



EUROPEAN
CULTURAL
FOUNDATION

Collaboration Grants 2013

CULTURE, CREATIVE COMMUNITIES & DEMOCRACY

HOW TO APPLY

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INTRODUCTION

For almost 60 years, ECF's vision has been of an open, democratic and inclusive Europe in which culture is a valued and key contributor. In recent years, however, we have witnessed a growing gap between people, democratic processes and structures. People feel estranged from democratic institutions. At the same time, ECF has seen and supported hundreds of organisations that demonstrate how culture can be an invaluable tool in terms of engaging people in the future of their communities, and indeed of the world.

ECF seeks to bridge the gap, to reconnect people and re-invigorate our democracies by identifying, connecting, nourishing and illuminating a network of local cultural change-makers. This will enable a European-wide community of practice to emerge, a group that evolves naturally, based on common interests and enables members to learn from each other and collectively develop their ideas, skills and expertise. The connected, or networked, local community-building organisations will present a different European picture – one growing from the bottom up, through cultural actions.

Collaboration Grants

ECF's grants focus on projects that most closely tie in with the foundation's mission. This call for 2013 Collaboration Grants will therefore align with the focus towards a new European community of practice. By specifically looking for cross-sectoral collaborations, ECF hopes to ignite creative movements that are already happening all across Europe and deserve to be recognised. ECF will be supporting and connecting cultural change-makers in Europe whose work contributes to an ongoing cross-sectoral debate on Europe and Europe's place in the world. ECF's definition of a cultural change-maker is someone who is capable of mobilising people (both within their community and beyond), of changing culture – or society through culture – and/or giving new meaning to existing cultural patterns.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Collaboration Grants fund transnational activities by artistic and cultural organisations working on artistic and cultural projects together with organisations outside the cultural sector.

Applications must meet all the eligibility criteria. Please read these criteria carefully, as proposals that do not meet them will not be considered.

WHAT IS ELIGIBLE?

i. Partnership working methodology

- Cross-sectoral collaboration in Europe is the key phrase for this grant scheme. Projects are selected first and foremost according to this aspect, which ECF needs to see reflected in your entire application. This means that project partners must be involved in all aspects of the project: working together on the planning, the development and the realisation of the project. This also implies that all partners must contribute financially to the project (note that in-kind contributions are also eligible).

ii. Focus and discipline

- The project should have a strong cultural objective and concrete outcome(s) that can be evaluated. This could involve a variety of activities: the creation of artistic work, media projects or cultural policy development, including capacity building of cultural actors. Within this grant scheme, ECF considers the collaborative creative process to be as important as the final outcome of the project.
- ECF's Collaboration Grants do not support projects focusing on staging, exhibiting or showcasing existing works, unless this is done in an innovative way. For example, a project involving three orchestras rehearsing and performing an existing classical piece is not eligible for this grant scheme. However, a project consisting of research about the social impact of photography in a certain period of time in a certain region of Europe, and the resulting touring exhibition (of existing works) would be considered eligible. Following this rationale, festivals and biennales are not eligible for this grant scheme either. However, ECF might support a project that includes a festival as one of its components or a certain activity (e.g. a workshop, a seminar, a conference) that takes place within the framework of a festival or biennale.
- Participating artists and/or experts must be confirmed and communicated at the time of the submission of the application. Projects that plan to issue an open call for artists or experts will not be supported. Knowing who will be involved in the project is important in order to be able to assess the (artistic) quality of your project.

iii. European dimension

ECF is looking for projects that introduce a different interpretation of Europe, provide alternative working models to the European cultural arena, or focus on the challenges of Europe in an original way. Europe can be regarded as a geographical space (a continent far greater than the EU countries) and as a set of values. ECF is looking for a different European picture – one growing from the bottom up, and carried by change-makers and their respective communities, who wish to re-invigorate European democracy through cultural actions.

iv. Sustainability

Addressing issues of sustainability is important to ECF. Sustainability can be understood in two ways. As a theoretical concept (a way of living) and as a *modus operandi* (a way of working). ECF believes both in sustainable societies and in long-lasting partnerships. This means that projects should demonstrate how culture can contribute to sustainable societies (in an economic, environmental and/or social sense) as ECF is convinced that culture is the *fourth pillar of sustainable development*. Furthermore, the collaboration between partner organisations in this project is either the result of previous collaborations, or the beginning of a long-lasting relationship beyond this particular project.

v. Timeframe

- Project activities must not start before ECF has made its funding decision. The decision will be made approximately five to ten weeks after the grant deadline (please check the exact planning for this funding round on the ECF grants website: <http://www.culturalfoundation.eu/grants/collaboration-grants>). It is acceptable for preparatory/initial activities (e.g. preparatory meetings, fundraising, calls for artists etc.) to take place before the grant application is made. However, ECF will only reimburse the costs of activities that are yet to take place.
- The project must be completed within 24 months of the contract being signed. There are no requirements with regards to the minimum duration of the project, as long as the timeframe is realistic.

vi. Financial

- ECF can support up to 80% (maximum) of the project's total budget. The lead applicant and the partnering organisations are expected to contribute to the project financially and to apply to other funders (ECF specifically welcomes the involvement of private and local/national funding partners, as the foundation

believes this helps to embed the project within the local/national context). This should be shown in the budget outline.

- ECF provides an average collaboration grant of Euro 15,000. The maximum grant awarded is Euro 30,000. The grant is paid in two instalments: 70% at the beginning of the project and the remaining balance on receipt of the final narrative and financial reports.
- ECF may award your project a grant, even if your remaining budget has not yet been secured when you are applying. Payment of the grant will be conditional on the applicant securing 80% of the total budget at least one month before the activities take place.
- A maximum of 20% of the ECF grant can be allocated to personnel costs (20% of the amount requested from ECF).
- ECF reserves the right to withhold 10% of the total grant awarded if ECF is not acknowledged according to its specifications detailed in the guidelines online (see <http://www.culturalfoundation.eu/about-us/logos-and-banners>).

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

This year, we are looking for cross-border artistic projects by various types of artistic and cultural organisations working together with organisations from outside the cultural sector. In previous years, it was optional to include an organisation that wasn't directly involved in the cultural sector – but now it's mandatory. The outcome should always be cultural or artistic.

- **Lead applicant:** must work in the field of arts/culture and be a 'citizen organisation' (non-governmental, not for profit independent organisation – please see Ashoka's definition <http://www.ashoka.org/citizensector>).
- **Partnering applicant(s):** organisations from the cultural sector (both citizen organisations and institutions/for profit enterprises) and at least one partner from another sector (such as academic institutes, governmental bodies, commercial enterprises, NGOs from the fields of social development or environment, etc.).

Community involvement: Projects should demonstrate an engagement with local

creative communities and the desire to liaise with other/similar communities in other parts of Europe. This includes organisations that are looking to work transnationally for the first time.

Geographical eligibility

• Lead applicants:

Europe: The project must be led by an organisation based in one of the following European countries: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Macedonia (FYROM), Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

• Partnering applicants:

Partnering applicants can be based in one of the European countries as mentioned in the “lead applicant” box, and/or in one of the following countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestinian Territories, Syria and Tunisia.

WHAT WE DO NOT FUND

ECF’s Collaboration Grants do not fund the activities listed below. Please read these criteria carefully. No exceptions will be made.

If your project is not eligible, we recommend that you look at ECF’s other grant schemes: <http://www.culturalfoundation.eu/grants> and <http://www.labforculture.org>.

Ineligible types of costs

- Operating costs of an organisation’s regular activities.
- Costs required for setting up or running a new organisation (however, costs required for setting up new online or offline networks by existing organisations are eligible).
- Purchasing technical equipment (rental costs are eligible).

Type of project applicants

- It is not possible to apply for a Collaboration Grant if your organisation has an ECF-funded project running at the time of application, unless you have already submitted the final reports to the grants administrator.
- Projects that rely entirely on ECF funding or projects in which the partnering applicants do not contribute financially or with in-kind support.

Project focus (ineligible for funding)

- Folkloric events and projects that focus on presenting or conserving ethnic, national or European heritage.
- Initiatives based solely on tourism.
- Artists’ exchange for the sake of exchange only.
- Projects limited to the presentation of one time only/single occurrence events, performances or art works.
- Awards and competitions.
- Summer camps, summer schools and student exchanges.
- Independent literary works, translations or running costs of an ongoing series of publications or cultural reviews (however, publications documenting your collaborative project may be included in your application).

A WORD OF WARNING

Organisations may apply only once as a main applicant and once as a partner organisation, or twice as a partner organisation within the same Collaboration Grants round. This means that an organisation may be involved in a maximum of two different projects for the same funding round. Participating in more than two projects in the same grants round will jeopardise funding for all projects that include this partner, since all the applications will be excluded.

HOW WE ASSESS THE APPLICATIONS

After the deadline has closed, the eligible applications are first evaluated by the ECF grants team. The pre-selection is distributed among a group of external advisers from across Europe, each with different fields of expertise. Each proposal is assessed by two advisors independently of each other. After this assessment, ECF decides how many projects it will support and how much funding will be granted, depending on the available budget. The grants team will notify both successful and unsuccessful applicants by e-mail around five to ten weeks after the deadline.

Decisions are final and we hope you understand that, due to the high volume of applications, unfortunately we cannot enter into any correspondence with unsuccessful applicants.

WANT TO APPLY?

Please start your application here:

<http://www.culturalfoundation.eu/application-form-collaboration-grant>