

Call for proposals



# Culture of Solidarity Fund

**Just Transition Interregional edition<sup>1</sup>**

**November 2023 - February 2024**

*We invite you to apply for the interregional round of the Culture of Solidarity Fund 2023, with special focus on Northern Italy. This edition supports collaborative, cultural projects addressing the just transition to environmental sustainability and ecological resilience in Lombardy, Piedmont, Liguria and Aosta Valley and elsewhere in Europe.*

<sup>1</sup>Initiated by the European Cultural Foundation in partnership with Fondazione Cariplo, Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo, Fondazione CRC and Fondazione CRT

**European  
Cultural  
Foundation**

Fondazione  
CARIPLO



**Fondazione  
CRT**

**FONDAZIONE CRC**



Fondazione  
Compagnia  
di San Paolo

**Culture of  
Solidarity  
Fund**

powered by the European  
Cultural Foundation

# Culture and Just Transition

**In the past months Europeans have been confronted with the aftermath of a global health crisis, massive wars and the ever more apparent impact of climate emergencies on local communities.** Regions all over Europe have been facing the painful consequences of a globally unfettered extraction and use of natural resources. European landscapes like the Alps and the Mediterranean have been severely affected by climate change-related disasters. These extreme weather phenomena endanger cultural livelihoods, traditional practices and the living heritage of local communities, whose human capacities and cultural infrastructure are at the same time powerful resources for a more sustainable future.

**More than ever, communities need to come to a shared understanding on how to prepare for the urgent shift from the prevailing resource-intensive lifestyles to low-carbon green economies and societies.** This will require us to reset and recalibrate our lives to meet whatever challenges arise in the transition to living within a socially just and environmentally regenerative society. For according to the concept of **Just Transition**, such a far-reaching transition must be fair and equitable to all. Systemic change is daunting, disruptive, difficult, but necessary and is intrinsically linked to a shift in mindsets and societal attitudes towards nature, industry, work, consumerism and social justice. It is therefore essential to consider the cultural contexts of different communities and to acknowledge the specific ecology of their living environments that define their specific values, needs, struggles and aspirations.

**Arts and culture have the power to shape values, beliefs and behaviours.** Cultural organisations, art institutions, cultural media, community activists, artists and the work of the creative sectors as a whole are compelling public actors for raising questions and building consensus around the need for a just transition. Although these actors have already facilitated innovation and democratic acceptance of agendas that contribute to the **UN Sustainable Development Goals**, the **European Green Deal** or the **New European Bauhaus**, many are yet to assume greater responsibility in leading by example in their own practices and in raising their voices in public debates.

**The arts and creative sectors in Lombardy, Piedmont, Liguria and Aosta Valley hold vast resources that allow them to engage with the complexities of ecological transformation agendas in their local contexts. Together with peer organisations from other regions across Europe, this call invites them to expand their knowledge capacities and institutional networks that are essential for becoming pioneers in just transition and sustainable development processes within their local communities.**

# What are we looking for?

The call is **open to partnerships of at least two organisations** where:

- » *the lead applicant* is a civic, private organisation or a public cultural institution with a legal status in and active in the provinces of Lombardy, Piedmont, Liguria or Aosta Valley, operating in the cultural, creative or civic sector;
- » *at least one partner* is a civic, private organisation or a public cultural institution with a legal status in and active outside of Italy, in one of the **Council of Europe member states**, operating in the cultural, creative or civic sector.

Proposals must entail partnerships with a potential of longer term cooperation, that directly respond to one of the following objectives:

## OBJECTIVE 1 - KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND DISSEMINATION OF BEST PRACTICES

Supporting knowledge exchange and dissemination of best practices among Italian and European cultural and creative actors in order to embed just transition thinking towards environmental sustainability in all levels of their work and organisational culture, in line with the values and priorities of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the European Green Deal and the New European Bauhaus.

## OBJECTIVE 2 - RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

Supporting European, translocal collaborations that through innovative cultural action:

- » inspire and activate communities to imagine and engage in democratic processes of just transition to more climate resilient societies; or
- » reinforce the role arts and culture plays in creating a safe environment for open, candid exchange and respectful dissent in public discussions and policy making around ecological transition.

# What do we offer?

The Fund has grants available in three amounts:

- up to €10.000
- €10.000 – 20.000
- €20.000 – 30.000

**Grants may be used to cover a maximum of 80% of the total project budget. The remaining 20% must be financed through own resources and/or co-funding.** Up to 60% of the grant amount may cover activities implemented by the Italian lead organisation while the remainder of the grant amount must be allocated to activities implemented by the partners.

Grants can be used to finance a wide range of activities, from seeding entirely new initiatives to scaling up existing ideas to a European level.

Grants can cover production, rent, co-working, exchange of expertise, artist residencies and communication tools. They can also be used to cover consultancy, staffing and operational costs. However, it is highly recommended that these do not exceed 80% of the total requested budget unless clearly justifiable.

**The project timeline may be up to 12 months.** Activities related to the project may not take place before the start date (15 April 2024).

## In search of a project partner? Join one of our online matchmaking events!

We are organising two online matchmaking events for organisations interested in applying and in search of suitable Italian/European partners. Registered applicants will be invited to create their digital profiles before the event, including their main interest and needs in relation to the call. At the events participants will have the opportunity to attend different info and matchmaking sessions and move to one-on-one exchanges on the details of the partnership. We invite you to look out for further announcements and the link to register on our website and social media channels.

**The submission deadline for proposals is Thursday, 29th February 2024, 13.00 CET.**

## Timeline



## Overall eligibility criteria

- » Applications must be submitted in English and include a complete budget;
- » The call is open to collaborations of a minimum of two organisations, with the lead applicant submitting the proposal, and entering into a grant agreement in case the proposal is selected;
- » The lead partner must be a civic or private organisation, or a public cultural institution with a legal status in and active in the provinces of Lombardy, Piedmont, Liguria or Aosta Valley, operating in the cultural, creative or civic sector;
- » At least one of the partners must be a civic or private organisation, or a public cultural institution with legal status based and active outside of Italy but in one of the **Council of Europe member states** and operating in the cultural, creative or civic sector.
- » We do not accept proposals submitted by religious bodies, trade unions or political parties. Our work is strictly non- partisan.

Applications will be selected by a team of internal and external experts from a wide range of geographic, cultural and professional areas.

Due to the anticipated high volume of applications, we will complete the assessment procedure within 4 to 6 weeks from the submission deadline. It is also for this reason that decisions are final and that, unfortunately, we cannot enter into any correspondence regarding unsuccessful applications afterwards.

**You can find additional information and submit your application via this link:**  
<https://culture-of-solidarity-fund.grantplatform.com>

# Our partnership

## European Cultural Foundation

The European Cultural Foundation (ECF) is an independent non-profit organisation that has been delivering social impact projects across Europe for nearly 70 years. ECF's mission is to strengthen the European sentiment by developing and supporting cultural initiatives that let us share, experience and imagine Europe. The foundation was established in 1954 to help construct a united Europe where we can live, work, play, dream, and express ourselves freely. During ECF's rich history stretching back seven decades, the organisation has made significant contributions, such as co-developing and launching the ERASMUS student exchange programme in 1980s (reached over 10 million students since). More recently, the foundation was successful in advocating for the Cultural Deal for Europe, which helped to leverage €11 billion in funding for the recovery of culture post-Covid. Examples of our current flagship projects include: Culture of Solidarity Fund (supporting cultural/ arts initiatives during times of crisis, e.g. war in Ukraine); The Europe Challenge for libraries and communities; The European Pavilion (supporting artistic projects that reimagine Europe's future); CrAFT Cities (helping 60 cities across Europe become climate neutral, beautiful, and inclusive by 2030); Cultural Deal for Europe (advocating to allocate at least 2% of the EU Recovery Fund to culture); and Re:Framing Migrants in European Media.

For more information please visit: [culturalfoundation.eu](https://culturalfoundation.eu)

## Fondazione Cariplo

Fondazione Cariplo is a grant-making foundation based in Milan that operates with the purpose of pursuing social good and promoting economic development. Since its establishment in 1991, the Foundation has supported over 40,000 projects in four main fields - Arts and Culture, Environment, Scientific Research and in the Social realm - providing around 4 billion € in grants to nonprofits and public institutions. The Foundation advances its mission by providing grants to projects solicited through calls for proposals, designing and running its own programmes, experimenting innovative funding approaches and making impact investments consistent with its strategic priorities and the sectors it operates in. Despite its regional roots and focus, Fondazione Cariplo has longstanding partnerships internationally.

For more information please visit: [fondazionecariplo.it](https://fondazionecariplo.it)

## Fondazione CRT

Established in 1991, Fondazione CRT is the third largest Italian philanthropic institution by asset. It has granted a total of more than EUR 2 billion for over 42,000 projects in the fields of art and culture, research, youth training, fight against poverty, improvement of the quality of life of people with disabilities, environmental protection, and innovation. In addition, it has entirely redeveloped the OGR Torino, transforming it into an international center of technological and cultural innovation. Fondazione CRT is active in the main international networks of philanthropy such as EVPA (European Venture Philanthropy Association) and Philea (Philanthropy Europe Association). Fondazione CRT also operates through a plurality of entities that contribute to the growth of the region: OGR-CRT (for design, production and communication in the fields of tech, art and contemporary culture at OGR Torino), la Scialuppa CRT Onlus Fondazione Anti Usura (for the prevention of usury), Fondazione per l'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea CRT (to support and enhance the contemporary art system), Fondazione Sviluppo e Crescita CRT (for patient investments with declared social impact); Fondazione ULAOP CRT Onlus (for actions in the field of youth).

For more information please visit: [fondazionecrt.it](https://fondazionecrt.it)

## **Fondazione CRC**

Established in 1992, Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Cuneo is a Foundation of banking origin based in Cuneo, a small city in the North West of Italy. It is a non-profit organisation, private and autonomous, which pursues purposes of social utility and economic development. It disburses contributions to public and private non-profit organisations and also promotes projects directly by partnering with local stakeholders and other foundations. With an annual budget of about 30 million euros, Fondazione CRC distributes grants and promotes projects in the following sectors: local development and innovation, arts and culture; welfare; education; public health and sport. Fondazione CRC network is composed of local authorities, schools, VET providers, associations, cooperatives and other subjects.

For more information please visit: [fondazionecrc.it](http://fondazionecrc.it)

## **Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo**

We have been working for the common good since 1563, putting people in charge of their future. Our experience has taught us that the well-being of individuals is closely linked to that of their community. This is why we believe the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations are a valuable opportunity to contribute to the future of humankind at all levels: we have taken up this challenge and organised ourselves accordingly. We have three main Goals: Culture, People and Planet, which can be achieved through fourteen Missions. We are committed to preserving and increasing our assets in order to award grants and develop projects working alongside institutions and in collaboration with our auxiliary bodies. This is our commitment, for the common good and for everyone's future.

For more information please visit: [compagniadisanpaolo.it](http://compagniadisanpaolo.it)