

**2024 Culture of Solidarity Fund**

# **Democracy Resilience Edition**

**July-September 2024**

# **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, unless you have already done so related to previous editions. 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 edition 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](mailto:cos@culturalfoundation.eu).

## **General inquiry, What are we looking for?**

*Does my project need to directly tackle all the priorities listed under the "What are we looking for?" section in the call for proposals?*

The specific challenges and approaches prioritised under the "What are we looking for?" section of the call for proposals are not considered hard criteria (i.e., proposals don't necessarily need to respond to each and all of them to be considered). However, proposals that address all the points or as many as possible will have the highest chance at being considered for funding. You are expected to complete all questions in the application form. Even if your project does not directly tackle one or more of these priorities, we recommend that you interpret these more broadly for the purpose of the application and reflect on them from the perspective of your project.

## **Geographic scope, European dimension**

*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 partners for the project to meet the criteria?*

Although there is no explicit requirement for applicants to secure international (European) partnership for the project, given the special focus on cross-border alliances, we encourage applicants to join forces with other 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 as well as the planned division of tasks in your application.

### **Number of applications per individual/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 we will be issuing, chances of multiple successful 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). Consequently, 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 structural and administrative costs of the organization?*

Theoretically, yes, but your budget proposal has to make sense and should be reasonable. Please note however, that our grants are mainly intended as project funding and it is highly recommended that organisational and personnel costs do not exceed 80% of the total requested budget unless clearly justifiable.

*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 a hard criteria for you to have own resources or co-funding secured 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 70% 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.