



# **Creative Europe Programme (CREA)**

## **Call for proposals**

EUROPEAN NETWORKS OF CULTURAL AND CREATIVE ORGANISATIONS  
(CREA-CULT-2021-NET)

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## EUROPEAN EDUCATION AND CULTURE EXECUTIVE AGENCY (EACEA)

EACEA.B – Creativity, Citizenship and Joint Operations  
EACEA.B.1 – Culture

### CALL FOR PROPOSALS

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## 0. Introduction

This is a call for proposals for EU **action grants** in the field of Culture under the **Creative Europe Programme**.

The regulatory framework for this EU Funding Programme is set out in:

- Regulation 2018/1046 ([EU Financial Regulation](#))
- the basic act (Creative Europe Regulation 2021/818<sup>1</sup>).

The call is launched in accordance with the 2021 Work Programme<sup>2</sup> and will be managed by the **European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)** ('Agency').

The call covers the following **topics**:

- **CREA-CULT-2021-NET – European networks of cultural and creative organisations**

Applicants cannot submit more than one proposal under this call.

We invite you to read the **call documentation** on the Funding & Tenders Portal Topic page carefully, and in particular this Call Document, the Model Grant Agreement, the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal Online Manual](#) and the [EU Grants AGA – Annotated Grant Agreement](#).

These documents provide clarifications and answers to questions you may have when preparing your application:

- the [Call Document](#) outlines the:
  - background, objectives, scope, activities that can be funded and the expected results (sections 1 and 2)
  - timetable and available budget (sections 3 and 4)
  - admissibility and eligibility conditions (including mandatory documents; sections 5 and 6)
  - criteria for financial and operational capacity and exclusion (section 7)
  - evaluation and award procedure (section 8)
  - award criteria (section 9)
  - legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements (section 10)
  - how to submit an application (section 11)

<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/818 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 May 2021 establishing the Creative Europe Programme for the period 2021-2027 (OJ L 189).

<sup>2</sup> Commission Implementing Decision C(2021) 3563 final of 26.5.2021 on the adoption of the work programme for 2021 and the financing decision for the implementation of the Creative Europe Programme.

- the [Online Manual](#) outlines the:
  - procedures to register and submit proposals online via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal ('Portal')
  - recommendations for the preparation of the application
- the [AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement](#) contains:
  - detailed annotations on all the provisions in the Grant Agreement you will have to sign in order to obtain the grant (*including cost eligibility, payment schedule, accessory obligations, etc*).

You are also encouraged to visit the [Creative Europe Project Results](#) website to consult the list of projects funded previously.

## 1. Background

### Objectives

Creative Europe brings together actions supporting the European cultural and creative sectors.

The term '**Cultural and creative sectors**' means all sectors whose activities are based on cultural values or artistic and other individual or collective creative expressions. The activities may include the development, the creation, the production, the dissemination and the preservation of goods and services, which embody cultural, artistic or other creative expressions, as well as education or management, related to these activities. The sectors include, inter alia, architecture, archives, libraries and museums, artistic crafts, audiovisual (including film, television, video games and multimedia), tangible and intangible cultural heritage, design (including fashion design), festivals, music, literature, performing art (including theatre and dance), books and publishing, radio, and visual arts.

The general objectives of the Programme are:

- to safeguard, develop and promote European cultural and linguistic diversity and heritage;
- to increase the competitiveness and the economic potential of the cultural and creative sectors, in particular the audiovisual sector.

These goals are pursued through the following **specific objectives**:

- enhancing artistic and cultural cooperation at the European level, in order to support the creation of European works and strengthen the economic, social and external dimension of and innovation and mobility in Europe's cultural and creative sectors (**CULTURE strand**);
- promoting the competitiveness, scalability, cooperation, innovation, and sustainability, including through mobility in the European audiovisual sector (**MEDIA strand**); and
- promoting policy cooperation and innovative actions supporting all strands of the programme, promoting a diverse, independent and pluralistic media environment, and media literacy, thereby fostering freedom of artistic expression, intercultural dialogue and social inclusion (**CROSS SECTORAL strand**).

### Policy framework

Creative Europe is fully aligned with the **political priorities of the Commission** and the 2018 Commission Communication on a [New European Agenda for Culture](#).

Supporting the Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 and the European Green Deal are considered cross-cutting issues.

The Programme is also aligned with the Council's multiannual [Work Plan for Culture \(2019-2022\)](#), the 2016 Joint Communication [Towards an EU strategy for international cultural relations](#) and the 2014 Commission Communication [Towards an integrated approach to cultural heritage for Europe](#), which all plead for a stronger role for culture in the further social, economic and international development of our Union.

The Programme will also focus on supporting the policy objectives of the **Digital Single Market** and the **#Digital4Culture** strategy.

The Programme, while preserving its essential nature, will contribute to the [New European Bauhaus](#) initiative, connecting the European Green Deal to our living spaces and will contribute as well to the [European Year of Rail 2021](#), highlighting the benefits of rail as a sustainable, smart and safe means of transport and encouraging the use of rail.

In accordance with the [European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan](#), the Programme supports promotion of fair working conditions, including fair remuneration for all cultural and creative professionals. The [Study on the working conditions of artists, cultural and creative professionals](#), including initiatives for the fair remuneration of artists and cultural professionals, recently published by the European Commission and stakeholders, deserves special attention.

The COVID-19 crisis was an accelerator of change in the cultural and creative sectors, amplifying many of the challenges they have been facing. The cultural and creative sectors have been amongst the hardest hit by the COVID-19 crisis, which has accelerated the existing trends driven by globalisation and the digital transition. The combination of restrictive hygiene rules and the economic recession have created immediate drops in revenue and cash flow as well as accelerated structural change. There is a need to pool resources and support initiatives that promote the **resilience and recovery** of cultural operators, artists and cultural professionals, who have been profoundly affected by lockdowns and physical distancing measures.

The **digital transition** accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic is bringing about a change of paradigm, significantly impacting how cultural goods are created, managed, disseminated, accessed and monetised.

The richness, which stems from Europe's **cultural and linguistic diversity**, does not easily benefit European citizens, because the cultural and creative sectors are too often fragmented along national and linguistic lines and lack critical mass. The **transnational circulation** and co-production of works remain limited and it is therefore important to develop effective solutions to reach audiences across borders.

These challenges, of a transnational nature, require a targeted European approach to optimise the potential of the sectors to contribute to jobs, growth and social inclusion, including for the most disadvantaged and hard-to-reach groups. The Programme will support actions and activities with a **European added value**, which complement regional, national, international and other Union programmes and policies.

### *Culture strand 2021 priorities*

In 2021, the Culture strand of the new Creative Europe programme intends to promote:

- Reinforcement of the **resilience to allow the recovery of cultural operators** in light of the COVID-19 crisis.

- **Innovation and joint creations:** the Programme will support operators to develop innovative European projects to allow the evolution of the cultural and creative sectors and to increase their competitiveness. Innovations can be of a technological and artistic nature and can include the development and experimentation of new practices or new models or the transfer and dissemination of good practices from one European region or sector to others. Areas of innovation can include fighting climate change, digitisation or a societal dimension such as audience development, gender equality, the inclusion of people with disabilities, belonging to minorities, to socially marginalised groups.
- **Co-production, cooperation, learning and connection** of organisations of all sizes and that will build capacity, help the circulation of artists and works, give rise to co-productions and artistic creations and contribute to disseminating professional and artistic good practices across Europe.
- **Capacity building of artists:** the Programme will help European artists and cultural and creative professionals move up to the European level by supporting (emerging) talents and skills development. Platforms will be supported to increase the visibility and the circulation of European emerging artists and works in Europe and beyond. It will also support actions that promote the circulation of European literary works allowing the book sector (booksellers, libraries, etc.) to foster cooperation between publishers and their partners.
- The programme will invest in activities that encourage the **scaling up of Europe's cultural and creative sectors** at European and global levels, for instance by supporting their **international presence**, marketing and branding. It will help collect and disseminate data, information, practices, ideas and solutions; provide training and advice to professionals; represent the sectors at national and European level and advocate on their behalf on key sectoral issues.

### Cross-cutting issues

In addition, as cross-cutting issues, the Programme will support effective mechanisms to ensure the cultural sectors offer diversity, inclusion and equality for all and contribute to the fight against climate change.

- **Inclusion, diversity, and gender equality.** Projects should facilitate access to European cultural and creative content for all groups and audiences, especially for professionals and participants with disadvantaged backgrounds and fewer opportunities related to disability or health problems, economic, social or geographical obstacles or cultural differences. Particular attention will be given to fostering gender equality, in particular as a driver of creativity, economic growth and innovation. Projects must seek to promote gender equality and non-discrimination mainstreaming in accordance with the [Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit](#). All activities funded under the programme shall incorporate a gender equality perspective and contribute to the equal empowerment of women and men, ensuring that they achieve their full potential and benefit from the same rights.
- **Environment and the fight against climate change.** The cultural and creative sectors should contribute to the European Green Deal, in particular, by encouraging its operators to adopt more environmentally sustainable practices and, by this, to contribute to the achievement of the overall target of

30% of the Union budget expenditures supporting climate objectives. Culture can play an important role in the green transition through awareness-raising, learning, communication and in the sharing of knowledge and good practices, and has the potential to develop innovative ways of tackling environmental challenges.

## 2. Objectives — Themes and priorities — Activities that can be funded — Expected impact

### CREA-CULT-2021-NET— European networks of cultural and creative organisations

#### *Objectives*

The *support to European Networks of Cultural and Creative Organisations* action intends to **enhance the capacity** of European cultural and creative sectors to **face common challenges** and **nurture talents, innovate**, prosper and **generate jobs and growth**.

This action will support **projects** implemented by **highly representative, multi-country, membership-based networks** of European cultural organisations, which cover a wide range of Creative Europe participating countries<sup>3</sup>. Networks must have a shared mission, governance rules, and members' rights and obligations, as formally specified (in "statutes" or equivalent) and agreed upon by its members. Networks should be composed of a coordinating entity and its members.

European networks exclusively covering the audio-visual sector are not eligible for funding under this action.

#### *Themes and priorities (scope)*

In the current context, there is a need to promote **fair, inclusive and diverse frameworks** supporting artists and cultural and creative professionals. This includes effective mechanisms to ensure the cultural sector offers **diversity, inclusion and equality** for all, promotes effective ways to tackle the gender gap and related divides, and fight discrimination. From this perspective, promoting better frameworks, working conditions and remuneration for all cultural and creative professionals to thrive becomes a key strategic consideration<sup>4</sup>, among others.

The cultural and creative sectors should also contribute to the **European Green Deal**, in particular by encouraging these sectors to adopt more environmentally sustainable practices. This is in line with the objective of the European Union to mainstream climate actions in all of its policies, with an overall target of 30% of the EU budget allocated to support climate objectives.

Applicants must consider these two cross-cutting issues in the design and implementation of their projects.

In addition, proposals should tackle one or several of the following specific **call priorities**:

- **increase cultural access to and participation in culture as well as**

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<sup>3</sup> For the list of participating countries, please check section 6 Eligible participants (eligible countries)

<sup>4</sup>More information available in the Study on artists' working conditions:  
<https://ec.europa.eu/culture/news/study-artists-working-conditions-published>

## audience engagement and development

With this priority, the aim is to **build the capacities** of the cultural and creative sectors to enhance **cultural participation** across Europe as well as audience **engagement** and **development**.

The New European Agenda for Culture<sup>5</sup> highlights that culture is an ideal means of communicating across language barriers, empowering people and facilitating social cohesion, including among refugees, migrants, and host populations. Culture is also a transformative force for community regeneration, social cohesion and public debate.

Cultural participation has been recognised as one of the main factors for individual self-development and well-being, as well as an accelerator of societal changes and of the construction of inclusive, resilient societies. Culture strengthens the social capital of societies, facilitating democratic citizenship, fostering creativity, well-being and critical thinking, encouraging integration and cohesion, and promoting diversity, equality and pluralism<sup>6</sup>.

Symbolic, social and financial barriers to cultural participation remain, despite the efforts of cultural organisations to adapt to changing patterns of cultural consumption and population composition. New approaches using the **cultural capability** approach should be encouraged. This means implementing a wide range of quality cultural activities, promoting opportunities for all to take part and to create, and strengthening links between culture and education, social affairs, urban policy, research and innovation<sup>7</sup>.

When addressing this priority, proposals shall include specific measures to reinforce **the capacities** of organisations and professionals from the cultural and creative sectors to **increase cultural access to and participation in culture as well as audience engagement and development**.

- **build the capacity to be active at international level in Europe and beyond**

In the context of a globalised world, European cultural operators can benefit from cooperation with partners from other countries, including those outside Europe. Networks often provide the necessary support that cultural organisations and professionals need in order to be active internationally. Conversely, they can also be brokers in bringing expertise and capacities to Europe from all over the world.

When addressing this priority, proposals should build the **capacity** of organisations and professionals from the European cultural and creative sectors to be (more) **active internationally**, within and beyond the Creative Europe participating countries, and **contribute to foster international cultural relations**.

Proposals should encourage the **scaling up** of Europe's cultural and creative sectors. They can include, for instance, activities supporting international presence, marketing and branding, or providing for the **international networking** of cultural organisations, the **exchange** of experiences with peers,

<sup>5</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1527241001038&uri=COM:2018:267:FIN>

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2019/629203/IPOL\\_STU\(2019\)629203\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2019/629203/IPOL_STU(2019)629203_EN.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> King's College London report "Towards cultural democracy: Promoting cultural capabilities for everyone", available at: <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/Cultural/-/Projects/Towards-cultural-democracy>

the **building** of future **cooperation** leading to the implementation of local projects, or the reinforcement of ongoing cooperation. Proposals could also consider liaising with existing networks, projects or platforms operating in the areas concerned.

Proposals should reinforce the notion of **global communities**, and promote and enable more balanced exchanges and fairer working conditions for professionals. In this regard, they should **empower artists and professionals** to propose creative and valuable solutions to **global challenges**, and take local realities into consideration.

More background information on the internal dimension can be found in the following EU documents:

- the elements on the “external dimension (Strengthening international cultural relations)” that are included in the New European Agenda for Culture<sup>8</sup>
- the Joint EEAS/Commission Communication “Towards an EU strategy for international cultural relations”<sup>9</sup>
- the Commission Communication “Towards an integrated approach to cultural heritage for Europe”<sup>10</sup>

#### • **contribute to the European Green Deal**

With this priority, the aim is to enhance **the capacities** of the cultural and creative sectors to contribute to **building** more **resilient** and **sustainable** societies and encourage the necessary adaptation of practices in the sectors.

Climate change and environmental degradation are an existential threat to Europe and the world. The cultural and creative sectors are already part of the response and have started to experiment and adopt transferable, inclusive and sustainable models to make production, distribution and access to culture more environmentally sustainable.

When addressing this priority, proposals could include awareness and/or capacity building activities that effectively help cultural operators to adopt and promote greener practices and contribute to the European Green Deal<sup>11</sup> and other initiatives, such as the New European Bauhaus<sup>12</sup>, to make a difference to citizens’ quality of life.

#### • **help the European cultural and creative sectors to fully take advantage of new technologies to enhance their competitiveness**

The digital age represents a major challenge and opportunity for the cultural and creative sectors: the digital shift - accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic - is bringing about a change of paradigm, significantly impacting how cultural goods are created, managed, disseminated, accessed, consumed and monetised, and

<sup>8</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1527241001038&uri=COM:2018:267:FIN>

<sup>9</sup> An overall presentation of the strategy, as well as the adopted text, can be retrieved at: <https://ec.europa.eu/culture/policies/international-cultural-relations>

<sup>10</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52014DC0477>

<sup>11</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en) and [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/AC\\_20\\_1916](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/AC_20_1916)

<sup>12</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en) and [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/AC\\_20\\_1916](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/AC_20_1916)

changing the value propositions which prevailed in the analogue era. Digitisation has facilitated the distribution of cultural and creative content and services, but it has also intensified competition of content across borders on a global scale.

In addition, data management, artificial intelligence, algorithms and computation can lead to concentration and harmonisation of tastes and can have negative consequences on cultural and linguistic diversity. In this framework, the sectors can make a major contribution to a critical, sensitive and **human-centred approach** to the digital transformation.

In the framework of this call, proposals should **build the capacities** of the cultural and creative sectors to critically and creatively embrace the above-mentioned opportunities and changes driven by the digital transformation. The EU's digital strategy, "A Europe fit for the digital age<sup>13</sup>", aims to make this transformation **work for the sectors and for people**.

Note: The way proposals address all the above-mentioned priorities will be assessed under the award criterion "relevance". For more details, please check section 9.

All proposals should present a substantiated strategy and concrete details on how to implement one or more of the above priorities.

#### Activities that can be funded (scope)

Proposals should include suitable activities for the reinforcement of the **capacities** of organisations and professionals active in the Creative and Cultural sectors. These **activities** have to be specifically designed to **tackle** the chosen **priorities of the call in an effective way**.

These activities should be formulated within a solid strategic framework and be **structured in work packages**. A work package means a major sub-division of the project. Each work package is accompanied by an objective (expected outcome) and should list the activities, milestones and deliverables that belong to it. (See section 10 – *Milestones and Deliverables*)

Activities should take into account the needs of the network members and facilitate members' participation throughout the entire project. Details on this should be provided in the following section of the application form: "2.2 Partnership and consortium". Under this call, financial support to third parties is eligible. For more details on the eligibility of activities, see section 6 (Eligibility of activities).

The quality of the proposed activities will be assessed under the award criterion "Quality of content and activities". For more details, please check section 9.

Note: considering that this call for proposals is intended for action grants (projects) and not operating grants: statutory obligations such as board meetings, general assemblies, or any other similar statutory activity of the network, are not eligible under this call.

#### Expected impact

Support for about 30 networks covering different cultural and creative sectors.

This call is intended to have a **structuring effect** on Europe's cultural and creative sectors (CCS) by targeting the above-mentioned **priorities**. This structuring effect

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<sup>13</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/europe-fit-digital-age\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/europe-fit-digital-age_en)

should be tangible for the network members and/or for the CCS at large, and should be proportionate to the project objectives and scale.

### 3. Available budget

The available call budget is **EUR 27 000 000**. This budget might be increased by maximum 20%.

Specific budget information per topic can be found in the table below.

Topic	Topic budget
European Networks of cultural and creative organisations	<b>EUR 27 000 000</b>

We reserve the right not to award all available funds or to redistribute them between the call priorities, depending on the proposals received and the results of the evaluation.

### 4. Timetable and deadlines

Timetable and deadlines (indicative)	
Call opening:	08 June 2021
<u>Deadline for submission:</u>	26 August 2021 – 17:00:00 CET (Brussels)
Evaluation:	September 2021
Information on evaluation results:	October 2021
GA signature:	October-December 2021

### 5. Admissibility and documents

Proposals must be submitted before the **call deadline** (see *timetable section 4*).

Proposals must be submitted **electronically** via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System (accessible via the Topic page in the [Search Funding & Tenders](#) section). Paper submissions are NOT possible.

Proposals (including annexes and supporting documents) must be submitted using the forms provided *inside* the Submission System (⚠ NOT the documents available on the Topic page — they are only for information).

Proposals must be **complete** and contain all the requested information and all required annexes and supporting documents:

- Application Form Part A — contains administrative information about the participants (future coordinator, beneficiaries and affiliated entities) and the summarised budget for the project (*to be filled in directly online*)

- Application Form Part B — contains the technical description of the project (*to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed and then assembled and re-uploaded*)
- Part C (to be filled in directly online) containing additional project data
- **mandatory annexes and supporting documents** (*to be uploaded*):
  - detailed budget table (*template available in the Submission System*)
  - CVs of core project team: not applicable
  - activity reports of last year: not applicable
  - list of previous projects (key projects for the last 4 years) (*template available in Part B*)
  - List of network members

Please be aware that since the detailed budget table serves as the basis for fixing the lump sums for the grants (and since lump sums must be reliable proxies for the actual costs of a project), the costs you include **MUST** comply with the basic eligibility conditions for EU actual cost grants (*see [AGA – Annotated Grant Agreement, art 6](#)*). This is particularly important for purchases and subcontracting, which must comply with best value for money (or if appropriate the lowest price) and be free of any conflict of interests. If the budget table contains ineligible costs, the grant may be reduced (even later on during the project implementation or after their end).

At proposal submission, you will have to confirm that you have the **mandate to act** for all applicants. Moreover, you will have to confirm that the information in the application is correct and complete and that the participants comply with the conditions for receiving EU funding (especially eligibility, financial and operational capacity, exclusion, etc.). Before signing the grant, each beneficiary and affiliated entity will have to confirm this again by signing a declaration of honour (DoH). Proposals without full support will be rejected.

Your application must be **readable, accessible and printable**.

Proposals are limited to maximum **70 pages** (Part B). Evaluators will not consider any additional pages.

You may be asked at a later stage for further documents (*for legal entity validation, financial capacity check, bank account validation, etc.*).



For more information about the submission process (including IT aspects), consult the [Online Manual](#).

## 6. Eligibility

### Eligible participants (eligible countries)

In order to be eligible, the applicants (beneficiaries and affiliated entities) must:

- be legal entities (public or private bodies)
- be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
  - Creative Europe Participating Countries:
    - EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs))
    - non-EU countries:

- listed EEA countries and countries associated to the Creative Europe Programme ([associated countries](#)) or countries which are in ongoing negotiations for an association agreement and where the agreement enters into force before grant signature

Beneficiaries and affiliated entities must register in the [Participant Register](#) — before submitting the proposal — and will have to be validated by the Central Validation Service (REA Validation). For the validation, they will be requested to upload documents showing legal status and origin.

Other entities may participate in other consortium roles, such as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions, etc. (*see section 13*).

### *Specific cases*

**Natural persons** — Natural persons are NOT eligible (with the exception of self-employed persons, i.e. sole traders, where the company does not have legal personality separate from that of the natural person).

**International organisations** — International organisations are eligible. The rules on eligible countries do not apply to them.

**Entities without legal personality** — Entities which do not have legal personality under their national law may exceptionally participate, provided that their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf, and offer guarantees for the protection of the EU financial interests equivalent to that offered by legal persons<sup>14</sup>.

**EU bodies** — EU bodies (with the exception of the European Commission Joint Research Centre) can NOT be part of the consortium.

**Associations and interest groupings** — Entities composed of members may participate as 'sole beneficiaries' or 'beneficiaries without legal personality'<sup>15</sup>

 Please note that if the action will be implemented by the members, they should also participate (either as beneficiaries or as affiliated entities, otherwise their costs will NOT be eligible).

**Creative Europe Desks (CEDs)** — The host organisations of Creative Europe Desks are eligible as coordinator or beneficiary in open calls, if they have procedures to segregate the project management and the information provision functions and if they are able to demonstrate cost separation (i.e. that their project grants do not cover any costs which are covered by their other grant). This requires the following:

- use of analytical accounting which allows for a cost accounting management with cost allocation keys and cost accounting codes AND application of these keys and codes to identify and separate the costs (i.e. to allocate them to either one of the two grants)
- recording of all real costs incurred for the activities that are covered by the two grants (including the indirect costs)
- allocation of the costs in a way that leads to a fair, objective and realistic result.

<sup>14</sup> See Article 197(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

<sup>15</sup> For the definitions, see Articles 187(2) and 197(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

Countries currently negotiating association agreements — Beneficiaries from countries with ongoing negotiations (*see list above*) may participate in the call and can sign grants if the negotiations are concluded before grant signature (with retroactive effect, if provided in the agreement).

EU restrictive measures — Special rules apply for certain entities (*e.g. entities subject to [EU restrictive measures](#) under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)*<sup>16</sup> and entities covered by Commission Guidelines No [2013/C 205/05](#)<sup>17</sup>). Such entities are not eligible to participate in any capacity, including as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any).

 For more information, see [Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment](#).

### Consortium composition

Only applications by single applicants are allowed (single beneficiaries); affiliated entities and other participants are allowed, if needed.

The coordinator must have had a legal existence for at least 2 years on the date of the deadline for submission.

### Eligible activities

Eligible activities are the ones set out in section 2 above.

Projects must comply with EU policy interests and priorities

Financial support to third parties is allowed for grants and prizes under the following conditions:

- the calls must be open, published widely and conform to EU standards concerning transparency, equal treatment, conflict of interest and confidentiality
- the outcome of the call must be published on the participants' websites, including a description of the selected projects, award dates, project durations, and final recipient legal names and countries
- the calls must have a clear European dimension

Financial support to third parties will be accepted in projects which:

- actively engage network members in the delivery of the work programme by delegating them the implementation of some of the foreseen activities (in the form of a funding grant) in a way that would help build the co-ownership of the proposed programme by the network members
- actively engage with non-member organisations in the implementation of specific activities or tasks delegated to them (re-granting) with the aim to scale-up the scope, and reach of the network and build strategic partnerships that would fit within the priorities of the call

<sup>16</sup> Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the [EU Sanctions Map](#).

<sup>17</sup> Commission guidelines No [2013/C 205/05](#) on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards (OJEU C 205 of 19.07.2013, pp. 9-11).

Your project application must clearly specify why financial support to third parties is needed, how it will be managed and provide a list of the different types of activities for which a third party may receive financial support. The proposal must also clearly describe the results to be obtained.

### Duration

Projects should not normally exceed 36 months (extensions are possible, if duly justified and through an amendment).

## **7. Financial and operational capacity and exclusion**

### Financial capacity

Applicants must have **stable and sufficient resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share. Organisations participating in several projects must have sufficient capacity to implement all these projects.

The financial capacity check will be carried out on the basis of the documents you will be requested to upload in the [Participant Register](#) during grant preparation (*e.g. profit and loss account and balance sheet, business plan, audit report produced by an approved external auditor, certifying the accounts for the last closed financial year, etc*). The analysis will be based on neutral financial indicators, but will also take into account other aspects, such as dependency on EU funding and deficit and revenue in previous years.

The check will normally be done for all beneficiaries, except:

- public bodies (entities established as public body under national law, including local, regional or national authorities) or international organisations
- entities active in cultural and creative sectors that have received over 50% of their annual revenue from public sources over the last two years
- if the individual requested grant amount is not more than EUR 60 000.

If needed, it may also be done for affiliated entities.

If we consider that your financial capacity is not satisfactory, we may require:

- further information
  - an enhanced financial responsibility regime, i.e. joint and several responsibility for all beneficiaries or joint and several liability of affiliated entities (*see below, section 10*)
  - prefinancing paid in instalments
  - (one or more) prefinancing guarantees (*see below, section 10*)
- or
- propose no prefinancing
  - request that you are replaced or, if needed, reject the entire proposal.

 For more information, see [Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment](#).

### Operational capacity

Applicants must have the **know-how, qualifications** and **resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share (including sufficient experience in projects of comparable size and nature).

This capacity will be assessed together with the 'Project Management' award criterion, on the basis of the competence and experience of the applicants and their project teams, including operational resources (human, technical and other) or, exceptionally, the measures proposed to obtain it by the time the task implementation starts.

If the evaluation of the award criterion is positive, the applicants are considered to have sufficient operational capacity.

Applicants will have to show their operational capacity via the following:

- general profiles (qualifications and experiences) of the staff responsible for managing and implementing the project
- description of the consortium participants
- list of previous projects (key projects for the last 4 years).
- List of Network's members

Additional supporting documents may be requested, if needed to confirm the operational capacity of any applicant.

Public bodies, Member State organisations, international organisations and entities active in cultural and creative sectors that have received over 50% of their annual revenue from public sources over the last two years are exempted from the operational capacity check.

### Exclusion

Applicants which are subject to an **EU exclusion decision** or in one of the following **exclusion situations** that bar them from receiving EU funding can NOT participate<sup>18</sup>:

- bankruptcy, winding up, affairs administered by the courts, arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or other similar procedures (including procedures for persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- in breach of social security or tax obligations (including if done by persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- guilty of grave professional misconduct<sup>19</sup> (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- committed fraud, corruption, links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar (including if done by persons having powers of representation,

<sup>18</sup> See Articles 136 and 141 of EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

<sup>19</sup> Professional misconduct includes: violation of ethical standards of the profession, wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility, false declarations/misrepresentation of information, participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition, violation of IPR, attempting to influence decision-making processes or obtain confidential information from public authorities to gain advantage.

- decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No [2988/95](#) (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision making- or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin or created another entity with this purpose (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant).

Applicants will also be refused if it turns out that<sup>20</sup>:

- during the award procedure they misrepresented information required as a condition for participating or failed to supply that information
- they were previously involved in the preparation of the call and this entails a distortion of competition that cannot be remedied otherwise (conflict of interest).

## 8. Evaluation and award procedure

The proposals will have to follow the **standard submission and evaluation procedure** (one-stage submission + one-step evaluation).

An **evaluation committee**, assisted by independent outside experts, will assess all applications. Proposals will first be checked for formal requirements (admissibility, and eligibility, see *sections 5 and 6*). Proposals found admissible and eligible will be evaluated (for each topic) against the operational capacity and award criteria (see *sections 7 and 9*) and then ranked according to their scores.

For proposals with the same score (within a topic) a **priority order** will be determined according to the following approach:

Successively for every group of *ex aequo* proposals, starting with the highest scored group, and continuing in descending order:

- 1) The *ex aequo* proposals within the same topic will be prioritised according to the scores they have been awarded for the award criterion 'Relevance'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on their scores for the criterion 'Dissemination'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on their scores for the criterion 'Quality of content and activities'.
- 2) If this does not allow to determine the priority, a further prioritisation can be done by considering the overall project portfolio and the creation of positive synergies between projects, or other factors related to the objectives of the call. These factors will be documented in the panel report.

All proposals will be informed about the evaluation result (**evaluation result letter**). Successful proposals will be invited for grant preparation; others will be put on the reserve list or rejected.

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<sup>20</sup> See Article 141 EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

 No commitment for funding — Invitation to grant preparation does NOT constitute a formal commitment for funding. We will still need to make various legal checks before grant award: *legal entity validation, financial capacity, exclusion check, etc.*

**Grant preparation** will involve a dialogue in order to fine-tune technical or financial aspects of the project and may require extra information from your side. It may also include adjustments to the proposal to address recommendations of the evaluation committee or other concerns. Compliance will be a pre-condition for signing the grant.

If you believe that the evaluation procedure was flawed, you can submit a **complaint** (following the deadlines and procedures set out in the evaluation result letter). Please note that notifications which have not been opened within 10 days after sending are considered to have been accessed and that deadlines will be counted from opening/access (see also [Funding & Tenders Portal Terms and Conditions](#)). Please also be aware that for complaints submitted electronically, there may be character limitations.

## 9. Award criteria

The **award criteria** for this call are as follows:

– **Relevance** (40 points):

This criterion will take into account the extent to which the proposal:

- is relevant to the objectives and priorities of the call
- is based on a sound and adequate needs analysis and how it complements other actions
- addresses cross-cutting issues (diversity and inclusion, gender equality and reduction of environmental impact)
- brings European added value to the project, particularly taking into account the representativeness of the network and its members within the sector(s) they target and the geographical outreach of the network, ensuring a balanced coverage of Creative Europe Participating Countries across all regions

– **Quality of content and activities** (25 points):

This criterion will take into account the extent to which:

- the proposed concept and methodologies are appropriate for achieving the project's objectives
- the proposal takes into account the needs of the network members and facilitates members' participation throughout the lifetime of the project
- the target groups will benefit concretely from the project
- the project design is consistent and coherent, notably the feasibility of the project within the proposed time-frame

– **Project management** (10 points):

This criterion will take into account the extent to which:

- the proposal includes effective mechanisms for coordination between the participating organisations and proposes an appropriate governance structure
  - the project’s budget is cost effective and allocates appropriate resources to each activity (sufficient/appropriate budget for proper implementation; best value for money)
  - the project involves the appropriate project teams, staff and outside resources (including know-how, qualifications and resources), to successfully implement the project;
  - the measures planned to ensure project implementation include management, risk management, quality assurance and control, planning, monitoring and evaluation strategy
- **Dissemination** (25 points):
- This criterion will take into account the extent to which:
- the project triggers change and innovation
  - the communication and dissemination strategies have the potential to reach and positively impacts the target groups and participating organisations, as well as the wider community, and guarantee the visibility of the Creative Europe Programme support
  - the project proposal includes concrete and effective steps to ensure the sustainability of the project and its capacity to have a lasting impact and produce results after the end of the action

Award criteria		Minimum pass score	Maximum score
Relevance		20	40
Quality of content and activities		13	25
Project management		5	10
Dissemination		13	25
<b>Overall (pass) scores</b>		<b>70</b>	<b>100</b>

Maximum points: 100 points.

Individual thresholds per criterion: 20/40, 13/25, 5/10 and 13/25 points.

Overall threshold: 70 points.

Proposals that pass the individual thresholds AND the overall threshold will be considered for funding — within the limits of the available call budget. Other proposals will be rejected.

## 10. Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements

If you pass evaluation, your project will be invited for grant preparation, where you will be asked to prepare the Grant Agreement together with the EU Project Officer.

This Grant Agreement will set the framework for your grant and its terms and conditions, in particular concerning deliverables, reporting and payments.

The Model Grant Agreement that will be used (and all other relevant templates and guidance documents) can be found on [Portal Reference Documents](#).

#### Starting date and project duration

The project starting date and duration will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 1*). Normally the starting date will be after grant signature. Retroactive application can be granted exceptionally for duly justified reasons — even before proposal submission date but not before 01.01.2021.

Project duration: normally 36 months (extensions are possible, if duly justified and through an amendment).

#### Milestones and deliverables

The milestones and deliverables for each project will be managed through the Portal Grant Management System and will be reflected in Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement.

The project activities must be organised in the following work packages:

- **WP1 : Project management and coordination (mandatory)**

This work package should include activities of management, planning, administration, and evaluation of the project. This work package might present activities such as meetings, evaluation, coordination and quality control activities, strategies development, preparation of reports, etc.

Deliverables of this work package might include agenda or minutes of meetings, evaluation and/or quality control reports, a set of indicators for assessment of activities and impact, conception/planning reports, etc.

- **WP2: Networking** of organisations and individuals (artists and culture professionals) throughout Europe and beyond (mandatory)

The activities under this work package should target an important number of professionals from the cultural and creative sectors that can meet, exchange and network between themselves.

Deliverables of this work package might include networking development strategies, Europe-wide and sector(s)-specific online/onsite conferences, exchange programmes across organisations, market-access activities or similar, development, testing and production of networking tools, brokerage events (matchmaking events, speed dating or B2B meetings), laboratories, industry or sectoral fairs, etc.

- **WP3: Training and providing advice to professionals** (mandatory)

This work package includes the activities directly building the capacities of artists and other cultural and creative professionals.

Deliverables of this work package might include training and development strategies for network members or outside members, training opportunities (work placements, residencies, training courses, master classes, consultancies, etc.), seminars, project piloting, mentoring and incubators programmes, etc.

- **WP4: Representing** the sectors and **advocating** on their behalf on key sectoral issues (mandatory)

This work package should group the activities related to the mobilisation of the cultural sector across all levels of governance, from local, regional and national to European and international levels. These activities can be seen upstream or downstream as well as horizontally, and can be targeted to policy or regulatory matters. They can also be targeted to the cultural and creative sectors or help sensitise other sectors and the citizens at large on key cultural issues.

Deliverables of this work package might include action/advocacy or engagement strategies, meetings, workshops with interested parties and network members, messaging campaigns, as well as other outreach activities, such as strategy or policy publications (reports, research results), etc.

- **WP5: Collecting** and **disseminating** data, information, practices, ideas and solutions (mandatory)

This work package should include all activities aiming to create or develop the necessary data and knowledge on the sector(s) in which the network operates. They can also include prospective and research-related activities that will feed into the activities of the network, those of its members, or the sector at large.

Deliverables of this work package might include data and knowledge development strategies, data sets, reports, publications and articles, briefings, etc.

- **WP6: Communication** and **dissemination** (mandatory)

This work package should group the activities aiming at ensuring adequate visibility of the activities of the project and a wide dissemination of its results beyond local, regional and national levels.

Deliverables of this work package might include a communication and dissemination strategy, communication/dissemination campaigns, promotion of events and talents, distribution and dissemination activities, production of communication/dissemination material, advertising and branding materials (brochures, programmes, posters, banners, tag lines, mission statements, graphic design specifications), and press reviews, etc., illustrating the scope, reach, progress and success of the proposed activities.

Each work package should have at least 1 deliverable, but it is highly recommended to have more than 1 deliverable. All deliverables should illustrate the scope, reach, progress and success of the proposed activities.

Additional work packages may be added.

#### Form of grant, funding rate and maximum grant amount

The grant parameters (*maximum grant amount, funding rate, total eligible costs, etc*) will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 3 and art 5*).

Project budget (maximum grant amount): EUR 825 000 per project over the 3 year duration of the project. The grant awarded may be lower than the amount requested.

The grant will be a lump sum grant. This means that it will reimburse a fixed amount, based on a lump sum or financing not linked to costs. The amount will be fixed by the granting authority on the basis of the estimated project budget and a funding rate of 80%.

#### Budget categories and cost eligibility rules

The budget categories and cost eligibility rules are fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 3, art 6 and Annex 2*).

*Budget categories for this call:*

- Lump sum contributions<sup>21</sup>

*Specific cost eligibility rules for this call:*

Costs for financial support to third parties can be included in the detailed budget table for grants and prizes; maximum amount per third party EUR 60 000; unless a higher amount is required because the objective of the action would otherwise be impossible or overly difficult to achieve and this is duly justified in the Application Form

#### Reporting and payment arrangements

The reporting and payment arrangements are fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 4 and art 21 and 22*).

After grant signature, you will normally receive a **prefinancing** to start working on the project (float of normally **30%** of the maximum grant amount; exceptionally less or no prefinancing). The prefinancing will be paid 30 days from entry into force/financial guarantee (if required) – whichever is the latest

There will be one or more **additional prefinancing** payments linked to a prefinancing report.

**Payment of the balance:** At the end of the project, we will calculate your final grant amount. If the total of earlier payments is higher than the final grant amount, we will ask you (your coordinator) to pay back the difference (recovery).

All payments will be made to the coordinator.

Please note that you are responsible for keeping records on all the work done.

#### Prefinancing guarantees

If a prefinancing guarantee is required, it will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 4*). The amount will be set during grant preparation and it will normally be equal to or lower than the prefinancing for your grant.

The guarantee should be in euro and issued by an approved bank/financial institution established in an EU Member State. If you are established in a non-EU country and would like to provide a guarantee from a bank/financial institution in your country, please contact us (this may be exceptionally accepted, if it offers equivalent security).

Amounts blocked in bank accounts will NOT be accepted as financial guarantees.

Prefinancing guarantees are formally NOT linked to individual consortium members, which means that you are free to organise how to provide the guarantee amount (*by one or several beneficiaries, for the overall amount or several guarantees for partial amounts, by the beneficiary concerned or by another beneficiary, etc*). It is however important that the requested amount is covered and that the guarantee(s) are sent to us in time to make the prefinancing (scanned copy via Portal AND original by post).

If agreed with us, the bank guarantee may be replaced by a guarantee from a third party.

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<sup>21</sup> [Decision](#) of 26.5.2021 authorising the use of lump sum contributions for actions under the Creative Europe Programme (2021-2027).

The guarantee will be released at the end of the grant, in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Grant Agreement.

### Certificates

Depending on the type of action, size of grant amount and type of beneficiaries, you may be requested to submit different certificates. The types, schedules and thresholds for each certificate are fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 4 and art 24*).

### Liability regime for recoveries

The liability regime for recoveries will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet point 4.4 and art 22*).

For beneficiaries, it is one of the following:

- limited joint and several liability with individual ceilings — *each beneficiary up to their maximum grant amount*
  - unconditional joint and several liability — *each beneficiary up to the maximum grant amount for the action*
- or
- individual financial responsibility — *each beneficiary only for their own debts*.

In addition, the granting authority may require joint and several liability of affiliated entities (with their beneficiary).

### Provisions concerning the project implementation

IPR rules: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 16 and Annex 5)*:

- different rights of use of the granting authority on materials, documents and information received for policy, information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes: Yes

Communication, dissemination and visibility of funding: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 17 and Annex 5)*:

- additional communication and dissemination activities: Yes
- special logos: Yes

Specific rules for carrying out the action: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 18 and Annex 5)*: n/a

### Other specificities

n/a

### Non-compliance and breach of contract

The Grant Agreement (chapter 5) provides for the measures we may take in case of breach of contract (and other non-compliance issues).



For more information, see [AGA – Annotated Grant Agreement](#).

## **11. How to submit an application**

All proposals must be submitted directly online via the Funding & Tenders Portal

Electronic Submission System. Paper applications are NOT accepted.

Submission is a **2-step process**:

**a) create a user account and register your organisation**

To use the Submission System (the only way to apply), all participants need to [create an EU Login user account](#).

Once you have an EULogin account, you can [register your organisation](#) in the Participant Register. When your registration is finalised, you will receive a 9-digit participant identification code (PIC).

**b) submit the proposal**

Access the Electronic Submission System via the Topic page in the [Search Funding & Tenders](#) section (or, for calls sent by invitation to submit a proposal, through the link provided in the invitation letter).

Submit your proposal in 4 parts, as follows:

- Part A includes administrative information about the applicant organisations (future coordinator, beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners) and the summarised budget for the proposal. Fill it in directly online
- Part B (description of the action) covers the technical content of the proposal. Download the mandatory word template from the Submission System, fill it in and upload it as a PDF file
- Part C containing additional project data. To be filled in directly online.
- Annexes (*see section 5*). Upload them as PDF file (single or multiple depending on the slots). Excel upload is sometimes possible, depending on the file type.

The proposal must keep to the **page limits** (*see section 5*); excess pages will be disregarded.

Documents must be uploaded to the **right category** in the Submission System otherwise the proposal might be considered incomplete and thus inadmissible.

The proposal must be submitted **before the call deadline** (*see section 4*). After this deadline, the system is closed and proposals can no longer be submitted.

Once the proposal is submitted, you will receive a **confirmation e-mail** (with date and time of your application). If you do not receive this confirmation e-mail, it means your proposal has NOT been submitted. If you believe this is due to a fault in the Submission System, you should immediately file a complaint via the [IT Helpdesk webform](#), explaining the circumstances and attaching a copy of the proposal (and, if possible, screenshots to show what happened).

Details on processes and procedures are described in the [Online Manual](#). The Online Manual also contains the links to FAQs and detailed instructions regarding the Portal Electronic Exchange System.

## **12. Help**

As far as possible, ***please try to find the answers you need yourself***, in this and the other documentation (we have limited resources for handling direct enquiries):

- [Online Manual](#)

- FAQs on the Topic page (for call-specific questions in open calls; not applicable for actions by invitation)
- [Portal FAQ](#) (for general questions).

Please also consult the Topic page regularly, since we will use it to publish call updates. (For invitations, we will contact you directly in case of a call update).

#### *Contact*

For individual questions on the Portal Submission System, please contact the [IT Helpdesk](#).

Non-IT related questions should be sent to the following email address: [EACEA-CREATIVE-EUROPE-NETWORKS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EACEA-CREATIVE-EUROPE-NETWORKS@ec.europa.eu).

Please indicate clearly the reference of the call and topic to which your question relates (*see cover page*).

## 13. Important



### IMPORTANT

- **Don't wait until the end** — Complete your application sufficiently in advance of the deadline to avoid any last minute **technical problems**. Problems due to last minute submissions (*e.g. congestion, etc.*) will be entirely at your risk. Call deadlines can NOT be extended.
- **Consult** the Portal Topic page regularly. We will use it to publish updates and additional information on the call (call and topic updates).
- **Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Exchange System** — By submitting the application, all participants **accept** to use the electronic exchange system in accordance with the [Portal Terms & Conditions](#).
- **Registration** — Before submitting the application, all beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners must be registered in the [Participant Register](#). The participant identification code (PIC) (one per participant) is mandatory for the Application Form.
- **Consortium roles** — When setting up your consortium, you should think of organisations that help you reach objectives and solve problems.

The roles should be attributed according to the level of participation in the project. Main participants should participate as **beneficiaries** or **affiliated entities**; other entities can participate as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions. **Associated partners** and third parties giving in-kind contributions should bear their own costs (they will not become formal recipients of EU funding). **Subcontracting** should normally constitute a limited part and must be performed by third parties (not by one of the beneficiaries/affiliated entities). Subcontracting going beyond 30% of the total eligible costs must be justified in the application.

- **Coordinator** — In multi-beneficiary grants, the beneficiaries participate as consortium (group of beneficiaries). They will have to choose a coordinator, who will take care of the project management and coordination and will represent the consortium towards the granting authority. In mono-beneficiary grants, the single beneficiary will automatically be coordinator.
- **Affiliated entities** — Applicants may participate with affiliated entities (i.e. entities linked to a beneficiary, which participate in the action with similar rights and obligations as the beneficiaries, but do not sign the grant and therefore do not become beneficiaries themselves). They will get a part of the grant money and must therefore comply with all the call conditions and be validated (just like beneficiaries); but they do not count towards the minimum eligibility criteria for consortium composition (if any).
- **Associated partners** — Applicants may participate with associated partners (i.e. partner organisations which participate in the action but without the right to get grant money). They participate without funding and therefore do not need to be validated.
- **Consortium agreement** — For practical and legal reasons it is recommended to set up internal arrangements that allow you to deal with exceptional or unforeseen circumstances (in all cases, even if not mandatory under the Grant Agreement). The consortium agreement also gives you the possibility to redistribute the grant money according to your own consortium-internal principles and parameters (for instance, one beneficiary can reattribute its grant money to another beneficiary). The consortium agreement thus allows you to customise the EU grant to the needs inside your consortium and can also help to protect you in case of disputes.

- **Balanced project budget** — Grant applications must ensure a balanced project budget and sufficient other resources to implement the project successfully (*e.g. own contributions, income generated by the action, financial contributions from third parties, etc.*). You may be requested to lower your estimated costs, if they are ineligible (including excessive).
- **No-profit rule** — Grants may NOT give a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + EU grant over costs). This will be checked by us at the end of the project.
- **No double funding** — There is a strict prohibition of double funding from the EU budget (except under EU Synergies actions). Outside such Synergies actions, any given action may receive only ONE grant from the EU budget and cost items may under NO circumstances be declared to two different EU actions.
- **Completed/ongoing projects** — Proposals for projects that have already been completed will be rejected; proposals for projects that have already started will be assessed on a case-by-case basis (in this case, no costs can be reimbursed for activities that took place before the project starting date/proposal submission).
- **Combination with EU operating grants** — Combination with EU operating grants is possible, if the project remains outside the operating grant work programme and you make sure that cost items are clearly separated in your accounting and NOT declared twice (see [AGA – Annotated Model Grant Agreement, art 6.2.E](#)).
- **Multiple proposals** — Applicants cannot submit more than one proposal under this call. Multiple proposals will be rejected.
- **Resubmission** — Proposals may be changed and re-submitted until the deadline for submission.
- **Rejection** — By submitting the application, all applicants accept the call conditions set out in this Call Document (and the documents it refers to). Proposals that do not comply with all the call conditions will be **rejected**. This applies also to applicants: All applicants need to fulfil the criteria; if any one of them doesn't, they must be replaced or the entire proposal will be rejected.
- **Cancellation** — There may be circumstances which may require the cancellation of the call. In this case, you will be informed via a call or topic update. Please note that cancellations are without entitlement to compensation.
- **Language** — You can submit your proposal in any official EU language (project abstract/summary should however always be in English). For reasons of efficiency, we strongly advise you to use English for the entire application. If you need the call documentation in another official EU language, please submit a request within 10 days after call publication (for the contact information, see *section 12*).

- **Transparency** — In accordance with Article 38 of the [EU Financial Regulation](#), information about EU grants awarded is published each year on the [Europa website](#).

This includes:

- beneficiary names
- beneficiary addresses
- the purpose for which the grant was awarded
- the maximum amount awarded.

The publication can exceptionally be waived (on reasoned and duly substantiated request), if there is a risk that the disclosure could jeopardise your rights and freedoms under the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights or harm your commercial interests.

- **Data protection** — The submission of a proposal under this call involves the collection, use and processing of personal data. This data will be processed in accordance with the applicable legal framework. It will be processed solely for the purpose of evaluating your proposal, subsequent management of your grant and, if needed, programme monitoring, evaluation and communication. Details are explained in the [Funding & Tenders Portal Privacy Statement](#).