



Funded by the
European Union

CALL FOR PROJECTS

DEADLINE: 30 SEPTEMBER 2026

CIRCULATION OF PERFORMING ARTS AND MUSIC

GRANT FOR ARTISTIC DISSEMINATION

For the creations of African
artists

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 fair, 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.

It supports initiatives promoting:

- artistic cooperation;
- the mobility of cultural professionals and artistic works;
- networking opportunities;
- mutual learning between 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 initiatives dedicated to mobility, international co-production, and professional exchange for artists and cultural practitioners.



02

PURPOSE OF THE CALL FOR PROJECTS

The Connect & Create #Performing Arts and Music Circulation call for projects supports the dissemination and circulation of African artistic productions across Africa and Europe.

Its objectives are to:

- strengthen the visibility of African artists and artistic teams;
- support their integration into international professional networks;
- facilitate access to new audiences;
- expand performance and presentation opportunities;
- contribute to the structuring and professionalisation of the performing arts and music sectors.



Supported projects may take the form of:

- artistic tours in Africa or Europe;
- programming within festivals or major international cultural events.

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BUDGET AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

OVERALL BUDGET ALLOCATION

The maximum budget allocated to this call is EUR 445,000. 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 financial support ranging from:

- EUR 15,000 minimum;
- EUR 39,500 maximum.

ELIGIBLE COSTS

The following costs may be covered:

- international, national and local travel expenses for individuals traveling in economy class or equivalent;
- visa costs;
- insurance;
- accommodation;
- per diems;
- transportation costs for the technical and stage equipment required for the performances.

CO-FINANCING REQUIREMENT

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

Applicants must demonstrate a minimum of 30% co-financing, either through financial contributions or in-kind contributions.

DISBURSEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Grant payments will be made 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 and non-profit organisations;
- private companies;
- cultural institutions;
- foundations;
- other professional cultural organisations.

APPLICANT ORGANISATIONS MUST:

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

05 TARGET GROUPS

ARTISTIC TEAMS

- performing arts companies;
- musical ensembles;
- Africa-based artistic collectives.

DISTRIBUTION AND SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS

- production agencies;
- artist development organisations;
- artist support organisations;
- record labels;
- performance venues;
- cultural spaces.

EVENTS

- festivals;
- professional markets;
- trade fairs;
- professional networking events.

06 ELIGIBLE PROJECTS



A. SUPPORT FOR TOURING ACTIVITIES

In Africa

Tours by African artists, groups or companies that include:

- a minimum of 5 confirmed performance dates;
- performances taking place in at least 3 different countries, excluding the country of residence of the artist, group or company.

Performance dates organised in the country of residence of the African artist, group or company are not eligible.

In Europe

Tours by African artists, groups or companies that include:

- a minimum of 3 confirmed performance dates;
- performances taking place in one or more European countries.

B. SUPPORT FOR PROGRAMMING

Festivals or cultural events in Africa or Europe programming:

- a minimum of 3 artistic teams;
- originating from at least 3 different African countries.

Artists, groups, or companies from the country where the festival or cultural event takes place are not eligible.

ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES

List of the 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

07 ELIGIBLE DISCIPLINES

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

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



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SELECTION CRITERIA

PROJECTS WILL BE ASSESSED IN PARTICULAR ON THE BASIS OF:

- their contribution to the circulation of African artistic productions;
- the artistic quality of the proposals;
- the relevance of the dissemination strategy;
- their technical and financial feasibility;
- the quality of the partnerships involved;
- the expected impact in terms of visibility and professional development;
- their capacity to reach new audiences.

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 collaborations;
- support younger generations;
- promote emerging artistic scenes;
- integrate environmentally sustainable approaches;
- address issues of inclusion and accessibility.

09

SELECTION PROCESS

THE SELECTION PROCESS WILL TAKE PLACE IN SEVERAL STAGES:

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

The results will be communicated to applicants by email.

10 IMPLEMENTATION CONDITIONS

PROJECTS MUST:

- be implemented in Sub-Saharan Africa, in one or more countries of the European Union, 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 MADE AVAILABLE TO APPLICANTS

- the grant agreement template.

LANGUAGE OF THE APPLICATION

- applications must be submitted in either French or English.

ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

- The use of the document templates provided as part of this call for proposals is mandatory for all required documents. Any document submitted in another format may be considered non-compliant.
- Any application that is incomplete or does not comply with the submission requirements set out in this call for proposals 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 for projects	9 July 2026
Information webinar	16 July 2026, 4 pm (GMT+2)
Application deadline	30 September 2026, 11:59 pm (GMT+2)
Selection committee meeting	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.