EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028

PROGRAMME AGREEMENT

between

The Financial Mechanism Committee
established by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway

and

The National Management Unit,
hereinafter referred to as the "National Focal Point",

representing Portugal,
hereinafter referred to as the "Beneficiary State"

together hereinafter referred to as the "Parties"

for the financing of the Programme "Culture"
hereinafter referred to as the "Programme"

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Chapter 1
Scope, legal framework, and definitions

Article 1.1
Scope

This Programme Agreement between the Financial Mechanism Committee (hereinafter referred to as the FMC) and the National Focal Point lays down the rights and obligations of the Parties regarding the implementation of the Programme and the financial contribution from the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028 to the Programme.

Article 1.2
Legal Framework

1. This Programme Agreement shall be read in conjunction with the following documents which, together with this Programme Agreement, constitute the legal framework of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028:

a) Protocol 38d to the EEA Agreement on the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028;

b) the Regulation on the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028 (hereinafter referred to as the "Regulation");

c) the Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028, entered into between the Donor States and the Beneficiary State; and

d) any guidelines adopted by the FMC in accordance with the Regulation.

2. In case of an inconsistency between this Programme Agreement and the Regulation, the Regulation shall prevail.

3. The legal framework is binding for the Parties. An act or omission by a Party to this Programme Agreement that is incompatible with the legal framework constitutes a breach of this Programme Agreement by that Party.

Article 1.3
Definitions

Terms used and institutions and documents referred to in this Programme Agreement shall be understood in accordance with the Regulation, in particular Article 1.6 thereof, and the legal framework referred to in Article 1.2 of this Programme Agreement.

Article 1.4
Annexes and hierarchy of documents

1. Annexes attached hereto form an integral part of this Programme Agreement. Any reference to this Programme Agreement includes a reference to its annexes unless otherwise stated or clear from the context.

2. The provisions of the annexes shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with this Programme Agreement. Should the meaning of any provision of the said annexes, so interpreted, remain inconsistent with this Programme Agreement, the provisions of the annexes shall prevail, provided that these provisions are compatible with the Regulation.

3. Commitments, statements and guarantees, explicit as well as implicit, made in the preparation of the programme are binding for the National Focal Point and the Programme Operator unless otherwise explicitly stipulated in this Programme Agreement.

Chapter 2
The Programme

Article
2.1 Co-operation

1. The Parties shall take all appropriate and necessary measures to ensure fulfilment of the obligations and objectives arising out of this Programme Agreement.

2. The Parties agree to provide all information necessary for the good functioning of this Programme Agreement, including risk assessment and response analysis, and to apply the principles of implementation as set out in the Regulation.

3. The Parties shall promptly inform each other of any circumstances that interfere or threaten to interfere with the successful implementation of the Programme.

4. In executing this Programme Agreement the Parties declare to counteract corrupt practices. Further, they declare not to accept, either directly or indirectly, any kind of offer, gift, payments or benefits which would or could be construed as illegal or corrupt practice or giving rise to a conflict of interest. The Parties shall immediately inform each other of any indication of corruption or misuse of resources related to this Programme Agreement.

Article 2.2
Main responsibilities of the Parties

1. The National Focal Point is responsible and accountable for the overall management of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028 in the Beneficiary State and for the full and correct implementation of this Programme Agreement. In particular, the National Focal Point undertakes to:

a) comply with its obligations stipulated in the Regulation and this Programme Agreement;

b) ensure that the Certifying Authority, the Audit Authority and the Programme Operator properly perform the tasks assigned to them in the Regulation and this Programme Agreement;

c) take all necessary steps to ensure that the Programme Operator is fully committed and able to implement and manage the Programme, including ensuring the appropriate allocation of staff and other resources, throughout the programme period;

d) take the necessary measures to remedy irregularities in the implementation of the Programme and ensure that the Programme Operator takes appropriate measures to remedy irregularities in projects within the Programme, including measures to recover misspent funds; and

e) make all the necessary and appropriate arrangements in order to strengthen or change the way the Programme is managed.

2. The FMC shall, subject to the rules stipulated in the legal framework referred to in Article 1.2 of this Programme Agreement, make available to the Beneficiary State a financial contribution (hereinafter referred to as "the programme grant") to be used exclusively to finance the eligible cost of the Programme.

Article 2.3
Objective(s) of the Programme

1. This Programme Agreement sets out the objective(s), outcome(s), outputs, indicators and targets for the Programme.

2. The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator implements and completes the Programme in accordance with the objective(s), outcome(s), outputs, indicators and targets set for the Programme.

Article 2.4
Programme grant

1. The maximum amount of the programme grant, the programme grant rate, and the estimated eligible cost of the Programme shall be as specified in this Programme Agreement.

2. The programme budget annexed to this Programme Agreement shall:

a) contain a breakdown between the Programme's budget headings; and

b) indicate the agreed advance payment, if any.

3. The management cost of the Programme Operator shall not exceed the amount specified in this Programme Agreement.

Article 2.5
Special conditions and programme specific rules

1. This Programme Agreement shall list any conditions set by the FMC with reference to Article 6.3.2 of the Regulation. The National Focal Point shall ensure compliance with these conditions and take the necessary steps to ensure their fulfilment.

2. The National Focal Point shall ensure compliance with any other programme specific rules laid down in this Programme Agreement.

Article 2.6
Reporting

The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator provides financial reports and a Final Programme Report in accordance with Chapter 9 and Article 6.8 of the Regulation as well as other reporting in accordance with guidelines adopted by the FMC.

Article 2.7
Monitoring and audits

The monitoring and audits referred to in Chapter 10 and Chapter 11 of the Regulation shall not in any way relieve the National Focal Point or the Programme Operator of their obligations under the legal framework regarding monitoring of the Programme and/or its projects, financial control and audit.

Article 2.8
Modification of the Programme

1. Unless otherwise explicitly stipulated in this Programme Agreement, any modification of the Programme is subject to prior approval by the FMC.

2. Budget reallocations to and from calls and pre-defined projects (both within the same outcome and between outcomes) are permitted without a modification of the Programme Agreement or prior approval by the FMC for an amount of up to 10% of the total allocation for each planned call or pre-defined project.

3. Changes to the Programme which have been agreed in their entirety through a modification of the relevant Memorandum of Understanding do not require a modification of the Programme Agreement. In such cases, the Programme Agreement shall be updated by the FMC.

4. Programme specific exceptions from paragraph 1, if any, are set in the annexes to this Programme Agreement.

5. Expenditures in breach of this Article are not eligible.

6. Should there be a doubt as to whether a modification of the Programme Agreement is

required, the National Focal Point shall consult the FMC before such modifications take effect.

7. Requests for modifications shall be submitted and assessed in accordance with Article 6.7 of the Regulation.

Article 2.9
Communication

1. All communication to the FMC regarding this Programme Agreement shall take place in English and be directed to the Financial Mechanism Office (hereinafter referred to as the FMO), which represents the FMC towards the National Focal Point and the Programme Operator in relation to the implementation of the Programme.

2. To the extent that original documents are not available in the English language, the documents shall be accompanied by full and accurate translations in English. The National Focal Point shall bear the responsibility for the accuracy of the translation that it provides and the possible consequences that might arise from any inaccurate translations.

Article 2.10
Contact information

1. The contact information of the Programme Operator is as specified in this Programme Agreement.

2. The contact information for the FMC and the Financial Mechanism Office are:

Financial Mechanism Office

Att: Managing Director

EFTA House

Avenue des Arts, 19H

1000 Brussels

Telephone: +32 (0)2 286 1701

E-mail: fmo@efta.int

3. Changes of or corrections to the contact information referred to in this Article shall be given in writing without undue delay by the Parties to this Programme Agreement.

Article 2.11
Representations and warranties

1. This Programme Agreement and the awarding of the programme grant is based on information provided by, through, or on behalf of the National Focal Point to the FMC prior to the signing of this Programme Agreement.

2. The National Focal Point represents and warrants that the information provided by, through, or on behalf of the National Focal Point, in connection with the implementation or conclusion of this Programme Agreement are authentic, accurate and complete.

Chapter 3
Projects

Article 3.1
Selection of projects and award of grants

1. The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator selects projects in accordance with Chapter 7 of the Regulation and this Programme Agreement.

2. Eligibility of Project Promoters and project partners is stipulated in Article 7.2 of the Regulation and, in accordance with paragraph 4 thereof, subject only to the limitations stipulated in this Programme Agreement.

3. Pre-defined projects shall be outlined in this Programme Agreement.

4. The National Focal Point shall take proactive steps to ensure that the Programme Operator complies fully with Article 7.5.2 of the Regulation.

Article 3.2
Project contract

1. For each approved project a project contract shall be concluded between the Programme Operator and the Project Promoter.

2. In cases where a project contract cannot, due to provisions in the national legislation, be made between the Programme Operator and the Project Promoter, the Beneficiary State may instead issue a legislative or administrative act of similar effect and content.

3. The content and form or the project contract shall comply with Article 7.9 of the Regulation.

4. The National Focal Point shall ensure that the obligations of the Project Promoter under the project contract are valid and enforceable under the applicable law of the Beneficiary State.

Article 3.3
Project partners and partnership agreements

1. A project may be implemented in a partnership between the Project Promoter and project partners as defined in point (y) of Article 1.6 of the Regulation. If a project is implemented in such a partnership, the Project Promoter shall sign a partnership agreement with the project partners with the content and in the form stipulated in Article 7.10 of the Regulation.

2. If one of the parties to the agreement is an entity from the Donor States, the partnership agreement

shall be in English and shall be based on a template provided by the FMC.

3. The eligibility of expenditures declared by a project partner is subject to the same rules as would apply if the expenditures were declared by the Project Promoter.

4. The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator verifies that the partnership agreement complies with this Article. A draft partnership agreement or letter of intent shall be submitted to the Programme Operator before the signing of the project contract.

Chapter 4
Finance

Article 4.1
Eligible expenditures

1. Without prejudice to Article 8.9 of the Regulation, eligible expenditures of this Programme are:

a) management costs of the Programme Operator in accordance with the detailed budget in the financial plan;

b) payments to projects within this Programme in accordance with the Regulation, this Programme Agreement and the project contract; and

c) payments to activities funded by the bilateral funds allocated to the programme.

2. Expenditures of Project Promoters and project partners are eligible provided that they are in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 8 of the Regulation and any further provisions contained in this Programme Agreement.

3. The first date of eligibility of expenditures in projects shall be set in the project contract in accordance with Article 8.14 of the Regulation. The first date of eligibility of any pre-defined project shall be no earlier than the date of entry into force of the Programme Agreement.

4. The maximum eligible costs of the categories referred to in paragraph 1 are set in this Programme Agreement. Programme specific rules on the eligibility of expenditure set in this Programme Agreement shall be complied with.

Article 4.2
Proof of expenditure

Costs incurred by Programme Operators, Project Promoters and project partners shall be supported by documentary evidence as required in Article 8.12 of the Regulation.

Article 4.3
Proof of conditions fulfilled for simplified cost options

Costs of the Programme Operators, Project Promoters and project partners that are covered by simplified cost options shall be supported by the proof of conditions fulfilled in accordance with Article 8.13 of the Regulation.

Article 4.4
Payments

1. Payments to the Programme shall be made when all relevant conditions for payments stipulated in this Programme Agreement and the Regulation have been fulfilled.

2. Payments to the Programme shall take the form of an advance payment, interim payments and payment of the final balance and shall be made in accordance with Articles 9.2, 9.3 and 9.5 of the Regulation.

3. Payments of the project grant to the Project Promoters may take the form of advance payments, interim payments and payments of the final balance.

4. The National Focal Point shall ensure that payments are transferred in accordance with Article 9.1.2 of the Regulation.

5. Chapter 9 of the Regulation shall apply to all aspects related to payments, including currency exchange rules and handling of interests on bank accounts.

Article 4.5
Transparency and availability of documents

The National Focal Point shall ensure an audit trail for financial contributions from the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028 to the Programme in accordance with Article 9.8 of the Regulation.

Article 4.6
Irregularities, suspension and reimbursements

The FMC has the right to make use of the remedies provided in the Regulation, in particular Chapter 13 thereof. The National Focal Point has a duty to take all necessary measures to ensure that the provisions in Chapter 12 and 13 of the Regulation regarding irregularities, suspension of payments, financial corrections and reimbursement are complied with.

Chapter 5
Final provisions

Article 5.1
Dispute settlement

1. The Parties waive their rights to bring any dispute related to the Programme Agreement before any

national or international court and agree to settle such a dispute in an amicable manner.

2. If a demand for reimbursement to the FMC is not complied with by the Beneficiary State, or a dispute related to a demand for reimbursement arises that cannot be solved in accordance with paragraph 1, the Parties may bring the dispute before Oslo Tingrett.

Article 5.2
Termination

1. The FMC may, after consultation with the National Focal Point, terminate this Programme Agreement if:

a) a general suspension decision according to Article 13.6 of the Regulation or a decision to suspend payments according to point (h) of Article 13.1.1 of the Regulation has not been lifted within 6 months of such a decision;

b) a suspension of payments according to Article 13.1 of the Regulation, other than under point (h) of Article 13.1.1, has not been lifted within one year of such a decision;

c) a request for reimbursement according to Article 13.2 of the Regulation has not been complied with within one year from such a decision;

d) the Programme Operator becomes bankrupt, is deemed to be insolvent, or declares that it does not have the financial capacity to continue with the implementation of the Programme; or

e) the Programme Operator has, in the opinion of the FMC, been engaged in corruption, fraud or similar activities or has not taken the appropriate measures to detect or prevent such activities or, if they have occurred, nullify their effects.

2. This Programme Agreement can be terminated by mutual agreement between the Parties.

3. Termination does not affect the right of the Parties to make use of the dispute settlement mechanism referred to in Article 5.1 or the right of the FMC to make use of the remedies provided in Chapter 13 of the Regulation.

Article 5.3
Waiver of responsibility

1. Any appraisal of the Programme undertaken before or after its approval by the FMC, does not in any way diminish the responsibility of the National Focal Point and the Programme Operator to verify and confirm the correctness of the documents and information forming the basis of the Programme Agreement.

2. Nothing contained in the Programme Agreement shall be construed as imposing upon the FMC or the FMO any responsibility of any kind for the supervision, execution, completion, or operation of the Programme or its projects.

3. The FMC does not assume any risk or responsibility whatsoever for any damages, injuries, or other possible adverse effects caused by the Programme or its projects including, but not limited to inconsistencies in the planning of the Programme or its projects, other project(s) that might affect it or that it might affect, or public discontent. It is the full and sole responsibility of the National Focal Point and the Programme Operator to satisfactorily address such issues.

4. Neither the National Focal Point, the Programme Operator, entities involved in the implementation of projects, nor any other party shall have recourse to the FMC for further financial support or assistance to the Programme in whatsoever form over and above what has been provided for in the Programme Agreement.

5. Neither the European Free Trade Association, its Secretariat, including the FMO, its officials or employees, nor the FMC, its members or alternate members, nor the EFTA States, can be held liable for any damages or injuries of whatever nature sustained by the National Focal Point or the Beneficiary State, the Programme Operator, Project Promoters or any other third person, in connection, be it direct or indirect, with this Programme Agreement.

6. Nothing in this Programme Agreement shall be construed as a waiver of diplomatic immunities and privileges awarded to the European Free Trade Association, its assets, officials or employees.

Article 5.4
Entry into force and duration

1. This Programme Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the last signature of the Parties.

2. This Programme Agreement shall remain in force until five years have elapsed after the date of the acceptance of the Final Programme Report.

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This programme agreement is drawn up in two originals in the English language.

For the Donors	For the National Focal Point
Signed in Lisbon on 02/07/2026	Signed in Lisbon on 02/07/2026
.....	.....
Ambassador of Iceland to France	Head of National Focal Point

Annex I to the Programme Agreement

Roles	
Programme Operator:	Património Cultural, Instituto Público (Património Cultural, I.P.)
Donor Programme Partner:	Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage (RA) Arts and Culture Norway (ACN) Icelandic Centre for Research (RANNIS)
IPO:	-
Other Programme Partner(s):	Directorate General for the Arts (DG ARTES)

Indicator	Disaggregation	Unit of measurement	Data source	Baseline	Planned Target[1]
PA05 objective: Increased participation, sustainability, and diversity in culture and cultural heritage.					
Outcome 1: Revitalized and climate-resilient coastal cultural heritage					
Number of jobs supported/sustained by the programme	Gender	Cumulative number	Project Promoter records	0	30
Number of heritage assets, practices, or sites documented, researched, or digitised and made publicly accessible		Cumulative number	Project Promoter records	0	50
Number of revitalised coastal heritage sites demonstrating improved resilience to climate risks		Cumulative number	Project Promoter records	0	5
Number of people accessing revitalised coastal cultural heritage sites	Gender	Cumulative number	Project Promoter records	0	3,000
Output 1.1: Coastal cultural heritage safeguarded					
Number of coastal heritage sites preserved or enhanced		Cumulative number	Project Promoter records	0	6
Number of local partnerships created		Cumulative number	Project Promoter records	0	20
Number of new activities established in restored cultural heritage spaces		Cumulative number	Project Promoter records	0	6
Output 1.2: Strengthened knowledge for coastal cultural heritage preservation					
Number of scientific publications, technical reports or policy briefs produced		Cumulative number	Project Promoter records	0	7
Number of heritage assets digitally documented with the use of advanced tools (ie 3D)		Cumulative number	Project Promoter records	0	2

[1] Planned targets included in the above table represent the level of ambition at the time of Programme Agreement conclusion or following major modifications of the Programme. These targets shall not be used to measure the level of success of the programme. Actual targets following project contracting shall be reported on annually in the Country Reports and the Final Programme Report.

Number of climate-adaptive management tools, guidelines or methodologies developed and tested		Cumulative number	Project Promoter records	0	2
Number of community members engaged through participatory activities		Cumulative number	Project Promoter records	0	300
PA05 objective: Increased participation, sustainability, and diversity in culture and cultural heritage.					
Outcome 2: Improved cultural access and participation in low-density municipalities in Portugal					
Estimated number of people attending online arts or cultural events		Cumulative number	Project Promoter records	0	8,000
Estimated number of people attending physical arts or cultural events		Cumulative number	Project Promoter records	0	43,000
Number of jobs supported/sustained by the programme	Gender	Cumulative number	Project Promoter records	0	100
Output 2.1: Strengthened cultural ecosystems in low-density municipalities in Portugal					
Number of artistic productions or cultural events supported (in low density municipalities)		Cumulative number	Project Promoter records	0	300
Number of local entities involved in the development of contemporary arts projects		Cumulative number	Project Promoter records	0	27
Number of community members engaged through participatory activities		Cumulative number	Project Promoter records	0	5,000
Number of people having completed training action/courses by the Programme		Cumulative number	Project Promoter records	0	120
Number of project-level decision-making forums established or used with participation from target groups		Cumulative number	Project Promoter records	0	8
Bilateral Outcome: Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme					
Level of relevance of the partnership		Scale 1-5	FMO survey	N/A	4
Level of efficiency of the partnership		Scale 1-5	FMO survey	N/A	4
Level of effectiveness of the partnership		Scale 1-5	FMO survey	N/A	4
Level of added value of the partnership		Scale 1-5	FMO survey	N/A	4
Level of sustainability of the partnership		Scale 1-5	FMO survey	N/A	4
Level of involvement of the donor project partner in project activities		Scale 1-5	FMO survey	N/A	4
Level of trust between partners		Scale 1-5	FMO survey	N/A	4
Level of overall satisfaction with the partnership		Scale 1-5	FMO survey	N/A	4

Conditions

General

1. The maximum level of funding for investment in infrastructure and equipment (hard measures) is set at 45% of the total eligible expenditure of the Programme.
2. The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator ensures that Project Promoters:

- Keep any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project in their ownership for a period of at least 5 years following the completion of the project and continue to use such buildings for the benefit of the overall objectives of the project for the same period;
- Keep any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project properly insured against losses such as fire, theft and other normally insurable incidents both during project implementation and for at least 5 years following the completion of the project; and
- Set aside appropriate resources for the maintenance of any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project for at least 5 years following the completion of the project. The specific means for implementation of this obligation shall be specified in the project contract.

Pre-eligibility

Not applicable

Pre-payment

Not applicable

Pre-completion

Not applicable

Post-completion

Not applicable

Eligibility of costs - period	**First date**	**Final date**
Eligibility of costs	08/07/2025	30/04/2032
Grant rate and co-financing		
Programme eligible expenditure (€)		€ 10,888,235.29
Programme grant rate (%)		85.00 %
Maximum amount of Programme grant - EEA Financial Mechanism (€)		€ 9,300,000.00
Maximum amount of Programme grant - Norwegian Financial Mechanism (€)		-
Maximum amount of Programme grant - Total (€)		€ 9,300,000.00

PA	Budget Heading	EEA Grants	Total grant	Programme grant rate	Programme co-financing	Programme eligible expenditure	Grant advance payment
PM	Programme management	€ 902,850.00	€ 902,850.00	85.00 %	€ 159,326.47	€ 1,062,176.47	€ 74,274.35[2]
PA05	Outcome 1 (EEA Grants)	€ 5,037,150.00	€ 5,037,150.00	85.00 %	€ 888,908.82	€ 5,926,058.82	n/a
PA05	Outcome 2 (EEA Grants)	€ 3,060,000.00	€ 3,060,000.00	85.00 %	€ 540,000.00	€ 3,600,000.00	n/a
BF	Bilateral funds at programme level	€ 300,000.00	€ 300,000.00	n/a[3]	n/a[4]	€ 300,000.00	€ 100,000.00
Total[5]		**€ 9,300,000.00**	**€ 9,300,000.00**	**85.00 %**	**€ 1,588,235.29**	**€ 10,888,235.29**	**€ 174,274.35**

Retention of management costs	
Retention of management costs - Percentage of the management costs	10.00 %
Retention of management costs - Planned Euro value	€ 106,217.65

[2] In addition to the amount of € 74,274.35, an amount of € 42,096.26 for programme development activities has been disbursed in accordance with Article 9.1.1 of the Regulation prior to the signature of this Agreement.

[3] Grant amount of bilateral funds at programme level is not relevant for the calculation of programme grant rate.

[4] Grant amount of bilateral funds at programme level is not relevant for the calculation of programme co-financing.

[5] The MoU was signed with rounded figures according to standard financial rules for rounding. The figures in the budget tables in Annex I to this Programme Agreement include the two decimals behind the rounded figures in the MoU.

Culture

Operational rules (Annex II)

1. Programme summary

This Annex sets out the operational rules for the programme. The Programme Agreement is based on the MoUs, the Concept Note, and comments made by the FMC. Commitments, statements and guarantees, explicit as well as implicit, made in the Concept Note, are binding for the National Focal Point and the Programme Operator unless otherwise explicitly stipulated in the annexes to this Programme Agreement.

Outcome 1 "Coastal cultural heritage revitalization and resilience enhanced" shall be addressed through two open calls (Call 1 and Call 2).

Call 1 shall support the revitalisation of coastal cultural heritage in the context of climate change by combining the restoration of tangible assets with the promotion of intangible cultural heritage, ensuring strong engagement of local communities, while giving particular attention to island territories and less densely populated coastal areas.

Call 2 shall support interdisciplinary research, innovation, and digitalisation to safeguard coastal cultural heritage in the face of climate change, providing tools for sustainable management and addressing climate disinformation.

Outcome 2 "Improved access to arts in low-density municipalities" shall be addressed through one open call (Call 3).

Call 3 shall support artistic programming projects in low-density areas[6], developed with and for local communities to enhance artistic offer, access, and participation, encompassing diverse art forms in connection with local knowledge and practices, while ensuring balanced geographical distribution, and fostering capacity-building, audience development, and cultural engagement.

Projects addressing challenges experienced as a result of the invasion of Ukraine shall be encouraged within the Programme, as relevant.

2. Selection of projects

2.1 Calls and availability of funds (including number of calls, duration of calls, and estimated size):

Modality	Available amount (€)	Project grant rate (%)	Minimum and maximum project grant amount (€)	Indicative launch date and duration of call
Outcome 1				

[6] For the purposes of this Agreement, "low-density areas" shall be understood in accordance with Deliberação n. º 31/2023/PL.

Call 1	€4,926,059	85%	€750,000 – €1,000,000	Launch date: July 2026-December 2026 Duration: five months
Call 2	€1,000,000	85%	€150,000 – €200,000	Launch date: January 2027- June 2027 Duration: minimum three months
Outcome 2				
Call 3	€3,600,000	85%	€250,000 – €450,000	Launch date: July 2026-December 2026 Duration: five months

The project grant rate shall in all cases be set at a level that complies with the State Aid rules in force and takes into account any and all other forms of public support granted to projects. Any remaining costs of the project shall be provided or obtained by the Project Promoter and/or the project partners.

The Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality shall be consulted in developing the calls for proposals to ensure effective gender mainstreaming.

Call l specifics:

- Projects shall target an eligible site, meaning a site that is:
    - Classified as a Public Interest Monument, Municipal Interest Monument, or "in the process of being listed", and;
    - An asset of coastal character, with links to intangible heritage.[7]
- Projects shall include a project sustainability plan in respect of the use of the heritage restored.
- Projects shall include strategies promoting inclusion and equality.
- Partnership with Donor State entities shall be encouraged.
- Alongside the revitalisation of tangible cultural assets, all projects shall include measures aimed at safeguarding, promoting and valorising relevant intangible heritage, ensuring that heritage is safeguarded as a living resource for present and future generations.
- The maximum level of funding for investment in infrastructure and equipment (hard measures) of projects selected under Call 1 is set at 75% of the total eligible expenditure of each project.

[7] "Intangible heritage" as defined in Article 2 of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

- During the assessment of project applications specific attention shall be given to proposed project timeframes, to ensure that sufficient time is foreseen for the implementation of soft measures.
- Applications targeting the Azores Archipelago, Madeira Archipelago, and/or low-density coastal areas shall be prioritised through the award of additional points.
- Due regard shall be paid during the selection process to a balanced geographical distribution of projects, and to adequate administrative resources in projects targeting strengthened participation in low-density areas.

Call 2 specifics:

- The maximum level of funding for investment in infrastructure and equipment (hard measures) of projects selected under Call 2 is set at 25% of the total eligible expenditure of each project.

Call 3 specifics:

- The maximum level of funding for investment in infrastructure and equipment (hard measures) of projects selected under Call 3 is set at 15% of the total eligible expenditure of each project.
- Applicants shall demonstrate how gender equality and the participation of other underrepresented groups are integrated in the projects.
- Applications shall include a project sustainability plan, addressing how the project engages with the local area.
- Projects shall be implemented in municipalities located in a low-density area in mainland Portugal and/or in the autonomous regions of Azores and Madeira.
- Due regard shall be paid during the selection process to adequate administrative resources in projects targeting strengthened participation in low-density areas.

2.2 Eligible applicants and project partners:

Modality	**Eligible applicants**	**Eligible partners**
Call 1	Any public entity, commercial or non-commercial, established as a legal person in Portugal.	Any entity, public or private, commercial or non-commercial and non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person in Portugal or one of the Donor States, actively involved in, and effectively contributing to, the implementation of a project.
Call 2	Any entity, public or private, commercial or	Any entity, public or private, commercial or non-commercial and non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person in Portugal or one of the Donor States, actively involved in, and

	non-commercial and non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person in Portugal.	effectively contributing to, the implementation of a project. Mandatory partnership with at least one entity from one of the Donor States.
Call 3	Any private entity or non-governmental organisation established as a legal person in Portugal, that develops professional activity in the cultural and artistic sectors as defined in the Decree law n. º 103/2017, 24.08. Private foundations or public foundations governed by private law that receive other forms of continuous funding ensured through the budget programme of the governmental area of culture, as well as associations predominantly composed of public entities and companies belonging to the State and autonomous regions' business sector, shall not be eligible.	Any entity, public or private, commercial or non-commercial and non-governmental organisations established as a legal person in Portugal or one of the Donor States, actively involved in, and effectively contributing to, the implementation of a project. Natural persons legally resident in Liechtenstein. Mandatory partnership with at least one municipality located in a low-density area in mainland Portugal or in the autonomous regions of Azores and Madeira. Mandatory partnership with at least one entity from one of the Donor States who operates in the cultural and creative sectors.[8]

2.3 Selection procedures:

Arts and Culture Norway and the Icelandic Centre for Research shall be voting members of the Selection Committee for Call 3. The Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage shall be a voting member of the Selection Committees for Calls 1 and 2.

The Programme Partner (DG ARTES) shall be responsible for the selection process under Call 3 and shall perform all tasks of the Programme Operator foreseen in Articles 7.3, 7.4, 7.5 and 7.6 of the Regulation. The Programme Operator (Património Cultural, I.P) shall be invited to participate in the Selection Committee for Call 3 as an observer.

The Programme Operator and DG ARTES shall, during the selection process, identify cases where the project applied for is connected to support already granted to the same beneficiaries through schemes operated by the Programme Operator or DG ARTES, with a view to identifying any potential conflicts of interest in the selection process. Any such conflicts shall be disclosed and mitigated.

[8] "Cultural and creative sectors" as defined in Regulation (EU) 2021/818 establishing the Creative Europe Programme (2021-2027).

3. Pre-defined projects

N/A

4. Bilateral relations

The funds for bilateral relations allocated to the Programme shall be used to strengthen cooperation and promote partnerships between Portugal and the Donor States. Support shall be provided for a variety of activities, including, *inter alia,* matchmaking seminars, travel, and initiatives addressing diversity, gender and harassment in the arts and heritage sectors.

The funds for bilateral relations shall include support for capacity-building activities organised by the Programme Partner. The activities shall be implemented in collaboration with experts, artists, and arts organisations from Portugal and the Donor States, aiming to enhance knowledge, exchange and capacity-building in areas related to the objectives of Outcome 2.

The further use of the funds for bilateral relations allocated to the Programme shall be agreed by the Cooperation Committee.

The Cooperation Committee shall consist of representatives from the Programme Operator, the Programme Partner and the Donor Programme Partners. The Programme Operator, the Programme Partner and the Donor Programme Partners shall agree on the rules and procedures applicable to the Cooperation Committee.

5. Programme management and financial parameters

5.1 Special rules on eligibility of costs:

- Programme management costs shall take the following form: Direct staff costs shall be claimed in accordance with 8.6.2 (a); travel costs may take the form of lump sums calculated in accordance with Article 8.3.2 of the Regulation; all other direct costs shall take the form of actually incurred costs. Indirect costs shall be claimed through the application of a flat rate of 7 % of eligible direct costs in accordance with Article 8.5.1(a) of the Regulation.

- Costs for the purchase of land and/or real estate shall not be eligible.

5.2 Programme administrative structures:

The programme is operated by the Património Cultural, Instituto Público. The Directorate-General for the Arts shall act as Programme Partner and shall take on tasks related to the implementation, management and monitoring of projects supported under Outcome 2. These tasks shall include, *inter alia*, the development and launch of calls for proposals, the establishment and functioning of the selection committee, the evaluation and selection of project applications, signing of project contracts, verification of expenditure, processing of payments and monitoring of the financial and physical implementation of supported projects.

6. Miscellaneous

N/A