



Culture of Solidarity Fund

Introduction

In 2020 we launched the Culture of Solidarity Fund as a rapid response tool to cross-border initiatives of solidarity in times of uncertainty and lockdowns. Since March 2020 the world seems to have been caught up in a never-ending crises cycle. In addition to Covid-19, there is a climate pandemic, a pandemic of inequality, a pandemic of polarisation, also manifesting in Europe. Together, these individual pandemics are creating unpredictable dynamics further exacerbated by the war that re-emerged in Europe on 24 February. Besides suffering and destruction in Ukraine, the war brings inflation, energy crisis and recession. Crises and crises responses are the new normal.

At the time of launching the fund our director Andre Wilkens wrote: “We want to support the citizens reaching out to each other, practicing small and often imaginative human gestures of everyday solidarity. These acts unite us, across balconies, social networks, cities and countries.

It is human hope and shared culture without much ado that makes us feel together and that is all worthwhile! This is the culture of solidarity we ought to grow out of this pandemic crisis. This is a European moment, a European moment of solidarity, a European moment of citizens.”

**European
Cultural
Foundation**

The various rounds had different objectives:

COS1 (April 2020)

Our first round supported initiatives that would grow a European culture of Solidarity and support partners and grantees flexibly in the redesign of their activities in response to the Corona Crisis. It also supported new imaginative ways of sustaining people-to-people contacts and human interaction across European borders during travel restrictions and social distancing.

COS2 (June - July 2020)

In the second round, we looked for projects which grew immediate crisis responses into more future-oriented solutions and extended from local levels to building cross-national alliances and pan-European initiatives. It was a time for local initiatives to join forces, to unite across reopening borders, for the benefit of all Europeans and for finding solutions collaboratively.

COS3 (October - November 2020)

The third round was our first regional one with partners: Fondazione CRC and Fondazione CRT from Italy. We invited organisations from the Piedmont and Aosta Valley regions to submit project ideas that connect local work with a real pan-European dimension. This round sought to support imaginative cultural initiatives that reinforce pan-European solidarity and the idea of Europe as a shared public space from a regional and cross-border perspective.

COS4 (March- May 2021)

Nearly a year after launching the Culture of Solidarity Fund, solidarity remained a major cultural challenge, particularly in the field of media. Europe needs a shared public space where a culture of solidarity can be practiced. It is there where the ongoing infodemic can be combated. This round focused on the work the European Cultural Foundation carries out in its SHARE programme: the development of a European public space.

COS5 (July - September 2021)

This fifth round was open to cultural organisations as well as organisations from other fields of work and public institutions that are based and/or active in Eastern Germany or in European regions similarly affected by deindustrialization, population decline, social dissolution, failing public infrastructure, and ecological crises.

COS6 (March - July 2022)

Building on ECF's widespread network in Ukraine and the adaptable structures of the fund, the sixth round was launched as the first specifically cultural and European support mechanism for Ukraine in early March. After responding to immediate cultural emergency needs, the fund supported mid- and longer actions that fought fake news and war infodemic, provided safe cultural spaces or countered forces of fragmentation.

COS7 (Sept - Dec 2022), COS8 (July - Sept 2023)

We launched this special call looking to promote the visibility and embeddedness of Ukrainian Culture across Europe, in partnership with EUNIC, with funding from several EUNIC members and with core financing led by the Goethe-Institut, and the Institut Français and Instituto Cervantes.

COS9 (July - Sept 2023)

The ninth edition of the Culture of Solidarity Fund welcomed experimental initiatives that through forging European transnational and/or translocal collaborations addressed the theme of just transition and environmental sustainability from a specific cultural angle.

COS10 (November 2023 - February 2024)

This tenth interregional edition was launched in partnership with Fondazione CRT, Fondazione Cariplo, Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo and Fondazione CRC. It sought to support collaborative, cultural projects addressing the just transition to environmental sustainability and ecological resilience in North-West Italy and elsewhere in Europe.

COS11 (February - June 2024)

This special edition – in partnership with Evens Foundation and Allianz Foundation- sought to support transnational solidarity initiatives and democracy campaigns with a strong track record in defending democratic engagement at local, regional, national, and European level, ready to double down their efforts ahead of the EP24 elections.

COS12 (July - September 2024)

This post-EP elections edition sought to support collaborative and creative initiatives that re-enforce the core values of Europe and inspire Europeans to reengage with their democracies in a hopeful and forward-looking manner.

Number of applications received

COS1
2,433

COS2
2,248

COS3
Italy
102

COS4
Infodemic
51

COS5
Regional Transformation
60

COS6
Ukraine
508

COS7
EUNIC
27

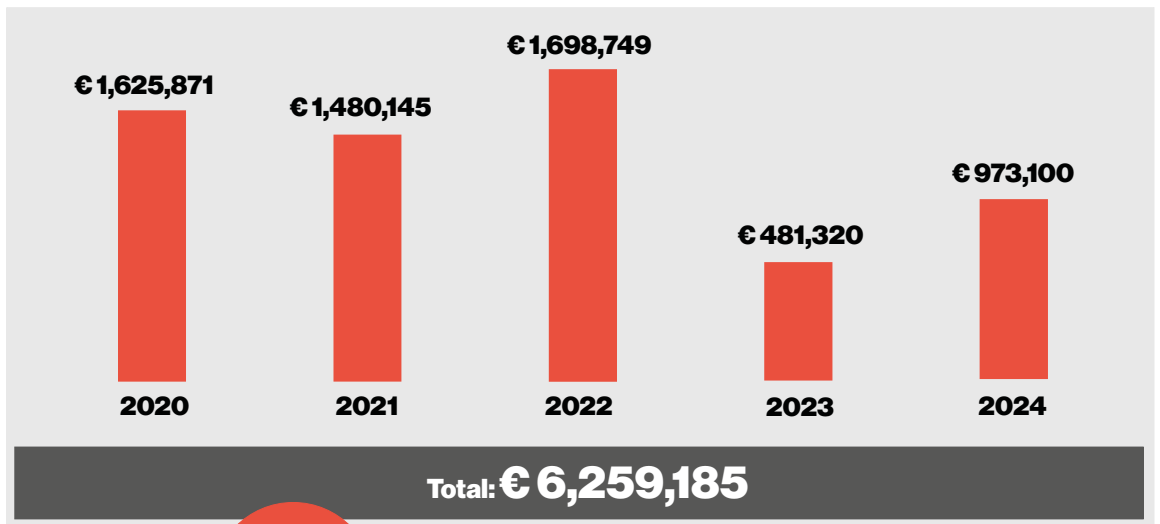
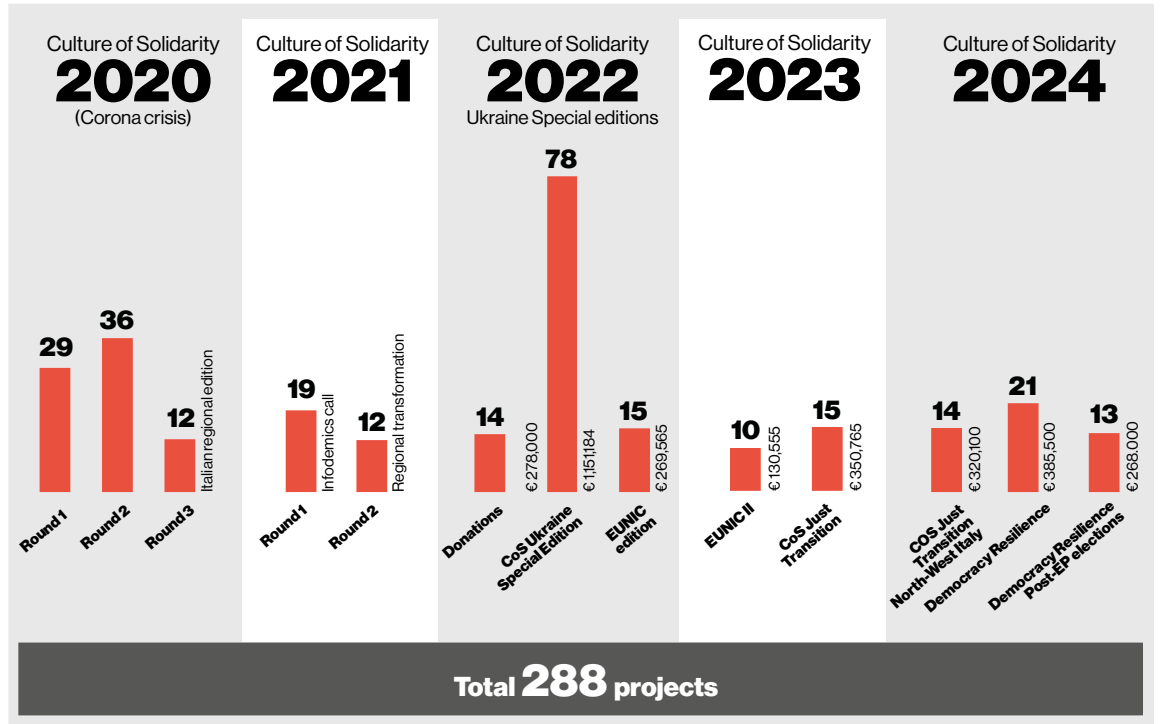
COS8
EUNIC II
22

COS9
Just Transformation
441

COS10
Just Transition North-West Italy
107

COS11
Democracy Resilience
The 11th edition followed an internal selection process and no open call was launched.

COS12
Democracy Resilience Post-EP elections edition
462



24 co-funding partners

