



EUROPEAN CULTURAL FOUNDATION

a funding information leaflet from *funderfinder*

The European Cultural Foundation is an independent not-for-profit organisation based in Amsterdam (European Cultural Foundation, Jan Van Goyenkade 5, 1075 HN, Amsterdam). It promotes cultural, social and educational activities which are multi-national and European. There are three main aspects to its work: grants, running its own programmes and cultural policy development.

Who can apply for grants?

Independent cultural organisations (NGOs) from within the EU, Albania, Belarus, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Turkey, and Ukraine may apply as lead applicants or partner organisations. All projects should feature at least one country from this group. In addition, independent cultural organisations from Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia are also eligible for support, if working together with partners from the EU or its bordering regions (as listed above). Collaborations within the EU, across or beyond its new borders, or across the Mediterranean are all possible.

The Foundation is interested in projects which reflect a confrontation with the unfamiliar or unknown just as much as those which aim to strengthen ties with neighbouring regions.

Priority is given to professional organisations working in the cultural sector on contemporary projects. It does not support commercial organisations, state institutions, amateur organisations, or those focusing primarily on education, religion or heritage, or projects organised by student bodies.

Priorities

The Foundation will only support projects that clearly relate to its in-house activities. However, this does not mean that they will apply unnecessarily rigid criteria but applicants must explain the link between their work and Foundation's current areas of interest. Priorities are:

Intercultural competence and collaboration across borders

Priority will be given to projects which expose the rich potential of Europe's diversity by involving different communities in the realisation of collaborative activities. They are looking for strategies that would develop mutual understanding and offer insight from different perspectives.

Increased participation in the arts and the media

Projects which explore the link between creative practice and social development; including initiatives that involve target groups that have restricted access to cultural resources. Support will be given to projects that fuse disciplines or conventional 'sectors' (including arts and media).

The cultural dimension of EU enlargement

Cultural cooperation beyond the new borders of the enlarged EU.

Strategies for change within cultural infrastructures

Projects should focus on capacity-building, participation in cultural policymaking or the transfer of experience and knowledge across borders. Priority will be given to initiatives which experiment with working models or produce information which is not already available concerning the project's region or context.

Creative responses to current political issues

Bold, imaginative projects that highlight, deconstruct or bring clarity to hot political topics are invited. Different perspectives on enlargement, multiculturalism and Europe's position in the world are of particular interest.

Development of a common public and cultural European space

Projects which offer space for pan-European public debate and which tackle the need for a better flow of information and experience across national borders.

Grants are usually between €5,000 - €40,000. Preliminary information and advice is available on their website or by post or telephone from the UK National Committee of the Foundation:

Rod Fisher or Simon Mundy, Joint Directors, European Cultural Foundation (UK National Committee), c/o International Intelligence on Culture, 4 Baden Place, Crosby Row, London SE1 1YW, tel: 020 7403 0777, email: efc@intelCULTURE.org, website: www.intelculture.org/html/ecf.shtml

Full details are available on the ECF main website: www.eurocult.org

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