Call for curatorial proposals: The European Pavilion 2024

Frequently Asked Questions

About the call

What is the call about?
The call is for cultural organisations interested in organising and hosting the European Pavilion 2024, an ongoing project initiated in 2020 by the European Cultural Foundation which brings to the front the question of Europe and its future(s) through cultural projects and artistic commissions. The European Pavilion is not a permanent physical structure but it draws on the idea of a pavilion as an experimental space for imagining Europe. It encompasses a cultural and artistic programme about Europe that culminates in a large-scale public event somewhere in Europe. This call concerns the organisation and hosting of the European Pavilion 2024, to take place before 30 November 2024.

How many grants are available?
A single grant of up to EUR 500,000 will be awarded to the winning proposal. The grant represents a maximum of 80% of the overall budget for the proposed curatorial programme.

How many applications are expected?
This is the first time a Call for curatorial proposals has been published, so it is not possible to rely on previous statistics.

Will the call be reopened next year?
Yes, the call for curatorial proposals will be reopened in 2024 for the European Pavilion 2025.
Content of the proposal

What kind of activities are eligible?
Eligible activities can take various forms, from art exhibitions and public installations, to theatre, dance, and music performances, cinema and audiovisual events, lectures and debates, any type of multidisciplinary cultural festival, as well as online digital formats. They also include activities leading up to the European Pavilion’s major event, such as artistic residencies, workshops and more.

Is there a minimum number of events or size of activities to be developed?
The curatorial proposal must include at least one highly visible public cultural event to be organised before 30 November 2024. The applicant might choose to present auxiliary events at different locations in the run-up and/or aftermath of the major event.

Is there a preferred theme?
No, the choice of theme is left to the candidate's discretion but it must have a clear European dimension.

To what extent can changes be made to the curatorial proposal during the course of the project?
It is possible to adjust the curatorial proposal (for instance, a change in the list of creatives and contributors involved) during its implementation, provided it is not substantially modified.

Can the European Pavilion 2024 be organized as part of an existing event, such as a festival or other recurring arts and cultural event?
It is possible to include the European Pavilion 2024 in an existing event or platform, provided that it is sufficiently recognizable as such and its visibility is not reduced as a result of competing brand.

Can the curatorial proposal be a continuation of an existing project?
Yes, it can be a continuation of an existing project, provided there are sufficient new elements to distinguish it from the pre-existing project.

Applying as a consortium

What is the procedure for applying as a consortium?
The lead applicant will submit the proposal on behalf of the consortium. The lead applicant must be active in the cultural sector and based in one of the eligible countries (see the list of eligible countries included in the Call guidelines). If the consortium’s application is successful, the lead applicant will enter into a grant agreement with ECF and be legally responsible for delivering and reporting on the granted proposal.
Who is eligible to become a partner?
Partners can be organisations or collectives operating in any sector, private or public, cultural or not, and with any legal status. There is no geographic limitation as to where partners are based. The application must include a partnership statement completed and signed by all partners (download the template here).

Will consortium proposals be more favourably assessed than individual proposals?
Consortium proposals are not prioritised over proposals from a single organisation. Instead, the possibility of applying with a consortium is a way to make the call accessible to smaller organisations.

How many partners should be involved?
There is no limitation on the number of partners involved.

Application requirements

Am I eligible to apply as an individual?
No, only organisations with legal status (e.g. NGOs, public institutions, social or creative companies, associations or cooperatives) are eligible to apply.

Where should my organisation be based?
Your organisation must be active and have legal status in one of the eligible countries (see the list of eligible countries included in the Call guidelines).

May I submit more than one proposal?
No, the applicant is not allowed to submit more than one curatorial proposal.

Can the proposal be submitted in a language other than English?
Proposals must be written in English. However, it is possible to submit additional documentation of relevant past and ongoing projects in another language if it is unavailable in English.

What does the curatorial proposal consist of and how is it submitted?
Applications are submitted through an online form.
The form consists of some open fields to be filled out directly as well as the following PDF documents to upload:

- curatorial proposal of maximum 20 pages;
- realistic and balanced budget;
- portfolio of relevant past and ongoing projects and activities;
- if any, a partnership statement completed and signed by all partners.
In which location should the European Pavilion 2024 be organized?
The European Pavilion 2024 can be organized in any location as long as it takes place in one of the eligible countries. The choice of location must be justified, taking into account the various selection criteria (European dimension, sustainability, diversity, visibility).

Budget and administration

What is the relationship between the applicant and the European Cultural Foundation?
The ECF and the selected applicant will enter into a Collaboration agreement within which the commissioning grant will be embedded.

Is the European Pavilion 2024 fully funded by the ECF?
No, applicants are expected to co-finance a minimum of 20% of the project budget with 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.

Are there any restrictions on the use of the commissioning grant?
Yes, the use of the grant is subject to the following restrictions:

- 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 rent).
- At least 10% of the overall project budget (i.e. commissioning grant + co-financing) must be allocated to project 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 contribute regularly to the feed of the European Pavilion digital platform.
- Only costs incurred during the grant term (January until December 2024) are eligible.

Does co-financing have to be guaranteed prior to application?
It is not necessary for all co-financing (e.g. public or private grants) to be confirmed before the application is submitted, but it must be at least 20% at the time of the financial report, otherwise the amount of the ECF commissioning grant will be reduced accordingly.

Should the budget show amounts with or without VAT?
The amounts should include VAT.

What exchange rate should be used to calculate the project budget?
The exchange rate can be calculated using the online currency converter [www.xe.com/](http://www.xe.com/) at the time of application.

**Do bank transfer and other related costs fall under administrative costs and should they be budgeted under the maximum 15% of costs for staff, office, or administrative costs?**

Yes, banking fees related to the project can be budgeted under administrative costs.

**Can (parts of) the budget be filled out as lump sums?**

The budget should be clearly presented with detailed justifications for each budget line. Lump sums may be used only in exceptional, well-argued cases.

**What are the rules for weighing in-kind contribution in monetary terms?**

In-kind contribution must be budgeted and explained.

**Is there a limitation in sharing funds among partners on the project?**

No, the allocation of funds falls under the discretion of the lead organisation and its partner(s).

**If my proposal is selected, when will the grant be made available?**

The commissioning grant will be paid in three instalments, according to the following schedule:

- The first instalment of 60% of the total amount of the grant may be requested upon the signing of the grant agreement.
- A second instalment of 35% may be requested six months into the project term (June 2024)
- The remaining amount (5%) will be paid upon completion of the project and submission of the final report.

Specific arrangements can be discussed on a case-by-case basis.

**Timeline**

**What is the time period for organising and implementing the curatorial programme?**

The project period begins on 1 January and ends on 30 December 2024. The European Pavilion 2024 major public event must take place before 30 November.

**When will the result of the call be announced?**

The chosen applicant will be notified by mid-December 2023 and the result publicly announced in January 2024. For the detailed timeline, please refer to the call for proposals.

**Can the main event of the European Pavilion 2024 be held or extended to 2025?**

The main event must take place in 2024 but it is possible for subsequent events that build on its legacy to continue until 2025, provided the budget is spent in 2024.
Selection process

What is the selection process?
Applications will be read and assessed in stages:
Stage I: a short list of up to 10 candidates based on eligibility and selection criteria is chosen internally by the European Pavilion project team.
Stage II: an independent jury selects up to 5 finalists from the shortlist.
Stage III: the independent jury interviews the finalists and selects one as the winning proposal.
For more detail, please refer to the Selection Process section of the call.

On what criteria will the application be evaluated?
Proposals will be evaluated according to the following six criteria:
- European dimension
- Imagination
- Sustainability
- Plurality, diversity and inclusion
- Visibility and positioning
- Excellence
For a detailed description of each criterion, please refer to the call guidelines.

Who will sit on the independent jury?
The independent jury is made up of professionals from a variety of cultural backgrounds, expertise and practices, from all over Europe. The names of the jury members will be announced at the beginning of August on ECF’s website.

Will the interviews with the five finalists take place in person or online?
The interviews will take place online, via Zoom.

Reporting

What kind of reporting is required at the end of the grant period?
Upon the completion of the project, the grant beneficiary 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.