Iceland Liechtenstein Norway grants

MINISTRY OF INVESTMENTS, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INFORMATIZATION OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

# Call for proposals

# CULTURAL COOPERATION
## CLD02

**Culture Driven Local Development**
**EEA Grants 2021-2028 Slovak Republic**

## The purpose of this call

The purpose of this call is to identify and support projects to reinforce freedom of expression by supporting artistic creation, cultural exchange and mobility, while fostering safe spaces for dialogue and cultural engagement – including for young people, promoting social inclusion and strengthening resilience to disinformation.

## Basic information

| | |
|---|---|
| **Programme Operator** | Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic |
| **Announcement of call** | 05.05.2026 CEST |
| **Start date for submission of applications** | 05.05.2026 CEST |
| **Deadline for submission of applications** | 05.08.2026 CEST, 23:59 CEST |
| **Eligible applicants** | Any entity, public or private, commercial or non-commercial and non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person in Slovakia and operating in the cultural and creative sectors[1]<br>Natural persons shall not be eligible.<br>Mandatory partnership with at least one entity from one of the Donor States[2]. |
| **Eligible partners** | Any public or private entity, commercial or non-commercial, as well as non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person either in the Beneficiary States[3] or a country outside the European Economic Area that has a common border with Slovakia[4], or any international organisation or body or agency thereof, actively involved in, and effectively contributing to, the implementation of a project.<br><br>Natural persons shall not be eligible.<br><br>For Donor State partners: Any entity, public or private, commercial or non-commercial and non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person |

[1] "**Cultural and creative sectors**" shall be understood according to the definition in Regulation (EU) 2021/818 establishing the Creative Europe Programme (2021 to 2027).
[2] Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein
[3] Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia
4 Ukraine

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | in one of the Donor States, operating in the cultural or creative sectors actively involved in, and effectively contributing to, the implementation of a project.<br><br>Natural persons shall not be eligible. | | | |
| **Total amount available** | EUR 9,732,941 | | | |
| **Minimum grant amount** | EUR 200,000 | | | |
| **Maximum grant amount** | EUR 700,000 | | | |
| **Maximum grant rate** | Public sector<br>100 % | Non-governmental<br>95% | Private entities<br>95% | Other<br>95% |
| **Minimum co-financing requirement** | Public sector<br>0% | Non-governmental<br>5% | Private entities<br>5% | Other<br>5% |
| **Duration of projects** | Minimum<br>36 months | | Maximum<br>48 months | |

## Specific objectives and expected results

**Objective of the EEA Grants**

The EEA Grants contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area and to the strengthening of relations between Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway and Slovak Republic.

The EEA Grants promote the European green transition, democracy, rule of law and human rights and social inclusion and resilience.

Support from the EEA Grants is based on the common values and principles of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and the respect for human rights including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. All activities funded by the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028 shall be consistent with respect for these values and principles.

**Objective of the programme**

The programme objective is to increase participation, sustainability, and diversity in arts, culture, and heritage. To achieve this, the programme uses creative placemaking and participatory planning, working with local residents, cultural operators and other stakeholders to protect, interpret, and manage heritage in ways that reflect local needs and values. It embraces environmental responsibility, cultural meaning, social inclusion, and economic benefits. The programme also supports artistic creation, mobility, and international exchanges that broaden access to culture and build audiences, with particular attention to women, young people, minorities and people in vulnerable situations. It values cultural diversity, ensures no one is left out. Reducing socio-economic disparities is a core goal.

Therefore the programme directs support to disadvantaged areas[5] and vulnerable or marginalised communities[6], including Roma.

The programme has two **outcomes**:

1. Revitalised and sustainably managed cultural heritage,
2. Cultural participation and artistic freedom strengthened.

**Objective and focus of this call**

The objective of the call is to support projects to reinforce freedom of expression by supporting artistic creation, cultural exchange and mobility, while fostering safe spaces for dialogue and cultural engagement – including for young people, promoting social inclusion and strengthening resilience to disinformation.

The call focuses on projects that combine high artistic quality with social impact. High-quality artistic creation is placed at the core ensuring that artistic excellence remains central to all supported activities. Building on this foundation supported projects shall respond to the following needs and challenges:

- create safe spaces for dialogue and cultural engagement;
- strengthen access to culture and participation in cultural life;
- support vulnerable and marginalised communities, including Roma;
- promote media and information literacy, critical engagement and resilience to disinformation;
- build networked cooperation among cultural operators and local stakeholders; and
- contribute to the long-term resilience, knowledge and capacity of the cultural sector.

**Specific provisions of the call**

Each project shall be implemented in partnership with at least one eligible partner from the Donor States.

Priority shall be given to independent cultural operators[7] that operate as inclusive cultural and community hubs.

The highest-ranked project in each self-governing region[8] implemented in partnership between two or more independent cultural operators shall be supported, provided that it meets a minimum quality standard[9].

The three highest-ranked projects targeting vulnerable or marginalised communities shall be supported, provided that they meet the minimum quality standard. At least one supported project shall address marginalised Roma communities as the primary target group. For the purposes of this call, projects targeting vulnerable or marginalised communities shall be identified on the basis of

[5] "**Disadvantage area**" shall mean priority districts[6] or disadvantage regions designated in the regional aid map pursuant to Article 107(3)(a) TFEU and represent the most disadvantaged areas of the European Union in terms of economic development. In Slovakia, under the current regional aid map, these areas comprise the following NUTS 2 regions: SK02 Western Slovakia, SK03 Central Slovakia, and SK04 Eastern Slovakia.

[6] "**Vulnerable or marginalised communities**" shall mean communities whose members face structural barriers to participation in cultural and community life due to social, economic, territorial, ethnic, cultural, disability-related or age-related disadvantage, and who are therefore at greater risk of exclusion, underrepresentation, limited access to cultural expression and weaker resilience to disinformation, hate speech and extremism. This includes, in particular, Roma from marginalised Roma communities, social, ethnic and cultural minorities, persons with disabilities, women, and young people in disadvantaged areas or in situations of vulnerability.

[7] "**Independent cultural operator**" shall mean non-public legal entities active in the cultural and creative sectors.

[8] "**Self-governing regions**" refers to the "Vyššie územné celky" (VÚC)

[9] "**Minimum quality standards"** shall mean 60 points on average - projects receiving less than 60 points on average shall not be supported.

the description provided in the application form and the relevant selection criterion/criteria assessing inclusion, outreach and demonstrated benefits for such communities.

Projects addressing challenges arising from the invasion of Ukraine shall receive additional points in the assessment process. Particular attention shall be given to projects that encourage collaboration with Ukrainian artists in Slovakia.

**Expected results**

Supported projects are expected to support high quality artistic creation and make the cultural sector more open, inclusive and resilient. They should strengthen freedom of cultural expression, improve access to arts and culture, foster participation in cultural life, create safe spaces for dialogue, support media and information literacy through artistic and cultural formats, and strengthen bilateral cooperation through Donor State partnerships.

Projects supported under this call shall contribute to programme **outcome 2 – Cultural participation and artistic freedom strengthened**, and the following programme Outputs:

- **Output 2.1 – Artistic creation, presentation and mobility delivered**
- **Output 2.2 – Safe and inclusive cultural participation and information integrity enhanced**
- **Output 2.3 – Audience development, community participation, and digital reach expanded**
- **Output 2.4 – Sectoral resilience, knowledge and capacity increased**

Each supported project is expected to contribute to improved access to culture, active participation, artistic or cultural production, and the resilience and professional capacity of the cultural sector. Therefore, the following indicators are mandatory for each Project, meaning that the target values for these indicators have to be filled in:

- Number of local communities with improved access to arts and culture.
- Number of people from local communities participating in cultural activities.
- Number of arts or cultural events supported.
- Number of safe spaces created or regularly operated.
- Number of events encouraging cultural dialogue and promoting media and information literacy (MIL).
- Number of local multi-stakeholder partnerships created.
- Number of artists and cultural professionals either directly involved in project activities or indirectly benefiting from the supported organisations.

In addition, the applicant shall set the target values for **at least three** of the following indicators:

- Number of independent artist groups supported.
- Number of artists or cultural experts participating in residency sessions / mobility events.
- Number of arts or cultural events co-created with members of vulnerable groups.
- Number of community-led cultural initiatives delivered.
- Number of digital outputs (streams, virtual tours, podcasts, apps) developed.
- Number of events that include accessibility measures for people with disabilities.
- Number of independent cultural operators involved in the projects.

Target values for the indicators above shall be realistic, verifiable and proportionate to the scope, scale and budget of the proposed activities. The target value must not be zero.

The full list of indicators as well as the minimum target values are listed in the table below.

| Tick if relevant | | Project Target values |
|---|---|---|
| ☒Outcome 2 | **Cultural participation and artistic freedom strengthened** | |
| ☒Indicator | Number of local communities with improved access to arts and culture | At least 1 |
| ☒Indicator | Number of people from local communities participating in cultural activities | At least 100 |
| ☒Output 2.1 | **Artistic creation, presentation and mobility delivered** | |
| ☒Indicator | Number of independent artist groups supported | Minimum not set |
| ☒Indicator | Number of artists or cultural experts participating in residency sessions / mobility events | Minimum not set |
| ☒Indicator | Number of arts or cultural events supported | At least 1 |
| ☒Output 2.2 | **Safe and inclusive cultural participation and information integrity enhanced** | |
| ☒Indicator | Number of events encouraging cultural dialogue and promoting media and information literacy (MIL) | At least 1 |
| ☒Indicator | Number of safe spaces created or regularly operated | At least 1 |
| ☒Indicator | Number of arts or cultural events co- created with members of vulnerable groups | Minimum not set |
| ☒Output 2.3 | **Audience development, community participation, and digital reach expanded** | |
| ☒Indicator | Number of local multi-stakeholder partnerships created | At least 1 |
| ☒Indicator | Number of community-led cultural initiatives delivered | Minimum not set |
| ☒Indicator | Number of digital outputs (streams, virtual tours, podcasts, apps) developed | Minimum not set |
| ☒Indicator | Number of events that include accessibility measures for people with disabilities | Minimum not set |
| ☒Output 2.4 | **Sectoral resilience, knowledge and capacity increased** | |
| ☒Indicator | Number of artists and cultural professionals either directly involved in project activities or indirectly benefiting from the supported organisations | At least 10 |
| ☒Indicator | Number of independent cultural operators involved in the projects | Minimum not set |

## Eligible applicants and partners

**Eligible applicants**

Any entity, public or private, commercial or non-commercial, including non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person in Slovakia and operating in the cultural and creative sectors. Natural persons are not eligible.

Mandatory partnership with at least one entity from one of the Donor States.

**Eligible partners from Slovakia**

Any public or private entity, commercial or non-commercial, including non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person in Slovakia actively involved in, and effectively contributing to, the implementation of a project..

Natural persons are not eligible.

**Eligible partners from Donor States**

Any entity, public or private, commercial or non-commercial, including non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person in one of the Donor States and operating in the cultural or creative sectors actively involved in, and effectively contributing to, the implementation of a project. .

| | |
|---|---|
| | Natural persons are not eligible. |
| **Eligible partners from other eligible countries, international organisations** | Any public or private entity, commercial or non-commercial, including non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person in a country outside the European Economic Area that shares a border with Slovakia, and any international organisation or body or agency thereof actively involved in, and effectively contributing to, the implementation of a project.<br><br>Natural persons are not eligible. |

## Partnership

| | |
|---|---|
| **Who is a partner?** | A partner is an entity actively involved in, and effectively contributing to, the implementation of a project. It shares with the project promoter a common economic or social goal which is to be realised through the implementation of that project. In this regard, a consultant, contractor, supplier or service provider is not considered a partner. |
| **Partnership with Donor State entities** | Partnership with at least one eligible Donor State partner is mandatory under this call. The applicant and the partner(s) shall agree on their roles, responsibilities, costs and timing of contributions and submit a signed letter of intent or draft partnership agreement with the application.<br><br>A draft partnership agreement shall be submitted before the signing of the project contract. The application shall clearly describe the added value of the Donor State partner, including its part of the budget, its role in project design, implementation, artistic exchange, mobility, learning and, where relevant, sustainability after project completion. |

## Eligible activities

| | |
|---|---|
| Thematic scope of activities | Projects combining high-quality artistic creation with social impact are strongly aligned with the objectives and scope of this call.. Eligible projects may include artistic and cultural activities across disciplines, including performances and other creative formats, as well as residencies, creative labs, mobility, capacity-building and bilateral cooperation with Donor State partners.<br><br>Projects may also use artistic and cultural formats to strengthen freedom of expression, dialogue, critical engagement, media and information literacy, and resilience to disinformation, hate speech and extremism. Particular attention shall be given to young people and to inclusive safe spaces for expression and dialogue.<br><br>Projects may improve access to culture and involve marginalised and vulnerable communities, including Roma, women, minorities and persons with disabilities, as participants, creators and, where relevant, partners. Projects may also broaden outreach through community-based and digital formats and strengthen the long-term resilience, knowledge and capacity of the cultural sector.<br><br>The project may address challenges arising from the invasion of Ukraine in a way relevant to the objectives of the call - support inclusion, dialogue, cultural participation, or collaboration with Ukrainian artists in Slovakia and /or engage with themes of migration, identity, trauma, solidarity, and intercultural understanding. |
| **Geographic scope of activities** | The call shall be open to projects implemented in the entire territory of Slovakia. |

The highest-ranked project **in each self-governing region** implemented in partnership between two or more independent cultural operators shall be supported, provided they meet a minimum quality standard.

**Activities eligible for support**

**Mandatory activities**

Each project shall include the following activities:

a) high-quality artistic and cultural creation and presentation forming the core of the project, while improving access to culture and participation of local communities;
b) activities fostering safe dialogue and cultural engagement, as well as strengthening media and information literacy, critical thinking, and resilience to disinformation, hate speech, and extremism.

Where possible, activities shall be delivered in networked cooperation among cultural operators, or between cultural operators and local stakeholders, with shared programming, audience development, or joint governance, including the creation or formalisation of at least one local multi-stakeholder partnership. **The amount of grant applied for shall take into account the number of partners supported under the Project.**

**Other possible activities**

**Artistic creation**

- Commissioning and showcasing high-quality art work and performances across disciplines
- Residencies and creative labs for innovation;
- Artistic and cultural events, as well as study trips, organised in bilateral partnerships with Donor State entities.

**Freedom of expression, dialogue, and resilience**

- Seminars and workshops linking art with media and information literacy and information integrity practices, educating the public on how to identify and combat disinformation through creative formats;
- Creating platforms for artists to express themselves freely and offering networking opportunities to support and protect artists advocating against extremism and disinformation;
- Bilateral study trips, residencies, and exchanges encouraging cultural dialogue and strengthening networks of artists working against disinformation and hate speech;
- Youth-focused cultural programmes, workshops, and events providing creative outlets and safe spaces for young people to build resilience.

**Inclusion, outreach, and diversity**[10]

- Community-led cultural initiatives facilitating dialogue across social, ethnic, and political groups, using art as a neutral space for building understanding and tolerance;
- Promotion of diverse artistic and cultural programming, highlighting underrepresented voices to foster inclusivity and combat divisive narratives;
- Creation and utilisation of digital platforms and virtual experiences to expand the reach of cultural events and artistic works, promoting tolerance and combating extremism through innovative digital art.

[10] **Methodological Guide for Organising Cultural Events for Persons with Disabilities** (Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic) – practical tips for physical and information accessibility at events.

**Sector resilience, knowledge, and capacity**

- Mapping the cultural and artistic environment, and preparing strategic documents and policy proposals at local, regional, and national level;
- Organisation of workshops and courses to improve management skills, leadership, and audience development;
- Reflection and research on contemporary art and culture in its various forms (fine art, popular culture, traditional culture, everyday culture) from different perspectives;
- Publishing materials on management, leadership, and reflection on culture and the arts, with emphasis on environmental sustainability and technological innovation.

This list is not exhaustive.

**Activities not eligible for support**

*Please list any explicit limitations to the categories of eligible activities, If relevant.*

Not relevant

## Eligible expenditure and forms of grant

**Start and final dates of eligibility of expenditure**

Expenditures are eligible as of the date of the Programme Operator's decision to award the project grant. The Programme Operator shall in the same decision fix the final date of eligibility of expenditure which shall be no later than the date referred to under paragraph 5 of Article 8.14 of the Regulation[11] (currently 30 April 2031).

**Eligible expenditure**

The categories of expenditure are as follows:

**Eligible direct expenditures**

- **the cost of staff** assigned to the project, comprising actual salaries plus social security charges and other statutory costs included in the remuneration, provided that this corresponds to the Project Promoter's and project partner's usual policy on remuneration. The corresponding salary costs of staff of national administrations are eligible to the extent that they relate to the cost of activities which the relevant public authority would not carry out if the project concerned were not undertaken;
- **travel and subsistence allowances** for staff and participants in the project, provided that this corresponds to the usual policy of the Project Promoter and project partner on travel allowances;
- **cost of new or second-hand equipment**[12]. Taking into account the expected duration of the project implementation, the Programme Operator has determined that the equipment constitutes an integral and necessary component for achieving the project outcomes; therefore, by way of exception to Article 8.2.3, the full purchase price of the equipment is eligible;
- **purchase of land and real estate** under the conditions set in Article 8.8;
- **costs of consumables and supplies**, provided that they are identifiable and assigned to the project;
- **costs entailed by other contracts** awarded by a Project Promoter or project partner for the purposes of carrying out the project, provided that

[11] "**the Regulation**" shall be understood as the Regulation on the implementation of the European Economic Area (EEA)/Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2021–2028.

[12] "**Equipment"** shall mean costs related to tangible and intangible fixed assets in accordance with the applicable accounting rules of the country in which the project promoter and/or project partner is established and with generally applicable accounting legislation.

the awarding complies with the applicable rules on public procurement and this Regulation; and

- **costs arising directly from requirements imposed by the project contract** for each project.

**Indirect costs** are all eligible costs that cannot be directly attributed to the project. They may not include any eligible direct costs. Indirect costs shall represent a fair apportionment of the overall overheads of the Project Promoter and/or project partner(s). Project Promoters and project partners may identify their indirect costs according to one of the following methods: 15% of direct eligible staff costs or 7% of direct eligible costs.

The inclusion of an expenditure item in the project budget approved by the Programme Operator shall not be regarded as proof of its eligibility.

Project partners from Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein are strongly encouraged to make use of the option of documenting expenditures by means of a report by an independent auditor/a report issued by a competent and independent public officer in line with the 8.12.3 of the Regulation and to include the costs related to such audits in the project budget.

Project partners shall be involved in the budgeting process prior to application submission in order to determine the appropriate grant form(s) to be applied during project implementation.

**Limits on certain categories of expenditure**

| **Category of expenditure** | **Limits (max. % of project eligible expenditure)** |
|---|---|
| The maximum share of eligible expenditure for infrastructure and equipment of the project | Up to 20% of the total eligible expenditure of the project |

**Non-eligible expenditure**

*Please list any exclusions to eligible expenditure, if relevant.*

In line with the Article 8.9 of the Regulation on the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028 the following costs shall not be considered eligible:

- interest on debt, debt service charges and late payment charges;
- charges for financial transactions and other purely financial costs, except costs related to accounts required by the NMFA, the National Focal Point or the applicable law and costs of financial services imposed by the project contract;
- provisions for losses or potential future liabilities;
- exchange losses;
- recoverable VAT;
- costs that are covered by other sources;
- fines, penalties and costs of litigation, except where litigation is an integral and necessary component for achieving the outcomes of the project; and
- excessive or reckless expenditure.

**Forms of grant**

The following forms of grant will be applicable to the below categories of expenditure.

| Category of expenditure | Form of grant | Method of calculation |
|---|---|---|
| Staff costs | Real Costs | fixed percentage of the gross employment costs |
| Staff costs | Flat rate for direct staff costs | 20 % of the eligible direct costs other than the direct staff costs of that project |
| Travel costs | Flat rate for Travel Costs | A flat rate of **15%** of the direct staff costs of the Project Promoter and of each Project Partner that expects to claim this cost category shall apply to Projects with at least one donor project partner under Article 4.4 of the Regulation.<br><br>A flat rate of **6%** of the direct staff costs of the Project Promoter and of each Project Partner that expects to claim this cost category shall apply to Projects without a donor project partner, but with at least one other Project Partner.[13] |
| Travel costs | Unit Costs | According to the Commission Decision (EC) C(2024) 5405, as amended |
| Costs of new or used equipment, or depreciation of equipment | Real Costs | Based on submitted invoices |
| Costs of consumables and supplies | Real Costs | Costs of consumables and supplies (deliveries) that can be directly attributed to the Project |
| Costs of consumables and supplies | Flat rate for Indirect costs | Costs for consumables and supplies (deliveries) that cannot be directly attributed to the Project (these are listed by way of example in Section D.8.7.1 of the Project Implementation Manual). |
| Purchase of land and buildings | Real Costs | Based on submitted invoices |
| Costs arising from other contract | Real Costs | Based on submitted invoices |
| Costs arising from Project Contract | Real Costs | Based on submitted invoices |
| Indirect costs | Flat rate | 15% of direct eligible staff costs or 7% of direct eligible costs |
| Preparatory costs | Real Cost | Based on submitted invoices, max. 5 % of Total eligible project costs |
| Preparatory costs | Lump Sum | A lump sum of EUR 19,200 shall apply to Projects with total eligible expenditure exceeding EUR 500,000.<br>A lump sum of EUR 8,000 shall apply to all other Projects. |

[13] The flat rates are set out in line with the article 8.3.2 b) of the Regulation - an application of corresponding unit costs, lump sums and flat rates applicable in European Union policies for a similar type of project. Travel costs Flat rate represents the percentage of direct eligible staff costs determined in accordance with the methodology set out in Article 41 of Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1059 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on specific provisions concerning the European Territorial Cooperation (Interreg) supported by the European Regional Development Fund and external financial instruments.

Specific provisions on establishing the amounts to be used via flat rates, unit costs and lump sums shall be determined in the project contract.

The use of flat rates, unit costs and lump sums, their amount and the way they are calculated for a project partner shall also be agreed beforehand and later stipulates in the partnership agreement between the Project Promoter and the project partner.

For further information, please consult the Project implementation manual.

## Financing conditions and reporting

**Forms of payment**

Payment of the project grant shall take the form of advance payments and a final payment. The first advance payment, if any, shall be due following the signature of the project contract. Further payment requests are linked to the project reporting schedule.

**Reporting**

Project Promoters shall report on the progress of their project via interim reports and a final report upon the completion of the project ( part of payment requests). Reporting deadlines shall be set in the project contract.

| | % of project grant | Condition of payment | Deadline for payment |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Advance payment** | Maximum 20% | Signature of project contract (first advance payment), submitted payment request (subsequent advance payments) | 15 working days following the approval |

## State aid

**State aid regime applied for the call**

The Programme Operator shall ensure that the grant is awarded in compliance with the applicable state aid rules in force at the time the aid is granted. Where the grant constitutes state aid, the Programme Operator shall assess compatibility with the applicable State Aid Scheme.

The legal basis for granting the aid will be either a scheme complying with the conditions laid down in the GBER[14], or an individually notified scheme based on the same substantive conditions as the GBER, but allowing for the use of simplified cost reporting, which is not provided for under the GBER currently in force or an aid scheme notified to the Commission that has the same conditions as the GBER but allows for the use of simplified expenditure reporting. Applicants are encouraged to consult both the GBER in advance. If the grant constitutes state aid, neither the applicant nor any partner receiving state aid under the Scheme may be an undertaking in difficulty. Where eligible project costs fall outside the Scheme, the relevant part of the grant may be provided as de minimis aid, if the applicable conditions are met.

**Information requested related to state aid**

Successful applicants and their partners may be requested to provide information required under the State Aid Scheme or de minimis scheme.

## Submission of applications

[14] Commission Regulation declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market pursuant to Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty

**Form and content of project applications**

Project applications shall be prepared in English language by filling in the application form, the budget, and providing further information, including the disclosure of any consultant involved in the preparation of the project application (see documents in the Annex).

The Executive Summary is necessary and important due to the involvement of persons from abroad at different stages of the evaluation.

The application shall clearly describe:

- the project's primary target group(s) and, where relevant, secondary target group(s), including their needs, barriers to participation and expected benefit; The application shall explain their needs, barriers to participation, the relevance of the proposed activities for these groups, and the measures that will be used to reach and involve them as audiences, participants, co-creators and/or partners, as relevant.
- how artistic quality and excellence are ensured, and, where relevant, on artistic exchange and mobility.
- how the proposed activities respond to these needs and how target groups will be reached and meaningfully involved;
- the project management structure, division of responsibilities, implementation timetable, and main risks and mitigation measures;
- the format, frequency, facilitation approach and accessibility of safe spaces to be created or regularly operated;
- how the proposed artistic and cultural activities contribute to media and information literacy, critical engagement, information integrity, or resilience to disinformation, hate speech and extremism;
- the composition, roles and expected contribution of the networked cooperation and local multi-stakeholder partnership;
- the specific added value of the Donor State partner, including its part of the budget, its role in project design, implementation, artistic exchange, mobility, learning and, where relevant, sustainability after project completion;
- the audience development, outreach and communication approach;
- where relevant, any digital outputs and/or accessibility measures for people with disabilities;
- the expected sustainability of project results after completion;
- where relevant, whether the applicant and/or partner organisations qualify as independent cultural operators and how they operate as inclusive cultural and community hubs; and
- where the applicant claims relevance to challenges arising from the invasion of Ukraine, the target groups, activities, expected benefit and, where relevant, the role of Ukrainian artists in Slovakia.
- where the applicant claims relevance to the inclusion of vulnerable or marginalised communities the application shall clearly describe whether such communities constitute a primary target group or a secondary target group of the project, and how the project is designed to ensure their meaningful participation and expected benefit.
- where the applicant claims relevance to the project targets marginalised Roma communities as a primary target group, the application shall clearly describe the expected benefit for these communities, the proposed outreach and participation approach, and the role of Roma participants, creators, partners or community actors in the project, where relevant.

The following mandatory attachments shall be submitted with the application:

- partnership statement, letter of intent or similar document proving the partner's interest in participating in the project;
- title deeds or another valid legal relationship to any property on which construction work will take place, if relevant

Optional attachments may be submitted within the Application. Relevant supporting documentation demonstrating compliance with individual selection criteria, if relevant, is recommended as optional annexes.

Please carefully consult the Project implementation manual when preparing the application.

**Method of submission**

Project applications shall be submitted electronically via EGRANT system accessible at direct link before the deadline specified under the Basic Information section of this call. In the EGRANT system it is necessary to register for the Call on the following link https://norway.egrant.sk/. The procedure for submitting the Application is set out in the Project Implementation Manual. Instructions for completing the Application Form are provided directly in the Application Form in the EGRANT system.

**Limitations on the submission of applications**

Not relevant

## Selection procedure

**General information**

The Programme Operator shall be responsible for project selection and the award of grants.

**Administrative and eligibility checks**

The Administrative Compliance Check and the Eligibility Check of the Project Application and the Applicant are adequately ensured by the technical means of the EGRANT system and are not carried out by the Programme Operator. It remains, however, that the provision of false information by the Applicant may constitute grounds for the rejection of the Project Application. In such case, the Applicant may submit an appeal against the rejection within 5 working days from the delivery of the notification through the EGRANT system. The appeal shall be addressed to eeagrants@mirri.gov.sk and reviewed by the Section of European Territorial Cooperation.

**Assessment**

Each application shall be evaluated by three impartial experts. Each expert shall score the application against the published selection criteria. The final score used for ranking shall be the average of the expert scores, unless the Selection Committee decides in a justified case to disregard one significantly divergent assessment and use the average of the two closest scores.

**Selection Committee**

The Programme Operator shall establish a Selection Committee to recommend projects for funding. The Selection Committee shall consist of five voting members possessing the relevant expertise. The decision-making of the Selection Committee shall be governed by its Statute and Rules of Procedure, which form an annex to the call.

The Programme Operator shall provide the Selection Committee with the list of ranked project applications. The Selection Committee shall review the ranked list of project applications and shall consult the Donor Programme Partner(s) and take

into account their recommendations regarding any Donor project partner(s) included in the project applications.

Any changes made by the Selection Committee to the ranking must be duly justified and recorded in the minutes. The Selection Committee shall submit the list of recommended projects to the Programme Operator.

**Grant award decision**

The Programme Operator shall verify that the selection process has been conducted in accordance with the Regulation and that the recommendation of the Selection Committee has been established in compliance with the rules and objectives of the programme. Following such verification the Programme Operator shall, based on the recommendation of the Selection Committee, make a decision on which projects shall be awarded a grant.

If the Programme Operator modifies the list of recommended projects by the Selection Committee, it shall inform the Selection Committee and the affected applicants and provide them with a justification.

The Programme Operator is entitled to establish a reserve list of Projects. In the event that available financial resources are released or increased, the Programme Operator is entitled to select from the reserve list of Projects the one whose project grant corresponds, to a reasonable extent, to the available financial resources. If more than one Project meets this criterion, the Programme Operator shall prioritise the Project Application that obtained the higher number of points in the expert assessment.

The Programme Operator shall notify the applicants about the results of the selection process within a reasonable time and publicise the results.

There is no legal entitlement to the project grant. The grant award decision of the Programme Operator may not be appealed.

**Project contracts**

Based on the grant award decision, the Programme Operator shall conclude a project contract with the Project Promoter setting out the terms and conditions of the grant and the roles and responsibilities of the parties.

## Provisional timeline

| | |
|---|---|
| Deadline for submission of applications | 05.08.2026 |
| Administrative and eligibility checks | 8/2026 |
| Assessment of applications | 9/2026 – 11/2026 |
| Decision on the award of grants | 12/2026 |
| Signature of project contracts | 12/2026 |
| Deadline for the completion of projects | 4/2031 |

## Further information, contacts for queries and the complaint mechanism

**Further information**

For further information please consult the following documents:

- Regulation on the implementation of the EEA/Norway Financial Mechanism 2021-2028

- Programme Agreement
  Management System of EEA and Norway Financial Mechanism 2021-2028
- System of financing and financial management of EEA and Norway Financial Mechanism 2021-2028
- Project Implementation Manual

**Contact for queries**

Any queries concerning the call may be directed to the following contacts no later than 7 working days before the deadline for the submission of applications. A written response shall be sent within 7 working days of the receipt of the query.

Frequently asked questions and answers, if any, will be published on the website of the call.

The Programme Operator can be contacted for queries by:

- e-mail: eeagrants@mirri.gov.sk (the request needs to be linked to the call – by call code CLD02
- phone: +421-2-20928464

**Contact to file a complaint**

To file a complaint please address it to the following e-mail/follow this link.

**Contact to Donor Programme Partners (if relevant)**

| **Iceland** | **Norway** |
|---|---|
| RANNÍS<br>(The Icelandic Centre for Research) | Arts and Culture Norway |
| Email:<br>rannis@rannis.is | Email:<br>erica.berthelsen@kulturdirektoratet.no<br>kultursamarbeid@kulturdirektoratet.no |
| Phone: +354 515 5800 | Phone: +47 21 04 58 00 |
| Website: www.rannis.is | Website: www.kulturdirektoratet.no |

## Annexes to the call for proposals

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|---|---|
| Annex 1 | Selection criteria and scoring chart for assessment |
| Annex 2 | Rules and Procedures of the Selection Committee |