

ALL

About the Culture Programme

Note that **L1** at the end of each heading refers to the relevant chapter in the official *Programme Guide*

1. Summary of Key Dates – Deadlines / Announcements / Start Dates **L.8**

Action	Deadline for Submission	Publication selection results at latest	Starting date	Duration
Strand 1.1 Multi-annual Cooperation Projects	1 October	31 March of the following year	1 May of the following year	3 to 5 years
Strand 1.2.1 Cooperation Projects	1 October	31 March of the following year	1 May of the following year	Max. 2 years
Strand 1.2.2 Literary Translation Projects	1 February	31 July of the same year	1 September	Max. 24 months
Strand 1.3 Cultural Cooperation Projects with Third Countries* *the selected Third Countries will be announced every year on the EACEA culture website	1 May	30 September of the same year	1 November	Max. 2 years
Strand 2 Annual operating grant for organisations active at European level in the field of Culture: a) Ambassadors b) Advocacy Networks c) Festivals d) Policy support structures for the Culture Agenda	1 November	31 March of the following year	The financial year following the submission of the application	<i>The financial year</i>
Strand 2 Framework partnership. (3 years) for organisations active at European level in the field of culture a) Ambassadors b) Advocacy Networks c) Festivals d) Policy support structures for the Culture Agenda	1 November 2010	31 March 2011	The financial year 2011	<i>The financial years 2011-2013</i>

2. Background **L1**

Culture is a relatively new sphere of action for the European Union (EU), at least from a legal standpoint: the legal basis for EU action in this field was only introduced in 1992 with the Maastricht Treaty¹. This action is aimed at encouraging and supporting cooperation within Europe in order to bring the European common cultural heritage to the fore.

The European Commission (hereafter "the Commission") encourages culture² in two ways:

- through policies, chiefly cultural policy³, but also by mainstreaming the cultural dimension in other areas of EU interest such as, for example, in competition or industrial policy;
- through financial support, primarily via the Culture Programme (2007-2013)⁴ (hereafter "the Programme"), but also via other actions such as, for example, within the framework of regional policy⁵.

These two aspects are closely linked as the Programme has been designed to serve policy development in the cultural field and ultimately to promote common cultural values aiming to enhance the cultural heritage shared by the peoples of Europe.

3. Eligible Actions and Applicants **L.3.1**

The Programme supports projects, organisations, promotional activities and research in all branches of culture, except the audiovisual branch for which there is a separate programme, the MEDIA programme⁶. Cultural operators, including cultural enterprises, can participate in the Programme as long as they are acting in a non-profit-making cultural capacity.

Eligible applicants must:

- be a *public*⁷ or *private* organisation with legal status, whose principal activity is in the cultural sphere (cultural and creative sectors); and
- have their registered legal seat in one of the *eligible countries*.

Natural persons are **not** eligible to apply for a grant under this Programme.

⁶ http://eacea.eu.europa.eu/media/index_en.htm

¹ Article 151, formerly 128 and to become article 167 in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union once the Lisbon Treaty enters into force.

² http://ec.europa.eu/culture/index_en.htm

³ Culture policy website: http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-policy-development/doc397_en.htm

⁴ Established for the period 2007-2013 by European Parliament/Council Decision n° 1855/2006/EC on 12 December 2006 and published in the EU Official Journal n° L 372 on 27 December 2006.

⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.htm

⁷ Public organisation is considered as any organisation, any part of whose costs are financed from the State budget as of right, either by central, regional or local government. That is, these costs are financed from public sector funds raised through taxation or fines or fees regulated by law, without going through an application process which might result in their being unsuccessful in obtaining funds. Organisations that depend on state funding for their existence and receive grants year after year, but for which there exists at least the theoretical possibility that they may fail to receive money in a given year are considered to be private organisations.

4. Eligible Countries **1.3.2**

Countries eligible under this Programme are:

- EU Member States⁸;
- EEA⁹ countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway);
- Candidate countries for EU membership (Croatia, Turkey and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) plus Serbia.

The countries of the western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Montenegro) could become eligible in the future, subject to the conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding concerning the participation of each of those countries in the Programme¹⁰.

All those countries that are not included in the above list of *eligible countries* are referred to as *Third Countries*.

5. Objectives of the Programme **1.4.1**

The Programme has been established to enhance the cultural area shared by Europeans, which is based on a common cultural heritage, through the development of cooperation activities among cultural operators from *eligible countries*¹¹, with a view to encouraging the emergence of European citizenship.

The Programme has three specific objectives:

- promotion of the trans-national mobility of people working in the cultural sector;
- support for the trans-national circulation of cultural and artistic works and products;
- promotion of inter-cultural dialogue.

The Programme has a flexible, interdisciplinary approach and is focussed on the needs expressed by cultural operators during the public consultations leading up to its design.

The activities supported within the Programme belong to three main areas, which correspond to the *strands* of the Programme. They are outlined in detail in separate **Info-Sheets (PROJ, FIN, ST2)**, which lists all criteria and application requirements.

A short description of each *strand* is provided below.

6. Strands of the Programme **1.4.2**

Support for cultural projects (Strand 1)

Cultural organisations are given support for projects to work together across borders and to create and implement cultural and artistic activities.

The thrust of this *strand* is to help organisations, such as theatres, museums, professional associations, research centres, universities, cultural institutes and public authorities from different countries participating in the Programme to cooperate so that different sectors can work together and extend their cultural and artistic reach across borders.

This *strand* is divided into four categories, which are detailed below.

Strand 1.1: Multi-annual Cooperation Projects (lasting from three to five years)

The first category seeks to foster multi-annual, trans-national cultural links by encouraging a minimum of six cultural operators from at least six *eligible countries* to cooperate and work within and across sectors to develop joint cultural activities over a period of three to five years. Funds of between a minimum of EUR 200.000 and a maximum of EUR 500.000 per year are available, but EU support is limited to a maximum of 50% of the total *eligible cost*.

The funding is intended to help set up or extend the geographical reach of a project and make it sustainable beyond the funding period.

Strand 1.2.1: Cooperation Projects (lasting up to two years)

The second category concerns actions shared by at least three cultural operators, working within and across sectors, from at least three *eligible countries* over a maximum period of two years. Actions that explore means of long-term co-operation are especially targeted. Funds of between EUR 50.000 and EUR 200.000 are available, but EU support is limited to a maximum of 50% of the total *eligible cost*.

Strand 1.2.2: Literary Translation Projects (lasting up to twenty four months)

The third category concerns support for translation projects. EU support for Literary Translation is aimed at enhancing knowledge of the literature and literary heritage of fellow Europeans by way of promoting the circulation of literary works between countries. Publishing houses can be awarded grants for translations and publication of works of fiction from one European language into another European language. Funds of between EUR 2.000 and EUR 60.000 are available, but EU support is limited to a maximum of 50% of the total *eligible cost*.

Strand 1.3: Cooperation Projects with Third Countries (lasting up to two years)

The fourth category seeks to support cultural cooperation projects aimed at cultural exchanges between the countries taking part in the Programme and *Third Countries*, which have concluded association or cooperation agreements with the EU, provided that the latter contain cultural clauses. Every year one or more *Third Country(ies)* is/are selected for that particular year. The country(ies) is/are indicated each year on the website of the Executive Agency in due course before the deadline for submission indicated above.

The action must generate a concrete international cooperation dimension. The cooperation projects involve at least three cultural operators, from at least three *eligible countries* and cultural cooperation with at least one organisation from the selected *Third Country* and/or involve cultural activities carried out in the selected *Third Country*. Funds of between EUR 50.000 and maximum EUR 200.000 are available, but EU support is limited to maximum 50% of the total *eligible cost*.

Support for Organisations Active at European Level in the Field of Culture (Strand 2)

Cultural organisations working, or wanting to work, at the European level in the field of culture can receive support for their operating costs. This *strand* targets organisations that promote a sense of shared cultural experience with a truly European dimension.

The grant awarded under this *strand* is a support to operating costs incurred for the permanent activities of *beneficiary* organisations. This profoundly differs from any other grants, which may be awarded under the other *strands* of the Programme. A more detailed description of support to operating costs and project grants is provided in **Info-Sheet ST2**.

Four categories of organisations are eligible under this *strand* (a more detailed description of each category is provided in **Info-Sheet ST2**):

- a) Ambassadors
- b) Advocacy networks
- c) Festivals
- d) Policy support structures for the Culture Agenda, further divided into two subcategories:
 - i) Structured dialogue platforms
 - ii) Policy analysis groupings

Funds of maximum EUR 600.000 are available, depending on the category applied for, but EU support is limited to maximum 80% of the total *eligible costs*.

⁸ The 27 EU Member States: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.

⁹ European Economic Area.

¹⁰ Further information on developments concerning these Third Countries will be announced on the website of the Executive Agency:

<http://eacea.ec.europa.eu>

¹¹ See elsewhere on this Info-Sheet for the list of eligible countries.

Support for Analyses and for the Collection and Dissemination of Information and for Maximising the Impact of Projects in the Field of Cultural Cooperation (strand 3)

Support is available for analysis and dissemination activities that help collect and research results in response to the need for strong quantitative evidence in the cultural sector and evaluate them in the light of the objectives of the Programme. There is also a need to provide information about the Culture Programme to artists and cultural organisations more locally. In this respect Cultural Contact Points¹² are funded in all *eligible countries* (see 8.2 below)

The Programme supports the carrying out of studies and analyses in the field of European cultural cooperation and European cultural policy development. The aim of this support is to increase the volume and quality of information and data to develop comparative data and analysis on cultural cooperation at European level, particularly with regard to the mobility of creators and cultural players, the circulation of works of art and artistic and cultural products and intercultural dialogue.

The Programme also supports the collection and dissemination of information and activities aimed at maximising the impact of projects. It promotes the exchange of experience and good practice and the dissemination of information concerning the Programme as well as trans-European cultural cooperation in the broad sense.

7. Links with Years Devoted to Specific Themes at European Level **15**

The Programme also aims to build links with the activities related to years that are devoted to a specific theme at European level.

- **2008: Year of Intercultural Dialogue**, which is one of the Programme's general objectives
- **2009: Year of Creativity and Innovation**
- **2010: Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion**

Links can also be developed with any future years which may be devoted to other themes beyond 2010.

8. Who Manages the Programme **16**

8.1 The European Commission (EC)

The European Commission's Directorate General for Education and Culture (DG EAC) is responsible for the Programme and directly manages some of its activities, while most of them are implemented by delegation¹³ through the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, which operates under its control and is also based in Brussels (Belgium).

The following activities, all falling under *strand 1.3* of the Programme except the last one, are managed directly by the Commission and are not covered by these *Info-Sheets* (specific guidelines for these activities are available on the Commission's website as indicated next to each activity):

- Support to the European Capitals of Culture¹⁴
- Awarding of European prizes in the cultural field¹⁵
- Support to cooperation with international organisations¹⁶
- Special actions¹⁷
- Support for the collection and dissemination of information and for maximising the impact of projects in the field of cultural cooperation¹⁸ (*strand 3.3*).

¹² See separate section in this Info-Sheet.

¹³ Commission Decision of 26/IV/2007 delegating powers to the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency with a view to performance of tasks linked to implementation of Community programmes in the fields of education, audiovisual and culture, including in particular the implementation of appropriations entered in the Community budget No C(2007) 1842.

¹⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-programmes-and-actions/doc413_en.htm

¹⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-programmes-and-actions/doc511_en.htm

¹⁶ http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-policy-development/doc403_en.htm

¹⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-programmes-and-actions/doc417_en.htm

¹⁸ http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-programmes-and-actions/doc505_en.htm

8.2 The Executive Agency (EACEA)

All other activities within the Programme, as listed here below, are implemented by the Executive Agency:

- Multi-annual Cooperation projects (*strand 1.1* – see *Info-Sheet PROJ* for more details)
- Cooperation projects (*strand 1.2.1* – see *Info-Sheet PROJ* for more details)
- Literary Translation projects (*strand 1.2.2* – see *Info-Sheet LIT* for more details)
- Cultural Cooperation projects with *Third Countries* (*strand 1.3* – see *Info-Sheet PROJ* for more details)
- Support for Organisations Active at European level in the Field of Culture (*strand 2*) (see *Info-Sheet ST2* for more details)
- Support for Cultural Contact Points (*strand 3.1*)
- Support for Analyses in the Field of Cultural Cooperation (*strand 3.2*)

8.3 Cultural Contact Points (CCPs)

As implementation of the Programme is centralised, it is important to provide at the national level information and guidance to those interested in applying under this Programme.

Cultural Contact Points have been established in all *eligible countries* to provide those organisations wishing to apply with the necessary guidance on the Programme's functioning and concrete assistance in preparing their applications.

They are responsible for promoting the Programme and facilitating access to it, in order to ensure targeted, effective grass-roots dissemination of practical information on its implementation, its activities and funding possibilities.

Co-financed by both the Culture Programme and each individual country, those Contact Points also help project promoters in their dissemination activities.

EUCLID is the UK Cultural Contact Point:

- www.culturefund.eu

A list of Contact Points can be found at either:

- http://ec.europa.eu/culture/annexes-culture/doc1232_en.htm
- <http://ccp.culture.info>

9. Budget **17**

The Programme has a total budget of EUR 400 million¹⁹ for the 2007-2013 period.

Total yearly appropriations, including for those actions that do not form part of this guide, may vary from around EUR 43 million to about EUR 58 million, depending on the year.

On a proposal by the Commission the annual budget breakdown per *strand* (in line with the approximations indicated hereafter) is approved by the *Programme Committee*. Over the whole duration of the Programme, approximately 77% of the total budget is intended to be devoted to *strand 1*, 10% to *strand 2* and around 5% to *strand 3*. The remaining appropriations are allocated to cover the Programme's general, administrative and technical expenses.

Calendar 2008 - 2013

The deadlines for submission of applications cover the entire period of the Programme and stated at the front of this Info-Sheet.

If the deadline for submission falls on a weekend or public holiday in the applicant's country no extension will be granted and applicants must take this into account when planning their submission.

During the period between the deadline for submission of application and the publication of selection results the following procedures take place:

- The assessment and selection of the applications

¹⁹ Non-EU *eligible countries* also contribute to the Programme's budget.

- The consultation of representatives from the *eligible countries* in the *Programme Committee* and the European Parliament regarding the selection results, which takes a minimum of six weeks.

Only after those procedures can applicants be informed about the outcome of the selection (see *Info-Sheet ASG*).

10. Visibility and Publicity **III.10.1**

All activities funded have to contribute to promoting the Programme. Enhancing visibility means that actions and products funded within the Programme must clearly mention that they have received EU support. This support should also be made known in relations with the media. Beneficiaries and co-beneficiaries should make use of all opportunities to ensure appropriate media coverage (local, regional, national, international) for their actions, before and during their implementation.

The objective is to ensure that all participants are aware of the fact that they are involved in the Culture Programme, but also to show to the wider public that the EU is supporting an action of good quality and which interests them directly.

Visibility is mainly to be ensured while the action takes place. Therefore, it should be integrated in the planning of the action. Co-ordinator and co-beneficiaries must clearly acknowledge the EU grant in all publications or in conjunction with actions for which the grant is used.

Furthermore, they are required to give prominence to the name and logo of the EU, the European Commission, and the Culture Programme on all their publications, posters, programmes and other products realised under the co-financed action(s).

If this requirement is not fully complied with, the *beneficiary's* grant may be reduced proportionally.

The names and logos can be downloaded on the following website:

- http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/about/logos_en.htm

The *beneficiaries* authorise the Executive Agency and the Commission to publish information contained in their application form for publicity of the Programme.

11. Exploitation and Dissemination of Results **III.10.2**

Exploitation and dissemination of the results of action(s) can be defined as the process undertaken with a view to optimising their value, strengthening their impact and making the largest possible number of persons benefit from them²⁰.

A web-based tool called EVE²¹ has been designed to facilitate the exchange of good practices and information for the exploitation and dissemination of results. As a part of their obligations all recipients of EU grants under the Programme shall input the necessary data into EVE as requested.

In addition, CUPID is a database of EU funded culture projects:

- <http://cupid.culture.info>

Each project supported by this Programme should make the necessary efforts to ensure its exploitation. All operators involved should carry out activities aimed at making the results of their action(s) more visible, better known and sustainable.

For example, they could plan to produce material facilitating the dissemination and exploitation of results, like flyers, publications, websites, DVDs, etc. Because of these, the results of an action will continue to be used and have a positive effect on the largest possible number of people once the action has come to an end.

²⁰ A more complete glossary of dissemination and exploitation activities is available on:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/valorisation/glossary_en.html

²¹ http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/eve/index.html

By planning exploitation as part of their action(s), *beneficiary* and *co-beneficiary* (where applicable) will increase the quality of their work and actively contribute to the overall impact of the Programme.

Both the visibility and exploitation aspects shall be taken into account in the qualitative assessment of applications.

In particular, Multi-annual Cooperation projects shall plan a yearly trip to Brussels or to any other venue indicated by the Commission or the Executive Agency, to showcase their action(s). These travel costs have to be incorporated in their budget at the application stage.

12. Information on Previous Projects

Information on organisations and activity(ies) already financed under the Culture Programmes is available on the following websites:

For Culture Programme 2000:

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-programmes-and-actions/doc411_en.htm

For Culture Programme (2007-2013):

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/about/programmes2007_en.htm

CUPID Database of EU Funded Cultural Projects

<http://cupid.culture.info>

EC Websites

Directorate-General for Education and Culture

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/index_en.htm

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/culture/index_en.htm

Please note that all the terms and keywords typed in italics in the text are further clarified in the Glossary (Info-Sheet ASG)

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UK CULTURAL CONTACT POINT

www.culturefund.eu

includes links to official EC / EACEA webpages
(to download full *Programme Guide* and *Application Forms*)

Contact EUCLID:

By email to info@euclid.info

By phone to 07000 EUCLID (382543)

If outside the UK, by phone to +44 161 245 3236

Register for the free **Alert** e-newsletter at:

www.euclid.info

Other websites that may be of interest:

- euronews.culture.info
- eu.culture.info
- europe.culture.info
- ccp.culture.info
- networks.culture.info
- partners.culture.info