

Regional Call for Applications



culture of solidarity fund

October-November 2020

The Coronavirus pandemic has put to test solidarity among European people and societies. In response, the European Cultural Foundation (ECF) launched the new Culture of Solidarity Fund in April 2020. The Fund is co-financed and realised in partnership with foundations all over Europe.

Fondazione CRT, Fondazione CRC and EFC invite organisations from the Piedmont (Cuneo province in particular) and Aosta Valley regions to submit project ideas and proposals that connect local work with a real pan-European dimension. This special round of the Fund seeks to support imaginative cultural initiatives that reinforce pan-European solidarity and the idea of Europe as a shared public space from a regional and cross-border perspective.

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?

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 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.

What are we looking for?

The Fund supports imaginative cultural initiatives from Piedmont and Aosta Valley that **reinforce solidarity and deal with the aftermaths of the pandemic crisis** for European societies by proposing future-oriented solutions beyond immediate crisis responses. It also looks to re-unite Europe and its people in solidarity through supporting local cultural players from the regions in **building alliances across borders and differences** with a broader European idea in mind.

The Fund is **open to organisations** from all sectors and civil society **based in Piedmont and Aosta Valley** 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 two amounts:

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

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.

Submission deadline: Monday, 30 November, 13.00 CET

Overall eligibility criteria

- » The call is open to **NGOs, public institutions and cooperatives** who operate in Piedmont or Aosta Valley and work 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.
- » **Applications** must be submitted **in English** and must include a complete budget.
- » The applicant must be based in **Piedmont or Aosta Valley**. Applicants from Cuneo province are especially welcome. However, applicants should ensure that the proposal addresses the overall pan-European focus of the Fund and answers broader questions of cross-border solidarity that goes beyond local or regional work only.

Selection criteria and process

All incoming proposals will be assessed based on their

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

Priorities

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

- » 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.
- » sustainable partnership- and alliance building with other organisations, especially European partners.

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-December). 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. The **assessment procedure will be completed within 4 weeks from the submission deadline.**

To submit your application, please fill in the online form here:

www.culturalfoundation.eu/library/third-round-application-page

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.

In case of any technical difficulties around the submission of your proposal, you can get in touch with us at cos@culturalfoundation.eu.

Stay safe and good luck!

Our partnership

European Cultural Foundation

We have a vision for Europe. A continent where all can live, work, dream and express themselves freely, in diversity and harmony. Where we share a sense of belonging based on solidarity, mutual respect between people and with collaborations across borders of all kinds. We believe in the power of culture to achieve this Europe. Culture helps us negotiate ways of living together, build and understand our multiple identities and make Europe our home. We promote a European sentiment through developing and supporting cultural initiatives that let us share, experience and imagine Europe.

Our core values - cooperation, diversity and solidarity - are reflected in everything we do: providing grants, building communities, offering incubator programs and online platforms, handing out awards, organizing events and challenges, publishing books and advocating for culture with policymakers. We have pioneered in growing a European sentiment for over 65 years, and our mission is as urgent as when we first started.

Fondazione CRC

Fondazione CRC is a private and independent nonprofit organization based in Cuneo, a small city in the North West of Italy: since 1992, the mission of Fondazione CRC is to support the social, cultural and economic development of our community. Fondazione CRC is one of the top ten Italian banking origin Foundations, with an endowment of about 1,5 billion euros, an amazing contribution from the past generations' work and the result of a careful management. With an annual budget of about 25 million euros, Fondazione CRC distributes grants and promotes projects in the following sectors: local development and innovation, arts and culture, welfare, education, public health, sport.

In twenty-five years of activity, Fondazione CRC has supported more than 26.000 initiatives: more than one thousand projects per year, for a total amount of 500 million euros.

Arts and culture are two of the most important fields of activity: Fondazione CRC works on a daily basis with institutions and associations to promote beauty and its discovery through exhibitions and specific projects.

The Foundation works funding projects or managing project directly, in partnership with other foundations, local institutions, universities, experts.

Fondazione CRT

Fondazione CRT, founded in 1991, is a philanthropic organization active in three macro-areas: Art and Culture, Welfare and Environment, Research and Education and has invested nearly 2 billion euros for over 40.000 interventions. It has a strong international vocation, actively participating in the main philanthropic networks (EFC, EVPA, GSG), and collaborating with leading organisations from the European and global philanthropic fields.

In the field of Art and Culture, Fondazione CRT has invested 514 million euros over a quarter of a century, for interventions varying from the restoration of historic, artistic and architectural assets to providing support for events of music, theatre and dance. Its biggest single investment, over 100 million, was for the redevelopment of the OGR, once a workshop for trains, in 2017 it was reborn as workshops of ideas, creativity and innovation: becoming one of the most dynamic centers of production and cultural experimentation in Europe, with the Cult area receiving over half a million visitors in two years, featuring 20 exhibitions, 70 concerts and 200 artists.