

CULTURE OF SOLIDARITY FUND 2021 - Interregional edition CALL FOR PROPOSALS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS 9 August, 2021¹

Re-submissions from previous rounds/editions

I have applied before to the Culture of Solidarity Fund but was not selected. Can I apply again? Can I re-submit my proposal in this round?

If you applied to the Fund before, 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 both the thematic focus as well as the eligibility and selection criteria have significantly changed. We recommend that you have a thorough read of the full guidelines before you apply to see what adjustments are necessary in your proposal.

I have received a grant from the Culture of Solidarity Fund before. Can I apply in this round again?

As a previous grantee you may apply in this edition, provided that the grant term is complete at the time of your application and that your proposal is for an entirely new project.

General inquiry, project pitches

We are really interested in the call 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. You may want to take a look at the list of awarded projects from the previous rounds on our website: [Culture of Solidarity Fund – European Cultural Foundation](#). 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.

We plan to organise an online Q&A session at the end of August, where our team will be available to answer any inquiries, questions candidates have. Please follow ECF on its social media channels to make sure you don't miss out on the event announcement.

¹ Please note that based on the incoming inquiries we will be extending this document with additional clarifications and responses if needed.

Geographic scope

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

Applicants can be based anywhere in Europe (or its immediate neighbourhood), including all 47 Council of Europe member states and the EU Neighbourhood countries in North Africa; but their proposals must address the overall focus of the call on regional transformational challenges in Eastern Germany and beyond. This means that UK organisations are also eligible to apply.

Do organisations based in Berlin qualify as Eastern-German for the sake of the eligibility criteria?

Please note that organisations based in Berlin do not automatically qualify as Eastern German, unless they demonstrate that their work and/or their project clearly reaches beyond the city borders and targets specific (peripheral) Eastern regions struggling with (post-corona) transformational challenges as described in the guidelines

Partnerships and collaborations

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

Yes, applicants must have a minimum of one partnership secured with other organisations coming from similarly challenged regions, demonstrating transnational solidarity as well as learning and multiplication potential. Please note that at least one of the partners must come from or be active in Eastern Germany while at least one must come from or be active outside of Germany.

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 are in talks or have preliminary agreements with as long as you clearly indicate the status of these. However, you must have your partnerships confirmed at latest at the time of signing the grant agreement.

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 artistic field or discipline within cultural work or the 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 other sectors like education, social care, health, ecology and environmental protection, human rights, local development and many other fields where knowledge sharing with non-cultural actors makes sense for working with post-pandemic transformational processes.

Number of applications per individual/organisation

May I submit more than one application?

Although we do not encourage it, you are allowed to submit more than one application or alternatively be involved with multiple proposals as a partner 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 large number of applications we expect to receive and the limited number of grants 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?

As mentioned in the call, the grant term can be up to 12 months, starting on 1 November 2021 and ending on 31 October 2022. Project activities may only take place within this time span.

Budget, eligible costs

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 (60 000€) 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, based on the number of partners you have. 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.

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 your 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.

Are travel and accommodation costs eligible?

In principle, yes, travel and accommodation costs are eligible. There are some restrictions (set forth in the German Bundesreisekostengesetz BGBI. I S. 1418) which you need to keep in mind, such as:

- only economy class (flight) or second class (train) tickets may be claimed; Domestic and short flights are generally not eligible for reimbursement. However, in exceptional cases, they may be allowed if convincing justification is provided.
- If travelling by car, reimbursement rate of 0.20 Euro/km is applicable with a maximum of 150.00 Euro per journey (both ways included);
- the cap for accommodation costs is 70 EUR/day/person (without breakfast) and 74 EUR/day/person (including breakfast).

Can I claim per diems (daily allowances)?

No, daily allowances are not eligible. However, catering/costs of meals (lunch, dinner) may be claimed.

Are personnel costs eligible?

In principle yes. However, the salary costs of permanent staff members of the applicant working on the supported project are *not* eligible.

Please also bear in mind that the total personnel costs may not exceed 25% of the requested amount.

Administration and reporting

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

The grant will be made available in instalments every 6 weeks (starting from the signing of the grant agreement). Grantees will be free to determine the amount of instalment they claim at once, provided that the full amount would be spent during a period of 6 weeks. Upon submission of an expenditure overview and payment request, the next instalment will be made available.

We recommend that grantees prepare a project management timeline that also includes a bi-monthly planning of expenditures.

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

Half way through and upon the completion of the project, grantees must submit an interim and final narrative and financial report respectively. Grantees will receive a list of guiding questions for the narrative report as well as a budget template to work with. Please note that the copies of all receipts, invoices for expenses incurred must be kept and submitted with the financial reports.