

New Action Grants

# Democracy Needs Imagination

## Apply now!

The European Union is an open and free society. A place we created together and where Europeans have lived peacefully for almost 75 years. It has not been easy. We have defeated fascism and torn down the walls that kept us apart. We have created a place that is at peace with itself. A place that guarantees freedoms for which many others around the world are fighting. A place where we can travel freely. Where we can study and work in different countries and create experiences that will enrich the rest of our lives.

But this, our Europe is under attack. We are facing a newly divided Europe. A new kind of polarisation threatens the gains of decades of European cooperation. New levels of inequality erode the social fabric of our societies. Culture and identity are misused to divide communities.



European Cultural  
Foundation

# Do we really want to watch this happen?

The European Union is far from perfect – there is a great deal of work to do. Europe needs reforms that put people and our planet first.

But first we must defend the union against nationalism and hatred before it's too late. Europe is the living proof that working together pays off. We need to revive a positive and optimistic vision of Europe. We want to create a better Europe for ourselves and for the next generations, based on fundamental principles as solidarity, equality and freedom.

## The future is now!

Europeans need to rise to the challenges of today. These are not times for business as usual. That's why we invite you to send us your proposal to make Europe resilient, to make it better, to provide resistance against a nationalist takeover.

## Democracy Needs Your Imagination.

The European Cultural Foundation works for an open, inclusive and more democratic Europe. Culture creates experiences and experiences create identity. Culture can provide resistance against divisive forces. Culture can tell the story of Europe. Culture can imagine a better future.

We want to support creative, cultural and above all concrete actions before, during and after the European elections.

Please read the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) before applying.

### How can I apply?

- [Submit your proposal](#)
- We fund **creative, cultural actions prior, during and after the European Parliamentary elections that can breath life into Europe, and democracy at large:**
  - » A) Projects related to the European Parliamentary elections (= priority lane).
  - » B) Projects related to the theme Democracy Needs Imagination beyond the European Parliamentary elections.
- Priority is given to proposals related to, and taking place before or during the European Parliamentary elections (May 23-26)
- Preference is given to:
  - » Innovative and provocative ideas that challenge the negative discourse and are able to become inspiring examples from the local to the European levels .
  - » Projects involving a broad group of people (both in size and in diversity of backgrounds).
- Anyone above 18 years can submit a proposal, as long as it has a clear cultural and European dimension, and fits the above theme and urgency.
- **Almost everything is possible:** start-up funding, co-funding or filling a budgetary gap. We can cover anything from HR costs, to material or travel costs, as long as your project and budget is clear and concrete.
- We do not support proposals submitted by political parties. Our work is strictly non-partisan, even if pro-European.

### Technicalities

- The call is **ongoing with no deadlines**. It runs until the available resources have been awarded to the most inspiring and imaginative projects. We aim to assess your application within four weeks after the submission date.
- Grants are available for individuals and organisations. We have three grant sizes. Please note: Large grants are available for organisations only.
  - » Small: 5.000 – 15.000 euro
  - » Medium: 15.000 – 30.000 euro
  - » Large: 30.000 – 50.000 euro
- If you are awarded a grant, you agree to your project being highlighted on our on- and offline channels.
- We will only consider applications that have been submitted through our online form (including completed, submitted budget).

Here are [some examples](#) of projects we have supported so far.

