

Call for Submission of Proposals for Western Balkans Collaboration Projects in Arts and Culture – Guidelines for Applicants

Please read the guidelines carefully before compiling your application. Proposals that do not meet all the criteria and conditions will not be considered.

Balkans Arts and Culture Fund (BAC)

BAC (formerly: Balkan Incentive Fund for Culture, BIFC) operates towards fostering inclusive, democratic, and prosperous societies in the Western Balkans by strengthening the cultural sector, and encouraging regional collaboration and integration.

BAC Specifically aims towards

- Broadened accessibility and participation of/to qualitative, innovative, engaging culture programmes
- Increased collaboration and long term partnerships between independent cultural organisations in the region
- Increased cross-sectoral collaboration
- Increased capacities of independent cultural actors

What BAC Supports and Where

BAC supports regional, collaborative artistic and cultural projects conceived by organisations from and implemented within the region of the Western Balkans, specifically the following countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

Applications for project funding must be made in collaboration of minimum two partners coming from two of the countries listed above. Additional partner organisations from other European and Mediterranean countries are welcome to participate in the project, however minimum two partners (one of them the applicant) must be organisations from the Western Balkans.

The type of activities determines whether the project is implemented in all project countries or not. However, the project content has to be conceptualised and developed collaboratively, with joint contributions by all project partners from different countries (in both content and resources).

Balkans Arts and Culture Fund (BAC) is run by art4ngle | Balkans | Culture | Development, in partnership with the European Cultural Foundation (ECF). In 2013 BAC is financially supported by ECF, OSF, and art4ngle.



Eligibility Criteria

The following criteria will guide the selection of the Western Balkans Collaboration Project Ideas (in addition to the fulfilment of all other conditions mentioned in these guidelines):

Partnership: the project idea has to clearly demonstrate strong collaborative and partnership components, allowing for an assessment of quality of the partnership between the different organisations involved in the regional collaboration project. This means that all project partners must be involved in all aspects of the project: working together on its planning, development and realisation. This also implies that all partners must contribute financially to the project (note that both monetary and in-kind contributions are eligible). BAC encourages non-hierarchical project management structures with shared project management and reporting responsibilities;

Relevance of the proposed project: the application should clearly explain why there is a need for an intervention in a specific field and how the project partners plan to make a change;

Contribution to the main goal of the Balkans Arts and Culture Fund: the application should demonstrate how the project aligns with BAC's main goal and objectives;

Innovation and exchange: The project idea should outline in what way the project introduces innovation in the field it will be active in and how it plans knowledge-sharing and exchange;

Outreach and Potentiality: The project idea should show how the project and the involved organisations intend to reach as broad a public/audience as possible; it should also explain how the planned intervention will influence the context and/or make a change, and how the effects of concrete activities will outlast the duration of the project;

Fields, disciplines and themes

The projects can be developed in a number of artistic fields, such as: visual arts, theatre, literature, music, documentary film, etc. Additionally, projects may also deal with topics related to cultural policy-making, research in culture, art activism, and/or capacity development of organisations and of cultural networks. Combinations of two or more disciplines/fields are welcome.

What BAC does not fund

The following costs and fields/areas will not be considered for funding through BAC:

Operating costs regarding regular activities of an organisation; reconstruction/refurbishing of cultural institutions/centres; purchase of equipment; start-up grants for new organisations; cultural heritage; folklore; folk music; classical music; classical ballet; ethnography and cultural anthropology; support to libraries; fashion & fashion design; software production, toys & games, video games; crafts, cultural tourism; feature film; advertising; publishing, including translation - unless a part of a larger initiative; university and student exchanges; individual mobility grants, scholarships; touring of already existing exhibitions; projects that consist only of single initiative or event like annual or bi-annual events, happenings, festivals (Note: collaboration between festivals is eligible for funding); awards and competitions.

Organisational Criteria

Applying Organisations

- Applicant's legal form should be one of the following: non-governmental (independent) cultural organisation, cultural network, cultural/art foundation, or art association¹;
- Applicants should have proven record in carrying out related activities successfully in the past;

¹The organisation must be registered as a legal entity working in culture, or defined as such through its statute or other founding documents.



- Non-hierarchical project management structures (with shared project management and reporting responsibilities) are also eligible, but need to be functional and practical.

Partner Organisations

- The legal form of the partner organisations should be one of the following: non-governmental (independent) cultural organisation, cultural network, cultural/art foundation, or art association; private foundation, institution; public or governmental organisations;
- Partnerships between independent organisations and public sector are encouraged, as well as cross-sectoral partnerships between cultural and non-cultural organisations/institutions;
- Applicants should have proven record in carrying out related activities successfully in the past;

Financial Conditions

Projects can benefit from the BAC's financial support up to a maximum of € 40.000 for two-year duration. BAC operates with deadline-based calls. Please note that in 2013 this is the only call and the total available budget for grants is € 100.000, and that the expected number of supported projects is 3 to 4.

BAC's support can amount to a maximum of 80% of the total project budget. Co-financing by all implementing organisations (the applicant organisation and its partners) is obligatory and it should amount to at least 20% of the overall project budget. Monetary co-financing (coming from own sources or through other public and/or private bodies) is mandatory and should amount to at least 10% of the total budget. In-kind contributions are accepted but should not total more than 10% of the budget. All co-financing contributions have to be shown accordingly in the project idea application form.

Overhead costs (administrative and running costs) must be in balance with the planned activities and should not exceed 15% of the overall project budget. No salaries or fees may be paid to public/civil servants, employees of public administration from the BAC grant.

For awarded projects: if in the course of the realisation of the project the committed amount of co-financing is not secured in satisfactory proportion, BAC reserves the right to amend/decrease the granted amount to an amount that would satisfy the above mentioned financial conditions.

Duration

The maximum duration of a project is two years. Note that actual duration and the total grant available for the project are conditional to the project results shown in interim period.

Other Conditions

The applying organisation is responsible for submitting the project idea, for coordination with the other partner organisations, and with BAC representatives.

An organisation can take part in a maximum of two project ideas for a WB Collaboration Project per call and only in one of them as the applicant. We would recommend that all partners are adequately informed of such situation at the time of application, since one organisation can receive a grant through only one project.

An organisation is not eligible for applying through this call if it is currently funded through a BIFC grant as managed by the European Cultural Foundation (ECF), unless this project is finished and reported on until September 01, 2013.



Process – How to Apply

1. Project Idea Submission

Applicants submit project ideas for Western Balkans Collaboration Projects, according to the objectives, criteria and conditions described above.

Project ideas are to be written in the application form available on the art4ngle website at **www.artanglebalkans.net** (or upon email request to **bac@artanglebalkans.net**). Applications should be sent as MS Word document by email, to **bac@artanglebalkans.net**, not later than **08th September, 2013**, by the end of the day.

2. Pre-selection

The BAC team will review the proposed project ideas against eligibility criteria and conditions of this call. Eligible applications will be assessed by a group of regional advisers.

The selection of project ideas to be further developed into full project proposals will be made by mid-October, 2013. All applicants will be informed about the results by email, in the third week of October.

3. Development and submission of full proposals

Pre-selected applicants will be contacted directly and will receive technical support from art4ngle in the development of their full proposals. The full project proposals are to be developed by mid December 2013 (deadline to be confirmed).

4. Project start

The awarded Western Balkans Collaboration Projects are expected to start implementation as of 1st January 2014.