

2023 Culture Of Solidarity Fund

Just Transition Edition

June-September 2023

Frequently Asked Questions

Eligibility and submitting applications

Am I eligible to apply as an individual?

No. Only organisations (NGO's, public institutions and cooperatives) based and active in one of the eligible countries are eligible to apply. These organisations can be active 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.

Where do I submit my application?

You may access the full guidelines and criteria, the budget template and additional information on our grant platform: <https://culture-of-solidarity-fund.grantplatform.com/> In order to access and complete the application form, you will need to register. Please note that by creating your profile, you will be able to view and apply to any future open calls of the Culture of Solidarity Fund.

General inquiry, project pitches

We are 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 call?

Generally, unfortunately we are not able to engage in in-depth conversations about applicants' proposals or project pitches, given the large number of incoming requests and in order to ensure the fair and equal treatment of applications. If you have any 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

What is the geographic scope of the Fund?

Applicants must be based and active in one of the eligible countries listed in the call for proposals.

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 transnational collaborations, we encourage applicants to join forces with other (local) initiatives and reach 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.

Number of applications per organisation

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 limited number of grants/submission periods we will be issuing, chances of multiple proposals by the same organisation are very low.

Timeline of eligible activities, grant term

Is there a timeline in which the projects should take place?

The complete timeline of awarded projects may be up to 12 months. Project activities may not take place before the start date, i.e. the date specified in the grant agreement.

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 (30 000€) 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 selection criteria 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 80% 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. Please note that the copies of all receipts, invoices for expenses incurred must be kept for 5 years following the completion of the project.