

Introduction

In 2020 we launched the Culture of Solidarity Fund as a rapid response tool to cross-border initiatives of solidarity in times of uncertainty and lockdowns. Since March 2020, we have run four applications with one currently opened.

At the time of launching the fund our director wrote: “We want to support the citizens reaching out to each other, practicing small and often imaginative human gestures of everyday solidarity. These acts unite us, across balconies, social networks, cities and countries. It is human hope and shared culture without much ado that makes us feel together and that is all worthwhile! This is the culture of solidarity we ought to grow out of this pandemic crisis. This is a European moment, a European moment of solidarity, a European moment of citizens.”

European Cultural Foundation



European Cultural Foundation

The various rounds had differing objectives.

Our first round COS1 open April 6 2020, closed April 27 2020 supported big and small initiatives that would grow a European culture of Solidarity; supported partners and grantees in a flexible manner in the redesign of their activities in response to the Corona Crisis; supported new imaginative ways of sustaining people-to-people contacts and human interaction across European borders in times of travel restrictions and social distancing.

COS2 open June 22 2020 closed July 14 2020
In the second round we looked for projects which grew immediate crisis responses into more future-oriented solutions and extended from local levels to building cross-national alliances and pan-European initiatives.

It was a 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.

COS3 open October 12 2020 closed November 30 2020

The third round was our first one with partners: the Fondazione CRC and Fondazione CRT from Italy. In this round we invited organisations from the Piedmont and Aosta Valley regions to submit project ideas and proposals that connect local work with a real pan-European dimension. This round of the Fund sought 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.

COS4 open March 12 2021 closed May 18 2021

Nearly a year after launching the Culture of Solidarity Fund, solidarity remains a major cultural challenge, particularly in the field of media. Europe needs a shared public space where a culture of solidarity can be practiced. It is there where the ongoing infodemic can be combated. This round had a two-step approach, inviting possible applicants to team up together. This round focused on the work the European Cultural Foundation carries out in its SHARE programme: the development of a European public space.

COS5 open July 26 2021 closed September 14 2021

This recent fifth round was open to cultural organisations as well as organisations from other fields of work and public institutions that are based and/or active in Eastern Germany or in European regions similarly affected by deindustrialization, population decline, social dissolution, failing public infrastructure, and ecological crises.

How many applications were received

COS1

COS2

COS3

COS4

COS5

2,433

2,248

Italy
102

Infodemic
51

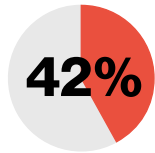
currently running

First three rounds combined Applications

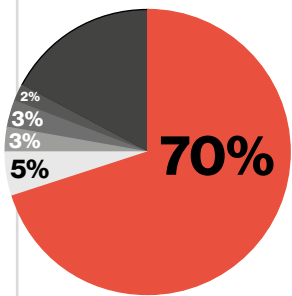
Applications from

51
countries

professional field



work with a European scope

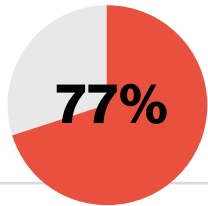


professional field

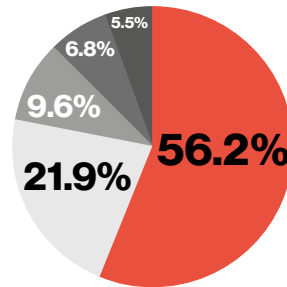
70% arts and culture sector
5% education and academia
3% human rights
3% activism
2% media press

International collaborations

77% have partners for their applied proposal



Profile of the applicants

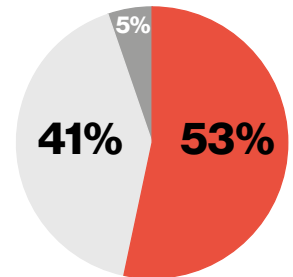


Age

20-29 - 9.6%
30-39 - 56.2%
40-49 - 21.9%
50-59 - 6.8%
60-69 - 5.5%

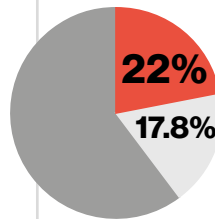
Gender

53% are women
41% are men
5% not stated



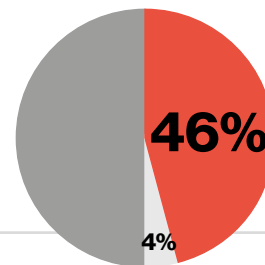
Granted new to ECF

22% haven't heard of ECF before this call
17.8% are former grantees or partners



Applicants new to ECF

46% haven't heard of ECF before this call
4% are former grantees or partners

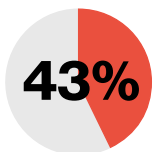


How many projects were granted

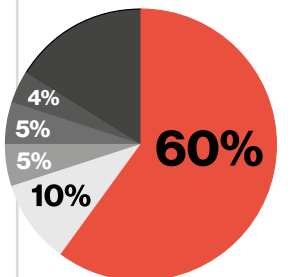
Projects granted

73
from
24
countries

professional field



work with a European scope

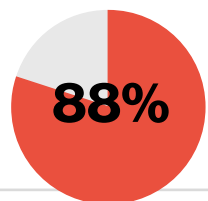


professional field

60% arts and culture sector
10% activism
5% agriculture and food
5% architecture and urban planning
4% community work

International collaborations

88% of our grantees have international partners



How much leverage, COS1 and COS2

Amount awarded

€ 1.263.349

Leverage funding

€ 1.589.788