



Funded by the
European Union

CALL FOR PROJECTS

DEADLINE: 30 SEPTEMBER 2026

PROFESSIONAL MOBILITY

PERFORMING ARTS AND MUSIC

For performing arts and music
professionals

CONNECT & CREATE

AFRICA-EUROPE PARTNERSHIPS FOR CULTURE
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

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01

ABOUT THE CONNECT & CREATE PROGRAMME



Connect & Create - Africa-Europe Partnerships for Culture is a programme funded by the European Union. It aims to strengthen cultural ties between Sub-Saharan Africa and Europe through equitable, inclusive and sustainable cooperation.

The programme is implemented by a consortium composed of the Goethe-Institut and Expertise France, in collaboration with the Institut français.

The programme supports:

- artistic cooperation;
- the mobility of cultural professionals and artistic works;
- networking initiatives;
- mutual learning among African and European cultural stakeholders.

The Institut français and Expertise France play a key role in the fields of performing arts and music by leading mobility, international co-production and exchange initiatives for artists and cultural professionals.

02

PURPOSE OF THE CALL FOR PROJECTS

The Connect & Create #Professional Mobility call for projects supports organisations and international events hosting delegations of professionals from the performing arts and music sectors.

Its objectives are to promote:

- professional exchanges between Africa and Europe;
- sustainable collaborations;
- the development of international networks;
- the strengthening of cultural ecosystems.



Supported projects must offer professional programmes integrated into international events such as:

- festivals, trade fairs and professional markets;
- conventions, seminars and symposiums;
- workshops and professional meetings.

03

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

OVERALL BUDGET

A maximum envelope of EUR 90,000 is available. Connect & Create reserves the right not to allocate the full amount of funding based on the evaluation of the projects received.

GRANT AMOUNT

Each selected project may receive funding ranging from:

- EUR 10,000 minimum;
- EUR 20,000 maximum.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

The following costs may be covered:

- international, national and local travel expenses for individuals traveling in economy class or equivalent;
- visa and insurance costs;
- accommodation and per diems;
- translation costs.

CO-FINANCING RATE

The grant awarded may not exceed 70% of the project's total budget.

Applicants must demonstrate at least 30% co-financing, either in cash or through in-kind contributions.

PAYMENT TERMS

Funding will be disbursed in two instalments:

- 80% upon signature of the grant agreement;
- 20% upon completion of the project, following approval of the narrative and financial reports.



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04 WHO CAN APPLY?

THE FOLLOWING ENTITIES ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY

- associations;
- foundations;
- cultural institutions;
- private companies;
- other professional cultural organisations.

APPLICANT ORGANISATIONS MUST

- be established in one of the 47 Sub-Saharan African countries or one of the 27 European Union Member States;
- have been legally registered for at least 2 years;
- be able to provide proof of legal registration;
- hold a bank account enabling international transfers;
- demonstrate significant experience in the performing arts or music sectors.

PLEASE NOTE: European organisations must demonstrate existing partnerships or established links with Sub-Saharan Africa.

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SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

Projects must propose programmes designed for cultural professionals.

Activities may include:

- opportunities to discover local and international artistic scenes;
- training activities;
- conferences and experience-sharing sessions;
- networking activities;
- B2B meetings.

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COMPOSITION OF DELEGATIONS

Delegations must:

- include at least 8 cultural professionals aged 18 or over;
- reflect a strong degree of international diversity.

Diversity Requirements

- a minimum of 5 African and/or European nationalities for delegations of 8 to 10 professionals;
- a minimum of 8 African and/or European nationalities for delegations of more than 10 professionals.

ELIGIBLE PROFILES

Delegations may notably include:

- programmers/curators;
- producers;
- agents;
- event organisers;
- network coordinators;
- company representatives;
- festival representatives.

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ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

TYPES OF SUPPORTED MOBILITY

MOBILITY TO EUROPE

Support will be provided exclusively to African professionals.

MOBILITY TO SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Support may be provided to African and/or European professionals.

ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES

List of Eligible Sub-Saharan African Countries, by region

West Africa

- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Cabo Verde
- Côte d'Ivoire
- The Gambia
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Liberia
- Mali
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- Togo

Central Africa

- Cameroon
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Republic of the Congo
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Gabon
- Equatorial Guinea
- São Tomé and Príncipe

Southern Africa

- South Africa
- Angola
- Botswana
- Eswatini
- Lesotho
- Namibia

East Africa

- Burundi
- Comoros
- Djibouti
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Kenya
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- Uganda
- Rwanda
- Seychelles
- Somalia
- South Sudan
- Tanzania
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

List of the European Union Member States

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- The Netherlands



ELIGIBLE DISCIPLINES

The call is open to all disciplines within the performing arts and music sectors, including:

- theatre;
- dance;
- performance art;
- circus arts;
- street arts;
- puppetry;
- music.

08 SELECTION CRITERIA

PROJECTS WILL BE ASSESSED BASED ON:

- their relevance to the programme's objectives;
- prospects for cooperation and networking;
- long-term impact;
- the organisation's experience in hosting professional delegations;
- the quality of the proposed programme;
- geographical, linguistic and gender diversity within the delegation;
- the quality of the profiles involved.

PARTICULAR ATTENTION WILL BE GIVEN TO PROJECTS THAT:

- are characterized by their originality, their strong connection to their context, and the distinctive nature of their approach;
- foster long-term collaboration;
- support younger generations;
- showcase emerging artistic scenes;
- incorporate environmentally responsible practices;
- address inclusion and accessibility issues.

09 SELECTION PROCESS

THE SELECTION PROCESS WILL INVOLVE SEVERAL STAGES:

- verification of eligibility requirements;
- comprehensive assessment of applications by evaluators;
- review by a selection committee composed of representatives from Expertise France, the Institut français, the project team and independent experts.

Results will be communicated to applicants by email.

10 IMPLEMENTATION CONDITIONS

PROJECTS MUST:

- be implemented in Sub-Saharan Africa, in a European Union Member State, or across both regions;
- take place between February and December 2027.

11 APPLICATION PACKAGE

Applications must be submitted online through the IF Prog platform, which can be accessed via the [website of the Institut français](#).

MANDATORY DOCUMENTS

- application form;
- project presentation document (free format) ;
- provisional budget;
- implementation timeline;
- logical framework;
- declaration of honour regarding exclusion criteria and the absence of conflicts of interest.

DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATION

- the grant agreement template.

LANGUAGE OF THE APPLICATION

- applications must be submitted in either French or English.

ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

- The use of the templates provided under this call for projects is mandatory for all required documents. Any document submitted in another format may be considered non-compliant.
- Incomplete applications or applications that do not comply with the submission requirements outlined in the call will be deemed ineligible.
- Additional administrative and financial documents may be requested from selected organisations during the contracting phase.

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TIMELINE

| STAGE | DATE |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Launch of the call | 9 July 2026 |
| Information webinar | 16 July 2026, 2 pm (GMT+2) |
| Application deadline | 30 September 2026, 11:59 pm (GMT+2) |
| Selection committee | December 2026 |
| Announcement of results | January 2027 |
| Project implementation period | February–December 2027 |

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INFORMATION AND CONTACT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

[Institut français website](#)

CONTACT

connectandcreate@expertisefrance.fr

INFORMATION WEBINAR REGISTRATION



To sign up, scan the QR code or click this link:

<https://forms.gle/SQ1RFGHQoNmFScUy9>

IMPORTANT - Use of Artificial Intelligence

The use of artificial intelligence tools is permitted in the preparation of applications for calls for candidates or calls for projects, provided that each application retains its originality and distinct identity. Applications are assessed on the quality of their thinking, their authenticity, and the uniqueness of the approach put forward by the applicants.