Implementation of the Culture Sub-programme schemes: European cooperation projects.

**WARNING:**
This call for proposals is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft budget for 2015 after the adoption of the budget for 2015 by the budgetary authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

The Programme constitutes the legal basis for this call for proposals.

**Introduction**
This call is based on Regulation N° 1295/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11/12/2013 establishing the Creative Europe Programme (2014-2020), hereafter referred to as 'the Regulation', and in particular, Chapter III of the Regulation articles 12 and 13 concerning the implementation of the Culture Sub-programme.

This call concerns one scheme that will be implemented under the Culture Sub-programme. The detailed conditions of this call for proposals can be found in the guidelines for European cooperation projects published on the Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency's website (see section VI). **These guidelines constitute an integral part of this call for proposals.**

**I. Priorities of the Culture Sub-programme**
The priorities of the Culture Sub-programme are to reinforce the cultural and creative sectors' capacity to operate transnationally and internationally and to promote transnational circulation and mobility. In order to implement the priorities set out in the Regulation, the Culture Sub-programme, shall provide support in particular for:

(a) transnational cooperation projects bringing together cultural and creative organisations from different countries to undertake sectoral or cross-sectoral activities;
(b) activities by European networks of cultural and creative organisations from different countries;
(c) activities by organisations with a European vocation fostering the development of emerging talent and stimulating the transnational mobility of cultural and creative players and circulation

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of works, with the potential to exert a broad influence on cultural and creative sectors and to provide for lasting effects;
(d) literary translation and the further promotion of translated works;

II. General conditions for participation
General conditions for participating in the schemes of the Culture Sub-programme are set in this section while specific conditions for each scheme are referred to in section III below. All conditions are set in accordance with the Regulation.

Eligible countries
Applications from legal entities established in one of the following country categories are eligible as long as all conditions referred to in Article 8 of Regulation are met and the Commission has entered into negotiations with the country:

1. EU Member States and overseas countries and territories which are eligible to participate in the Programme pursuant to Article 58 of Council Decision 2001/822/EC;
2. Accessing countries, candidate countries and potential candidates benefiting from a pre-accession strategy, in accordance with the general principles and general terms and conditions for the participation of those countries in Union programmes established in the respective Framework Agreements, Association Council Decisions or similar agreements;
3. EFTA countries which are parties to the Agreement on the EEA, in accordance with the provisions of the EEA Agreement;
4. The Swiss Confederation, on the basis of a bilateral agreement to be concluded with that country;
5. Countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy in accordance with the procedures defined with those countries following the framework agreements providing for their participation in EU programmes.

The Agency may select proposals from applicants from non EU countries provided that, on the date of the award decision, agreements have been signed and notified setting out the arrangements for the participation of those countries in the Programme established by the Regulation referred to above.

Eligible applicants
The schemes are open to cultural and creative operators which are active in the cultural and creative sectors as defined in article 2 of the Regulation who are legally established in one of the countries participating in the Culture Sub-programme.

The schemes are open to cultural operators which have had a legal personality for at least 2 years on the date of the deadline for submission of applications and which are able to demonstrate their existence as a legal person. Natural persons may not apply for a grant.

Eligible projects
The Culture Sub-programme will not support any projects including pornographic or racist material or advocating violence. The Culture Sub-programme shall support, in particular, not-for-profit projects.

Specific eligibility criteria related to each scheme are specified in section III below.

Eligible activities:
Eligible activities must intend to achieve the objectives and priorities set for the Culture Sub-programme.

The activities must relate to the cultural and creative sectors as defined in Article 2 of the Regulation and repealing Decisions No’s 1718/2006/EC, 1855/2006/EC and 1041/2009/EC. Activities dedicated exclusively to the audio-visual sectors are not eligible under the Culture Sub-programme. However, audio-visual activities may be eligible as long as they are ancillary to activities dedicated to the non-audio-visual cultural and creative sectors.

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Exclusion criteria
Applicants must not be in a situation that will exclude them from participation and/or from award as defined by the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the Union and its rules of application.

Selection criteria
The following criteria apply for all schemes unless otherwise specified under provisions detailed below.
Applicants must have stable and sufficient sources of funding (financial capacity) to maintain their activity throughout the period during which the project is being carried out and to participate in its funding. Applicant organisations must have the professional competencies and qualifications required to complete the proposed project (operational capacity).
Applicants must submit a declaration on their honour, completed and signed, attesting to their status as a legal person and to their financial and operational capacity to complete the proposed activities.
In addition to the declaration on honour, applicant organisations applying for a grant above EUR 60 000 must submit together with their application, complementary & mandatory documents as described in the specific guidelines.

Audit report
The grant application must be accompanied by an external audit report produced by an approved external auditor when the requested amount is equal or above EUR 750 000 or when the application concerns a framework partnership agreement. This report shall certify the accounts for the last two available financial years.
This obligation does not apply to public bodies and international organisations under public law. This obligation may not apply to education and training establishments if decided by the competent authorising officer on the basis of his analysis of management risks.

III. Specific conditions for participation
This call covers the following scheme of the Culture Sub-programme:

**EACEA 32/2014 - European cooperation projects**

The main objectives of the support for transnational cultural cooperation projects are to support the capacity of the European cultural and creative sectors to operate transnationally and internationally and to promote the transnational circulation of cultural and creative works and transnational mobility of cultural and creative players, in particular artists.

The priorities in the field of reinforcing the cultural and creative sector's capacity to operate transnationally shall be the following:

- supporting actions providing cultural and creative players with skills, competences and know-how that contribute to strengthening the cultural and creative sectors, including encouraging adaptation to digital technologies, testing innovative approaches to audience development and testing of new business and management models;
- supporting actions enabling cultural and creative players to cooperate internationally and to internationalise their careers and activities in the Union and beyond, when possible on the basis of long-term strategies;
- providing support to strengthen European cultural and creative organisations and international networking in order to facilitate access to professional opportunities.

The priorities in the field of promoting transnational circulation and mobility shall be the following:

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- supporting international cultural activities, such as for instance exhibitions, exchanges and festivals;
- supporting the circulation of European literature with a view to ensuring the widest possible accessibility;
- supporting audience development as a means of stimulating interest in and improving access to European cultural and creative works and tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Audience development seeks to help European artists/cultural professionals and their works reach as many people as possible across Europe and extend access to cultural works to under-represented groups. It also seeks to help cultural organisations adapt to the need to engage in new and innovative ways with audiences both to retain them, to build new audiences, diversify audiences including reaching current "non-audiences", and to improve the experience for both existing and future audiences and deepen the relationship with them.

This measure has a flexible, interdisciplinary approach. Projects can either focus on one or more priority, at either one or more points of the value chain in either one or more cultural and creative sectors.

**Eligibility criteria**

*Eligible applicants:* see section II - General conditions for participation – Eligible applicants.

*Eligible projects:* Depending on the scale, needs, nature, objectives and priorities of the project, the applicants will have to choose to apply under either category 1 - Smaller scale cooperation projects or category 2 - Larger scale cooperation projects.

**Category 1 - Smaller scale cooperation projects**

This category of projects involves a project leader and at least two other partners having their legal seat in at least three different countries taking part in the Creative Europe programme – Culture sub programme. Either the project leader or one of the partners must have its legal seat in a country referred to in categories 1, 3 or 4 of the eligible countries.

- is the subject of an application requesting no more than EUR 200 000 representing maximum 60% of the eligible budget.

**Category 2 - Larger scale cooperation projects**

This category of projects involves a project leader and at least five other partners having their legal seat in at least six different countries taking part in the Creative Europe programme – Culture sub-programme. Either the project leader or one of the partners must have its legal seat in a country referred to in categories 1, 3 or 4 of the eligible countries.

- is the subject of an application requesting no more than EUR 2M representing maximum 50% of the eligible budget.

For both categories of projects, the maximum duration (eligibility period) is 48 months.

*Eligible activities:* see section II - General conditions for participation – Eligible activities

**Award criteria**

Eligible applicants will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Relevance (35)

This criterion evaluates how the project will contribute to reinforcing the sector's professionalization and capacity to operate trans-nationally, to promoting transnational circulation of cultural and creative works and mobility of artists and to improving access to cultural and creative works.
2. Quality of the content and activities (25)
This criterion evaluates how the project will be implemented in practice (quality of the activities and deliverables, the experience of the staff in charge of the projects and working arrangements), with a particular focus on how such activities can help to effectively implement an audience development strategy.

3. Communication and dissemination (20)
This criterion evaluates the project’s approach to communicating its activities and results and to sharing knowledge and experiences with the sector and across borders. The aim is to maximise the impact of the project results by making them available as widely as possible at local, regional, national and European levels, so that they have a reach beyond those directly involved in the project and an impact beyond the project’s lifetime.

4. Quality of the partnership (20)
This criterion evaluates the extent to which the general organisation and co-ordination of the project will ensure the effective implementation of the activities and will contribute to their sustainability.

IV. Budget

The Creative Europe – Culture Sub-programme has a total budget of EUR 454,8 million\(^4\) for the 2014-2020 period. The total appropriations for 2015 for this call will be around EUR 38,000,000.

The Agency reserves the right not to distribute all funds available.

V. Deadline for applications

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<tr>
<th>European cooperation projects</th>
<th>Deadline for Submission</th>
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<td>First Wednesday of October 2014</td>
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If the deadline for submission falls on a public holiday in the applicant's country, no extension will be granted. Applicants must take this into account when planning their submission.

Submission procedure and the address to which the application package must be sent can be found in the respective guidelines on the websites mentioned under section VI below.

VI. Further information

The detailed conditions for application can be found in the specific guidelines per scheme on the following websites:

Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency

Directorate-General for Education and Culture
http://ec.europa.eu/culture/index_en.htm

\(^4\) EU 28.