



The European Pavilion

Call for Curatorial Proposals

The European Pavilion 2024

What is Europe in reality and how can it be shaped by our imaginations?

**What do we aspire for it to be – beyond politics, economics,
and national borders? What will it take to get us there?**

How, through the metaphor of the pavilion, can we rethink Europe?

With this call, the European Cultural Foundation (ECF) invites cultural organisations to submit an ambitious curatorial proposal that will ensure the visibility, accessibility and positioning of the European Pavilion as a major European cultural event in 2024.

We are looking for proposals that explore, discuss, interpret and visualise Europe in fresh and imaginative ways: cutting-edge concepts and programming that encourage transnational collaborations between creators, thinkers, doers and communities, leading to a large-scale public event in 2024. Through the creative outcomes of these collaborations we hope to inspire Europeans to envision a forward-looking Europe, one that contributes to building fairer, more sustainable societies for all.

If your organisation would like to curate the European Pavilion 2024 and is ready to take on the challenge of making an important artistic contribution to the future imaginary of Europe, please submit your proposal by **14 September 2023 13.00 CEST**.





The European Pavilion

Initiated by the European Cultural Foundation in 2020, [the European Pavilion](#) is a pan-European initiative that puts the question of Europe and its future(s) at the forefront through cultural projects and art commissions. It stems from ECF's conviction that we need more cultural spaces that go beyond national remits when exploring and imagining what Europe is and what it can or should become.

It is no accident that the notion of a European Pavilion is reminiscent of World Expos and of the Venice Biennale that emerged from them. The European Pavilion is there to question in a constructive way the model of national pavilions and – more broadly – the national imaginaries they represent. Not to replace them, but to search for alternatives. The initiative is an opportunity to reinvent the pavilion, a versatile architectural object, as an experimental space for formulating new scenarios for Europe through culture.

Commissioned by ECF through a call for proposals, the European Pavilion presents an arts and culture programme from a pan-European point of view with the intention of making Europe more understandable and relatable as a socio-geographical and cultural space that connects us through shared as well as contested sentiments. Its activities, productions and events offer a rare opportunity to reflect on new and transnational perspectives explicitly about Europe.

What are we looking for?

We look forward to receiving curatorial proposals from institutions, organisations, or consortia, in any field of arts and culture, that are eager to explore today's burning questions in and about Europe through creative production and critical debate. These could include, but are not limited to, the future of our European and global living environments; Europe's responsibilities in the field of ecological transition and cultural decolonisation; the aesthetic potential of Europe; growing polarisation and social cohesion in our societies; the resurgence of nationalism and the future of democracy in Europe and around the world; digital transition and free media spaces; migration and inclusion; the war in Ukraine; etc.

Proposals must present a convincing concept for a versatile, multifaceted programme to be implemented between January and December 2024 anywhere in Europe (see list of eligible countries). The primary expectation is that the curatorial programme and its outcomes culminate in one central and outstanding public event for local and European audiences. **This event must take place before 30 November 2024.** Auxiliary events or activities can be planned throughout the year. The European Pavilion 2024 is open to the development of new and experimental formats, which can take the form of art exhibitions, theatre, dance or music performances, public installations, lectures and debates, any type of multidisciplinary cultural festival, as well as online activities in the digital realm.



What do we offer?

We offer a single **commissioning grant of up to EUR 500,000** to cover a maximum of 80% of the total budget for the creative development, curation and production costs of the European Pavilion 2024. The grant will be used at the beneficiary's discretion to commission cultural producers working in a wide variety of fields of practice in Europe and other parts of the world to contribute to the interdisciplinary programme outlined in the winning proposal.

The use of the grant is subject to the following restrictions:

- The grant may not exceed **80% of the overall project budget**. Applicants are expected to co-finance a minimum of 20% of the project budget from their own resources (including contributions in-kind, and funds raised from partner organisations, ticketing, etc). Applicants are also expected to contribute a suitable venue (or venues) for hosting the European Pavilion 2024 public event.
- At least **80% of the commissioning grant** (up to EUR 400,000) must be allocated to curatorial development, artistic production, and event costs.
- A maximum of **20% of the commissioning grant** (up to EUR 100,000) may be allocated to cover project running costs (such as staffing, office administration or rental costs).
- At least **10% of the overall project budget** (i.e. commissioning grant + co-financing) must be allocated to event marketing, press relations, and communication – including the production of at least one short video portrait introducing the project, the lead organisation and the main partners. Applicants are expected to regularly contribute to the feed of the [European Pavilion digital platform](#).



Overall eligibility criteria

- The application form must be completed in English and include a complete budget;
- The lead applicant must be an organisation, not an individual;
- Organisations that apply must be active and have legal status (e.g. NGO, public institution, social or creative company, association or cooperative) in EU/EFTA member states or the wider European neighbourhood (please consult the full list of eligible countries in the text box);
- It is possible to apply with a consortium of partners of different legal entities (e.g. public-private partnerships or others);
- The call is open to arts and culture organisations working in a wide range of disciplines including but not limited to architecture, cinema, cultural heritage, cultural management, design, digital culture and social media, education, fashion, music and sound art, publishing and literary arts, theatre and dance, visual and media arts;
- Applications must be non-profit in nature; any generated revenues must be used solely to co-finance the actual project budget;
- As mentioned above, all proposed activities must take place between January and December 2024, and the main event before the end of November.

Eligible countries

A Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan

B Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria

C Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic

D Denmark

E Egypt, Estonia

F Finland, France

G Georgia, Germany, Greece

H Hungary

I Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy

J Jordan

K Kosovo

L Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg

M Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco

N The Netherlands, Northern Macedonia, Norway

P Palestinian Territories, Poland, Portugal

R Romania

S San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria

T Tunisia, Turkey

U Ukraine, the United Kingdom

Selection criteria

European dimension

Applicants need to clearly demonstrate how they plan to address a comprehensive set of contemporary European questions and challenges. They must substantiate the contribution their curatorial programme will make to ongoing debates on Europe and its future from an arts and culture perspective. Transnational European viewpoints, cross-border collaborations, and the involvement of a broad diversity of communities and peers from all over Europe will play key roles in the proposed actions for the European Pavilion 2024.

Imagination

Applicants are encouraged to develop content and formats that provoke the imagination and reflection on Europe in a daring way. Collaborations with various types of cultural actors – individuals, groups, and communities – in Europe should be geared toward envisaging genuine scenarios for the future. The content, format and venue of the European Pavilion 2024 public event (and any auxiliary events) will be evaluated for their originality, artistic quality and relevance.

Sustainability

Applicants must demonstrate a strong awareness of environmental, social and cultural sustainability standards in their project design and implementation. Applicants are also expected to implement fair and social working conditions and transparent governance in relation to project staff, freelancers and service providers. Efforts to re-use the produced artworks, their presentation or event infrastructure will be favourably evaluated.

Plurality, diversity and inclusion

Applicants must demonstrate a clear vision and proven experience in diversity, equality and inclusion, in terms of both the content of the proposal and the project team, makers, communities, partners and providers, and target audiences.

Visibility and positioning

Applicants must demonstrate their capacity to act as ambassadors for the European Pavilion 2024 to stakeholders, institutions and communities across Europe. Proposals must include a coherent communication and press plan to make the European Pavilion 2024 tangible, visible and accessible to various local and European audiences, and to position the European Pavilion in contemporary public debates on Europe on different societal and institutional levels.

Excellence

Applicants must have a strong public presence and provide convincing evidence of their conceptual and programming skills, project management know-how and creative production capacities to carry out a complex programme with artists, creators and partners from different European locations.

Selection procedure and timeline

To apply, fill out the online form and upload the following attachments:

- A curatorial proposal of a maximum of 20 pages;
- A realistic and balanced budget;
- A portfolio of relevant past and ongoing projects and activities;
- If applicable, the filled and signed Partner statement

Applications will be read and assessed in various stages:

Stage I:

Applications will be reviewed and assessed internally by the European Pavilion team on the basis of the eligibility and selection criteria, resulting in a shortlist of up to ten candidates. During the selection, special attention will be given to the geographic and disciplinary balance of the proposals. The list of shortlisted candidates will be announced publicly.

Stage II:

Shortlisted applications will be reviewed by an independent jury of experts from a wide range of geographic, cultural and professional backgrounds. The list and profiles of jury members will be announced on ECF's website in August 2023. The jury will select up to five finalists.

Stage III:

The independent jury will research and conduct in-depth interviews with each finalist and will subsequently convene to discuss and select the beneficiary of the European Pavilion 2024 commissioning grant.

Timeline:

6 July 2023	Online Q&A session
14 September 2023	Deadline for submitting your proposal through the online application form
15 October 2023	Internal pre-selection by ECF and announcement of up to 10 shortlisted candidates
Early November 2023	Selection of up to 5 finalists by the expert jury
November 2023	Interviews with the finalists and final selection
Early December 2023	Results announced with the signing of the grant agreement
January 2024	Public announcement of the beneficiary
January-December 2024	Implementation period of the commissioning grant



To submit your application, please fill in the online form [here](#).

Applicant support

Please read these guidelines and the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) carefully. Make sure to allow sufficient time for developing your proposal.

All additional supporting documents (Budget template, Partner Statement template, and Guiding Questions for preparing the curatorial proposal) are found [here](#).

We advise you to submit your proposal ahead of the deadline to avoid last-minute technical problems.

An **online Q&A session** will take place [on Zoom](#) on **Thursday 6 July at 11.00 CEST** where you can ask questions about the details of the call and the application process. Please note that ECF is not able to engage in conversations about the content of individual proposals in view of fair and equal treatment of applicants.

Please note that by submitting your application, the legal representative of the lead application (and the consortium partners if applicable) is assumed to have read and accepted the terms and conditions of the grant, which constitute the basis of the grant agreement to be signed by the beneficiary.

Useful links and resources

- The European Pavilion digital platform: theeuropeanpavilion.eu
- Between winter 2020 and spring 2021, ECF produced and released The European Pavilion Podcast. In this series, we invited personalities from the arts and culture sector to reflect on the future of Europe and the role that the European Pavilion can play in stimulating imaginaries beyond the national. You can listen to all episodes on our [website](#) and on various channels: [Spotify](#), [Google Podcast](#), [Apple Podcast](#), [Soundcloud](#)
- Read about the European Pavilion 2022 organised in Rome from 17 to 19 November 2022: culturalfoundation.eu/stories/the-european-pavilion-in-rome/
- Read [a piece on the European Pavilion by sociologist Monica Sassatelli](#) published in ECF's 2022 annual magazine Common Ground (pp.135-140)

About the European Cultural Foundation

The European Cultural Foundation was founded in 1954 to help construct a united Europe where we can live, work, play, dream and express ourselves freely, share a sense of belonging based on solidarity and mutual respect, and collaborate across borders of all kinds, in harmony and in the fullness of our diversity. Since then, the European Cultural Foundation has initiated and supported projects in culture, civil society, environment and education throughout Europe to promote this sense of belonging. In its nearly 70 years of existence, the foundation has supported thousands of Europeans and organisations with grants and exchanges and has succeeded in putting culture and cultural policies on the European agenda.

Contact: theeuropeanpavilion@culturalfoundation.eu