

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE FOR THE PUBLIC VALUE OF CULTURE IN THE SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN – SOUTHMED CV

External evaluation of the Project

Terms of Reference

Interarts launches a call for professionals with proven experience in the evaluation of cultural cooperation and development programmes and projects in the Southern Mediterranean region, to carry out an external evaluation of SouthMedCV – a three year' EU co-funded project. Applicants will have to submit a written proposal according to the following terms of reference before the 4 September 2017.

Context

SouthMed CV is a project launched in April 2015 and funded by the EU within the framework of the regional programme Med Culture. It is implemented by a consortium of six organisations: Interarts (leader, Spain), German Commission for Unesco (Germany), Gudran (Egypt), BAC Art Centre (Tunisia), Khayal Arts & Education (Lebanon), and the National Centre for Culture and Arts (Jordan).

The project responds to the assumption that culture is the fourth pillar of sustainable development. This implies exploring its potential connections with the economic, social and environmental dimensions (i.e. the right to take part in cultural life and the importance of values such as diversity, creativity and heritage). The project has also emerged from the need to reinforce the recognition of culture as a factor in local, national and regional development, as well as to enhance the professional capacities of operators, practitioners and organisations active in this field.

The overall objective of SouthMed CV is to strengthen the work and capacities of cultural operators, practitioners of different art disciplines in the Southern Mediterranean, to give support and promote a set of innovative projects which, by means of a continuous coaching and evaluating process, are disseminated in the region. It also supports, through training and networking actions, the professional development of cultural organisations and operators, that should ultimately enable new development initiatives to arise in the region. SouthMed CV operates in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.

General objectives of the evaluation

The external evaluation will analyse the quality and effectiveness of activities funded and implemented in the context of SouthMed CV¹ vis-à-vis the aims initially envisaged. To this end it will:

1. Identify and develop indicators in order to evaluate the sub-granted projects² in terms of the contexts, fields of work and final beneficiaries.
2. Evaluate the sustainability and future replicability of the sub-granted projects.
3. Evaluate the mobility and networking activities carried out within the framework of SouthMed CV, and their regional impact.
4. Evaluate the communication of the sub-granted projects and the EU visibility within the framework of SouthMed CV.
5. Evaluate and analyse the results achieved by SouthMed CV in the region.

Specific objectives of the evaluation

- ✓ Assess the results, in quality terms, achieved by the SouthMed CV project in relation with the time invested, the resources of knowledge at disposal and the total financial resources available for the project (efficiency, effectiveness, performance and impact).
- ✓ Evaluate the project results and their impact on a medium and long term basis in the region.
- ✓ Identify and assess the diversity of methodological and managerial approaches applied by the coordinators during the implementation of the sub-granted projects.
- ✓ Assess the Mobility and Networking strategies and activities implemented during the action (approaches / results / future developments).
- ✓ Assess the innovative and multi-disciplinary cultural practices related to other sectors in the region.
- ✓ Identify and select at least 10 study cases of best practices amongst the sub-granted projects based on their collaborative and networking practices.
- ✓ Assess the cooperation models between not for profit civil society organisations, and the private and/or public sectors.
- ✓ Evaluate qualitative and quantitative indicators of both the final beneficiaries of the action and the sub-granted projects.

Potential elements to be included in the methodology

- Preparatory meetings with SouthMed CV project manager.
- Online meetings with the consortium partners.
- Online survey and field-work with the consortium partners, and the sub-grantees.
- Attendance to the activities scheduled in Amman end of November, and final conferences in Amman and Brussels (see calendar).

Documentation obtained in the course of the project, including mid-term and final reports submitted by sub-grantees, final outputs, communication materials and assessment reports derived from coaching and regional networking activities will be made available to the evaluator for use in the context of the evaluation exercise.

Evaluation principles

- ❖ Transparency: The process, data, findings, conclusions and recommendations will be made available for the public.
- ❖ Independence: The evaluators have not been involved in the design and implementation of the project.

¹ <http://www.smedcv.net/>

² <http://www.smedcv.net/category/subgrantees/>

- ❖ Ethics: The evaluation and the evaluator should respect the rights and dignity of respondents, project participants, beneficiaries, and other evaluation stake holders.
- ❖ Quality: The evaluation must provide evidence-based conclusions.
- ❖ Utility: The knowledge gained from the evaluation should be of use for further development and implementation of cultural policies and practices in the region.

Expected documents and results

- The report shall include a set of at least 30 case studies, presenting the diversity and range of the projects funded by SouthMed CV and implemented in the Southern Mediterranean region: results, achievements, strengths, and weakness.
- Video interviews with the consortium partners and at least 20 key representatives of the sub-granted projects implemented in the Southern Mediterranean region.
- Assessment of the project's quality, relevance and effectiveness in responding to its initial goals.
- A broad analysis of the lessons learned and recommendations for subsequent activities at local, national, regional or EU level.

The complete evaluation report will be written in English (max. 40 pages). It will constitute an annex of the final report submitted by Interarts to the European Commission. A partial version of the report will be uploaded on the SouthMed CV website and disseminated via the consortium's communication channels.

Calendar

The evaluation shall start in October 2017. A draft evaluation report should be available by 1st February 2018, after which comments will be made by SouthMed CV management and coordination team. The final report shall be finalised 9th March 2018.

At end of November 2017, a final consortium meeting and a final Mobility and Capacity Building Encounter with the sub-grantees will be held in Amman, Jordan. On that occasion, individual meetings with co-applicants and broader assessment sessions of some of the individual components of the project (e.g. funded projects, coaching and regional networking, dissemination, etc.) will be organised. The evaluator shall attend the two final events.

Profile

Proven experience and knowledge of at least three countries of the Southern Mediterranean region (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine and Jordan).

Communication writing skills in English and Arabic (French is highly recommended).

Excellent abilities in English.

Proven capacities and experience to evaluate and assess EU funded cultural projects and development programmes³.

Proven methodology in making qualitative interviews in the Southern Mediterranean countries on a diversity of contexts.

³ https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/evaluation_guidelines/document/evaluation-methodology-vol3-guidelines-project-and-programme-evaluation

Selection criteria

The tenderer will be selected on the basis of the previous experience in carrying out similar exercises, the understanding and creative interpretation of the aims of the evaluation, the quality of the evaluation exercise proposed and the ability to examine both the results and the quality of the SouthMed CV project and of the sub-granted projects. In particular, evaluators will be encouraged to take into account the outputs of sub-granted projects as well as those of the broader action and to interview staff of beneficiary organisations as well as other local partners and external observers capable of a critical approach to the achievements and quality of the project.

Submission of applications

The proposals shall be submitted to Interarts (info@smedcv.net) by email by **4 September 2017** (21:00 GMT). Proposals shall include the following:

- 2 pages of concept describing the methodology of the evaluation (working programme & calendar).
- Budget with a detailed expenditure by chapters, including the fees and any expenses to successfully carry out the assignment (maximum 15.000€).
- CV of the evaluating team / agency / platform, and/or evaluator(s) clearly indicating the experience in previous evaluation assignment. Three different references must be included.
- At least three examples of successful related assignments.

Proposals must be submitted in English

<p><i>This project is co-funded by the European Union within the framework of the regional programme Med Culture</i></p>	<p><i>It is implemented by:</i></p>
	