



European Cultural  
Foundation

**OPEN CALL CULTURE OF SOLIDARITY FUND**  
**Stage 1 April-May 2020**  
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

***Geographic scope, European dimension***

*What is the geographic scope of the Fund? Are UK organisations eligible?*

Applicants can be based anywhere in the world, but their proposal must clearly contribute to a European Culture of Solidarity, the overall focus of the Fund. This means that UK organisations are also eligible to apply.

*In terms of presenting a borderless "Culture of Solidarity", does this mean the project should aim to connect between different European countries or is it sufficient to focus our efforts in one European country?*

You do not necessarily have to collaborate with another European country for maintaining and/or re-building Europe's culture of solidarity. However, the fund is about reaching beyond national borders and overcoming the current relapse into finding solutions on national levels instead of joining forces on pan-European level. So your project should address issues and/or propose ideas in/for more European countries or the whole of Europe. Working on larger ideas and notions of European solidarity of course can also involve partners from and outside Europe - as mentioned in our call.

***Partnerships***

*Do applicants need to have European/international partners for the project to meet the criteria?*

No, there is no explicit requirement for applicants to secure international (European) partnership for the project. However, we do expect that proposals demonstrate a strong European dimension to the proposal in terms of its 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 in your application.

***Eligible activities***

*Do you have any preference for a specific discipline or field of culture and creative industries? How broad is your interpretation of "cultural initiatives"?*

No, we don't have any preference for a specific field or discipline within culture or creative industries. We understand 'culture' as a very wide field covering work far beyond the classical arts and culture domain. The Fund is about a Culture of Solidarity in its broadest sense, and for example



European Cultural  
Foundation

includes fields like education, knowledge sharing with non-cultural actors that are affected by the crisis. Keep in mind however that your project should in the widest sense contribute to maintaining/re-building an overall cultural (value) framework of pan-European Solidarity, and we can't per se support all the many, many social emergencies that become apparent locally directly.

*Given the uncertainty around how the virus develops, are you particularly looking for digital versions of otherwise live-artworks so that they can be carried out regardless of the restrictions over coming months/year?*

There are several possible, imaginative ways to share experiences, stories and maintain cultural life and social experiences particularly in times of social distancing and lockdown, many of which artists and cultural workers have already been exploring. One of these of course is capitalising on the digital sphere, although we wouldn't explicitly prioritise digital solutions over other possible examples.

*Are activities that are planned to take place after the pandemic eligible?*

There are no limitations as to when - during or after the pandemic - activities within the framework of the proposal need to take place, so in principle, activities planned for after the pandemic are eligible. However, such activities must still be driven by the overall focus of the call and directly or indirectly respond to the cultural, social aftermath of the crisis.

*Are doctoral research projects eligible?*

In principle yes, research projects can be eligible for funding, as long as they demonstrate a clear match with the overall focus and objectives of the Fund.

### ***General inquiry, project pitches***

*We are really 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 fund in particular, and get some advice whether our project is eligible and what exactly the ECF is looking for with this grant?*

Generally, unfortunately we're not able to engage in conversations about the eligibility of applicant's proposals or project pitches, given the large number of incoming requests and in order to ensure fair and equal treatment of applications. If you have any additional, 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).

### ***Number of applications per individual/organisation***

*Can we for now apply for a pilot of our project and later apply again for the entire project?*

No, one project can receive funding only once through the Fund. You may choose to submit a proposal for the pilot or for the entire project.

*May I submit more than one application?*

Although we don't encourage it, you are allowed to submit more than one application provided that they are for entirely different projects.



European Cultural  
Foundation

*Is there any limit as for the number of approved projects from one organisation?*

We don't have explicit limitations as this depends greatly on the number, quality and spread of the applications. However, please note that given the very large number of applications we expect to receive and the limited number of grants/submission periods we will be issuing, chances of multiple proposals by the same organisation are rather low.

***Timeline of eligible activities, grant term***

*Is there a timeline in which the projects should take place? Can projects continue into 2021?*

We have no strict limitations regarding project timelines. As for starting date, activities within the frames of the project proposals may start prior to the submission deadline (27 April) but we can only consider projects that are still ongoing at the time of the selection of awarded proposals (31 May). Projects may also continue into 2021, in fact, the complete timeline of the project may be up to 24 months.

***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(50 000€) and if not selected, be automatically awarded with a lower amount?*

You have to indicate in your proposal which grant amount you are applying for. 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). This also means that 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 the establishment of an organization and the related administrative costs?*

Theoretically yes, but your budget proposal has to make sense and should be reasonable. If you plan to establish a new initiative for answering the specific goals of maintaining and rebuilding European Culture of Solidarity, yes. If you plan to establish your own organisation for a larger mission than what we support with the call, our fund might not come at the right time for you.

*Can the grant money be used for co-financing? Is there a minimum percentage of own resources necessary for the project to be eligible?*

The grant offers a high level of flexibility and can also be used to co-finance projects that already have partially secured funding from other sources. No, there is no minimum requirement in relation to own resources.

*Can we apply for a grant to cover 100% of the project budget? Is own financial contribution required?*

Yes, you may apply for 100% of the budget. It is not necessary for you to have own resources in order to be eligible for funding.



European Cultural  
Foundation

*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 our narrative report as well as a budget template to work with.