and pull resources, they can reach a collective impact at a European level.

The Fund is open to individuals, collectives and organisations from all sectors and civil society at large and supports short- or long-term actions that either/or:

- » preserve and expand a European Culture of Solidarity as the key element for keeping Europe an open and shared public space for everyone;
- » envision the future of making cultural experiences and people-to-people interaction possible across European borders after inward-looking times of social distancing and national crisis response;
- » imagine, tell stories and prepare the ground for a culture-driven revival of a united Europe during and after the crisis.

## What do we offer?

The Fund has grants available in three amounts:

- » Small: up to €12.500
- » Medium: €12.500 – 25.000
- » Large: €25.000 – 40.000

Please bear in mind that the Fund has a limited number of grants to give per submission round and the number of successful applications proportionately decreases the larger the grant size.

Grants can be used for financing a wide range of activities ranging from seed money for entirely new initiatives to (co-)funding for scaling up already existing ideas to a European level. Although co-funding is not a prerequisite for funding, a balanced budget with diversified resources can significantly improve the feasibility of the project.

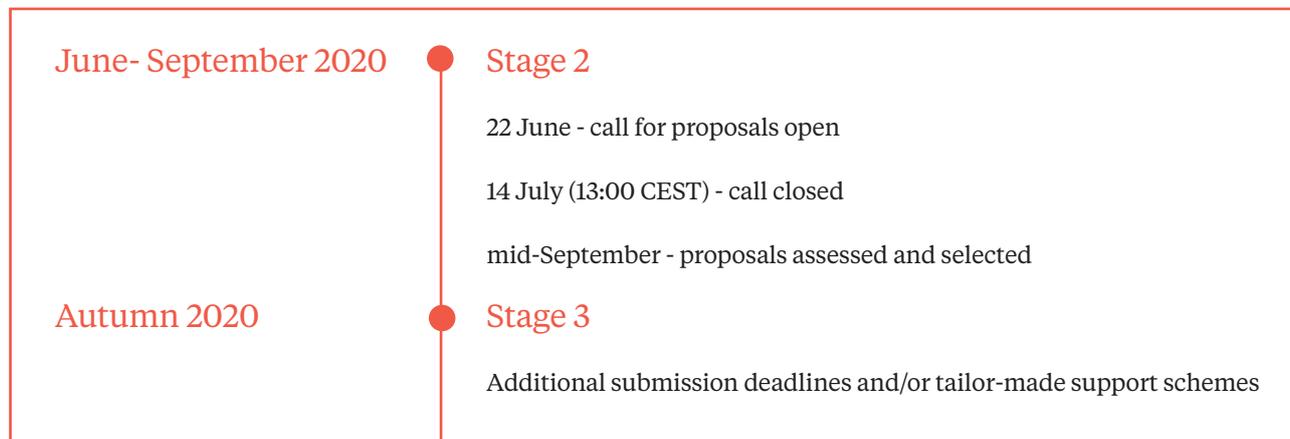
Grants can cover production-, rental costs, online co-working and communication tools. They can also be used to cover expert fees, staff- and operational costs. However, it is highly recommended that these do not exceed 80% of the total requested budget unless clearly justifiable.

**The submission deadline for the current call is Tuesday, 14 July, 13.00 CEST.**

## Timeline

The Fund's continued aim is to be as flexible as possible in answering any needs, challenges and developments that emerge as the crisis and its aftermath unfold. Adaptation, developing new routines and ideas are

crucial for coming to terms with the latest and changing working realities. This is why **funding has been made available through multiple short-term submission periods throughout the year.**



## Selection criteria and process

All incoming proposals will be assessed based on their

- » *relevance to the overall theme and focus of the Fund;*
- » *feasibility and implementation potential;*
- » *the impact they may have on the challenge addressed and communities involved.*

We will pay special attention to proposals that consider one or more of the following specificities:

- » regions where so far little to no funding has been made available for the cultural and creative sector in response to the post-corona economic backlash;
- » a clear vision of diversity, equality and inclusion embedded in the proposal;
- » awareness on the use of safe and open digital tools and platforms and alternatives to the market-driven and mainly non-European online platforms on which dis-/and mis-information easily grows and threatens democracy;
- » awareness of global issues around ecological sustainability and climate justice, especially concerning a Co2-neutral future of cultural mobility.

**We welcome applicants from all backgrounds and walks of life with regards to the cultural and religious background and belief, age, race, colour, class, ability, sexual orientation or gender identity.**

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.

Applications will be selected by a team of internal and external experts from a wide spread of geographic, cultural and professional backgrounds.

Due to the anticipated high volume of applications, we will complete the assessment procedure within 8 weeks from the submission deadline. It is also for this reason that decisions are final and that unfortunately, we cannot enter into any correspondence regarding unsuccessful applications afterwards.

## Overall eligibility criteria

- » Applications must be submitted in English and must include a complete budget;
- » Applicants must be above 18 years old;
- » Applicants can represent the private, public or civic sector. The call is open to individuals (such as artists, activists, freelancers), collectives (including volunteer groups and networks) and any legal form of organisations (NGOs, public institutions, private enterprises, cooperatives) who operate in the creative sector or any other professional fields and sectors of society, including education and academia, health and social care, environmental, human rights, social entrepreneurship, rural development, etc.
- » Applicants can be based anywhere in the world, but their proposal must contribute to a European Culture of Solidarity, the overall focus of the Fund;
- » We do not accept proposals submitted by political parties. Our work is strictly non-partisan.

To submit your application, please fill in the online form here: [www.culturalfoundation.eu/culture-of-solidarity](http://www.culturalfoundation.eu/culture-of-solidarity)

The application form must be completed online and cannot be saved during the inputting process. For this reason, we provide a WORD template with the main questions in the application form. We strongly recommend you to prepare your application in advance then cut and paste the content into the online form. Please make sure your budget is clear and realistic (fitting one of the grants' categories indicated) and refer to the provided template.