

Call for proposals



Culture of Solidarity Fund

**Democracy Resilience edition
July-September 2024**

We invite you to apply for the Democracy Resilience edition of the Culture of Solidarity Fund. This call supports collaborative, creative initiatives that re-enforce the core values of Europe and inspire Europeans to reengage with their democracies in a hopeful and forward-looking manner.

**European
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**Culture of
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A future for Europe - Anxiety & Hope

As a platform for 450 million citizens for actively shaping their shared future, the European parliamentary elections were set out to be a celebration of European sentiment and democracy. And yet here we are, many of us grappling with feelings of anxiety and confusion over the future of the 'European project'. With pivotal national and regional elections still on the horizon this year, we must seize this moment to come together and make a compelling case for a desirable European future.

Culture holds great imaginative potential for bringing Europeans from different walks of life and with different beliefs and sentiments together. Culture provides inspirational space for creativity, empathy and democratic engagement across mental, social and political barriers, in a complex variety of localities, public spaces and (online) communities. Resilient democracies thrive through participation and creativity. Thus we need creative, cultural initiatives that build on pan-European alliances and have the potential to inspire Europeans – youth in particular – to reengage with their democracies in a hopeful and forward-looking manner.

What are we looking for?

For this edition, we are looking to support creative initiatives that re-enforce the core values of Europe such as democracy, openness, transparency and promote a hopeful narrative around the power of civic participation. We especially seek initiatives that:

- » address social media's negative impact on public debate by **promoting online democratic engagement and countering disinformation** and online violence through compelling and creative digital formats and contents;
- » put **focus on young people** and their growing sense of apathy and disengagement from (European) politics by offering more cohesive and educational support;
- » use/develop tactics, tools, methodologies that creatively use arts and storytelling to **create empathy-inducing experiences** and appeal to people's emotions;
- » **work at the cross-section between democratic participation and other issues** such as environmental sustainability and green transition, recognizing the complex, interconnected nature of social crises;
- » **forge European** transnational and/or translocal **collaborations**, and thereby build cross-border alliances of solidarity.

What do we offer?

The Fund has grants available in three amounts:

- » up to €10.000
- » €10.000 – 20.000
- » €20.000 – 30.000

Although co-funding is not a prerequisite for receiving a grant, a balanced budget with diversified resources can greatly improve the project's feasibility. Grants can be used to finance a wide range of activities: they can cover production, rent, online co-working and communication tools. Grants can also be used to cover consultancy, staffing and operational costs. However, it is highly recommended that these do not exceed 80% of the total requested budget unless clearly justifiable.

The project timeline may be up to 12 months. Activities that fall under the scope of the grant may not take place before the start date.

The submission deadline for proposals is Tuesday, 17 September, 13.00 CEST.

Timeline



Overall eligibility criteria

- » Applications must be submitted in English and must include a complete budget;
- » The call is open to civic, public, or private organisations with legal status that operate in the cultural, creative or other sectors of society, including education and academia, health and social care, environment, human rights, social entrepreneurship, rural development, spatial planning, etc.;
- » Applicants must be based in one of the eligible countries listed below;
- » We do not accept proposals submitted by political parties. Our work is strictly non-partisan.

Selection criteria & process

All incoming proposals will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- » **Relevance** – the proposal addresses the resilience of European democracies, re-enforcing the core values of Europe and promoting a hopeful narrative around the power of civic participation;
- » **Excellence** – the proposal demonstrates a convincing feasibility and implementation potential, including a balanced and realistic budget;
- » **Creativity** - the proposal presents a fresh and creative approach;
- » **Sustainability** – the proposal embodies a convincing understanding of fair and green (“just”) transition in Europe;
- » **Impact** - the proposal demonstrates (and quantifies) how it will have a positive impact on democracy and the communities addressed.

Applications will be selected by a team of internal and external experts from a wide range of geographic, cultural and professional areas.

Due to the anticipated high volume of applications, we will complete the assessment procedure within 4 to 6 weeks from the submission deadline. It is also for this reason that decisions are final and that, unfortunately, we cannot enter into any correspondence regarding unsuccessful applications afterwards.

Eligible countries

A Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan	G Georgia, Germany, Greece	N The Netherlands, Northern Macedonia, Norway
B Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria	H Hungary	P Poland, Portugal
C Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic	I Iceland, Ireland, Italy	R Romania
D Denmark	K Kosovo	S San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland
E Estonia	L Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg	T Turkey
F Finland, France	M Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro	U Ukraine, the United Kingdom

For additional information and to submit your application please visit this link:

<https://culture-of-solidarity-fund.grantplatform.com>