

The Value of Culture in the Southern Mediterranean

SECOND CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS

Deadline for submissions: 24th October 2016 at 21:00 (GMT)

PRESENTATION

SouthMed CV is looking to support innovative, creative and outstanding cultural and artistic projects focusing on the **role of culture** in a diversity of contexts carried out in cooperation with other stakeholders. Projects should aim at having an impact on public space, and at strengthening the networking, managerial and institutional capacities of cultural operators and artistic organisations in the Southern Mediterranean¹.

The present call contains three lots. Applications under this call may be submitted in one of the following three:

- **Lot 1: Projects contributing at strengthening the role of culture at local, national and regional level, in cooperation with other stakeholders in the public sphere (e.g. organisations active in the social, educational or environmental fields, youth and cultural centres, schools, universities, libraries, local authorities, etc.).**²
- **Lot 2: Projects aiming to enhance the institutional and managerial capacities of cultural operators and artistic organisations, and promote their visibility and role in public space at local, national and regional level.**
- **Lot 3: Projects aiming at strengthening networking capacities of the cultural sector at national and regional level (see note 1) in cooperation with other stakeholders (e.g. social, educational, environmental sectors).**

Grants requested under this call must be submitted according to the following maximum amounts per lot:

Lot 1: maximum 45.000 Euro

Lot 2: maximum 30.000 Euro

Lot 3: maximum 60.000 Euro

Applicants cannot submit more than one application.

Applicants who, as main applicants, have received a previous grant from **SouthMed CV** are not entitled to apply as the main applicant, however are entitled to be part of a submitted proposal as partners.

The indicative amount available for the 3 lots is **1.000.000,00 euro**

SouthMed CV reserves the right not to award all available funds if submitted applications do not fill the selection criteria.

¹ Submitted proposals are eligible when presented by legally registered non-profit organizations in the following countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.

² Projects funded under this category may include any art form or cultural discipline (e.g. performing arts, visual arts, music, literature, heritage, new media, etc.), or several of them simultaneously.

SouthMed CV is implemented by a consortium led by Interarts, Spain, in partnership with BAC Art Center, Tunisia, Gudran for Art and Development, Egypt, Khayal Arts & Education, Lebanon, the National Center for Culture and Arts/King Hussein Foundation, Jordan, and the German Commission for UNESCO.

For the purpose of the present call for proposals, Interarts will act as 'contracting party' on behalf of the consortium.

SouthMed CV is funded by the European Union within the framework of the regional programme Med Culture, designed to accompany partner countries in south of the Mediterranean in the development and improvement of cultural policies related to the cultural sector.

GUIDELINES

1. Eligibility

1.1. Eligibility of applicants

In order to be eligible, applications must comply with the following conditions:

- Applications must involve at least three partners: one of the partners shall act as main applicant and the other two as associated partners (e.g. non-profit organisations, local authorities and/or private actors). It is strongly recommended that applications include documentation proving a wide set of partners both from their country, and from other countries³ in the Southern Mediterranean region⁴.
- Main applicants must be non-profit organisations legally registered in the eligible countries (see note 2), and active in the cultural sector in the Southern Mediterranean region.
- Main applicants must be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the project proposal with their partners, not acting as an intermediary.
- Main applicants must have a valid bank account registered under their legal name.

Other conditions:

- All applications must be submitted in English, being the official language of SouthMed CV. All documents submitted in Arabic must include a translation in English or French.
- All applications must specify in the Budget form submitted as part of the application that 15% of the grant is for mobility, capacity building and/or networking activities, including the attendance of minimum two representatives of each granted project in training and peer-to-peer activities coordinated by SouthMed CV throughout the project implementation.
- All applications must have an external audit assigned to the project proposal and forecasted as a maximum of 5% of the total budget. However, the costs for the external audit cannot be less than 1.000€.
- The participation of non-registered organisations as partners, with the exclusion of the main applicant, may be accepted in duly justified cases and insofar their existence can be proven (e.g. cultural and artistic groups or platforms of professionals having carried out activities).
- Profit-making entities are not eligible as the main applicant organisation under this call for proposals.
- Links with international and Euro-Mediterranean networks will be considered as a positive factor insofar they are an added value for the implementation of the project in the Southern Mediterranean region (see note 2).

³ Proposals submitted to Lot 3 must include legally registered organisations from at least three different eligible countries: main applicant, and at least three legally registered partners from two different eligible countries of the Southern Mediterranean region.

⁴ The eligible countries are Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.
SouthMed CV – Communities of practice for the public value of culture in the Southern Mediterranean

1.2. Eligibility of projects

Duration

The project shall take place between **1 February 2017 and 31 January 2018**.

The project duration should be a **minimum of 9 months and a maximum of 12 months**.

Type of eligible activities

Lot 1 Priority will be given to:

- Artistic and cultural projects implemented in the framework of local, national or regional educational programmes in a partnership between cultural organisations and educational institutions.
- Cultural and artistic projects fostering citizen participation and/or addressing issues of public interest, including awareness-raising activities on issues such as cultural diversity, social inclusion, gender or environmental issues, among others.
- Contemporary artworks⁵ contributing to different ways of approaching the local environment and its context, and open to citizen participation.
- Other forms of collaboration involving cultural actors and other public or private organisations active in the public space, with an innovative approach (e.g. research, methodology, etc.) and a strong potential for social development (e.g. target groups, advocacy, etc.).

Lot 2 Priority will be given to:

- Projects contributing to the setting-up, improvement or dissemination of emerging and/or consolidated professional organizations in the cultural and artistic sectors.
- Projects contributing to the training of specialized trainers, facilitators, network-brokers or planners in the cultural sector.
- Projects involving awareness-raising activities on the role of culture in local, national or regional development, including public discussions, seminars, workshops and conferences.⁶
- Projects contributing to the setting-up or strengthening of creative industry platforms or resource centres (e.g. training schemes, incubators, etc.), and its impact on the social and economical sector.
- Projects linked to the design and implementation of new funding models for cultural and creative sectors (e.g. crowd-funding platforms, etc.), involving public or private funding bodies.

Lot 3 Priority will be given to:

- Artistic and cultural projects implemented in the framework of local, national or regional programmes in the educational, social or environmental sectors being implemented within a sustainable and innovative networking partnership (see note 1) between cultural organisations and other stakeholders throughout the Southern Mediterranean region (see note 2)
- Specific activities⁷ developing long term and sustainable programmes including mobility in the region, peer to peer encounters of non profit cultural organisations with other stakeholders (public or private organisations active in the public space), and cooperation all throughout the project implementation within a partnership framework of at least three eligible Southern Mediterranean countries.

⁵ Projects funded under this category may include any art form or cultural discipline (e.g. performing arts, visual arts, music, literature, heritage, new media, etc.), or several of them simultaneously.

⁶ Ensuring the participation of communities or vulnerable groups in order to promote culture as a sustainability factor for social development.

⁷ Involving creative and innovative methodologies and research across the Southern Mediterranean region such as the mapping of cultural organisations, surveys regarding mobility and cultural networks, best practices, etc.

The following types of projects will not be eligible for funding:

- Events of religious or political character;
- Projects concerned with sponsorships;
- Projects concerned only or mainly with individual scholarships for studies, research or training courses;
- Operational costs of applicant organisations (only administrative costs related to the project implementation are eligible);
- Debts and obligations;
- Projects which consist exclusively or primarily in capital expenditure, such as infrastructure, land, equipment;
- Projects intended only to raise funds or promote the visibility of the applicant or its partner(s).

2. Financial provisions

Grants may amount up to 80% of total eligible costs. In duly and exceptional justified cases the contribution may amount up to 95% of total costs.

2.1 Eligible costs

Only “eligible costs” can be covered by a grant. The categories of eligible and non-eligible costs are indicated below.

Eligible costs are costs actually incurred by the beneficiary of a grant which meet the following criteria:

- They are incurred during the duration of the project;
- They are indicated in the estimated overall budget of the project;
- They are incurred in connection with the project which is the subject of the grant, and are necessary for its implementation;
- They are identifiable and verifiable, in particular being recorded in the accounting records of the beneficiary;
- They comply with the requirements of applicable tax and social legislation.

➤ Eligible direct costs

The eligible direct costs are those which, with due regard for the conditions of eligibility set out above, are identifiable as specific costs directly linked to the implementation of the project, such as:

- Travel and subsistence expenses (for networking meetings, training and peer to peer activities, conferences, etc.) which can not exceed the EU standards⁸;
- Staff costs related to the project implementation.
- Professional fees for experts involved directly in the implementation of the project;
- Costs of consumables and supplies, provided that they are identifiable and assigned to the project;
- Costs arising directly from requirements linked to the implementation of the project (dissemination of information, translations, documentation, printing and distribution of leaflets, etc.);
- Costs of rental of venues linked to the project;
- Costs for the external audit.

➤ Eligible indirect costs

The eligible indirect costs are related to the functioning and general activities of the grant beneficiaries: they cannot be attributed entirely to the implementation of the project, but are still partially generated by it (e.g. costs connected with infrastructure, legal advice,

⁸ <http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/perdiem-rate-20150318.pdf>

documentation, IT, office supplies, communications, etc.)⁹. These costs are to be funded on a flat rate basis not exceeding 7% of the project total budget.

2.2. Ineligible costs

The following costs are not eligible:

- Debts and debt service charges (interests);
- Provisions for losses or potential future liabilities;
- Purchases of land or buildings;
- Purchases of vehicles;
- Office rent, unless the applicant can demonstrate that additional and specific office rental is necessary for the project implementation;
- Currency exchange losses;
- Credits to third parties.

2.3. Co-financing

The co-financing may take the form of the applicant's own resources (self-financing), the income generated by the project, and financial or in-kind contributions from third parties.

The main applicant, if awarded with a grant, must duly justify and declare all the expenses as well as the funding from SouthMed CV and the total co-funding in the final report. Regarding in-kind contributions, the main applicant, if awarded with a grant, must declare that these contributions meet the local market prices and provide the detail of unities, working hours and unit costs in the final financial report.

3. Monitoring and support to beneficiaries

The **SouthMed CV** Project Steering Committee (PSC) will provide advice to grant beneficiaries on issues such as management, dissemination and networking, in order to ensure the correct implementation of the project.

4. Contract and modalities of payment

The contracting party will sign a contract with the grant beneficiary that will include information of the activities to be carried out, the contract value, the modalities of payment and reporting.

Payment modalities:¹⁰

- a first instalment, equivalent to 40% of the approved grant, will be made in the four weeks following the signature of the contract;
- a second instalment, equivalent to 40% of the approved grant, will be made following the submission and approval by the contracting authority of the mid-term report;
- a final instalment, equivalent to 20% of the approved grant, will be made at the end of the project, following the effective completion of activities, submission of technical and financial documentation and completion of an external audit, and following written approval by the contracting party.

Instalments will be paid by bank transfer only to grant beneficiaries' bank account (main applicant).

⁹ <http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/companion/document.do?nodeNumber=19.3.1.5>

¹⁰ This information is to be considered indicative; the payment conditions will be further specified in the contract with the beneficiaries of the projects.

5. Reporting

The grant beneficiary will submit, by electronic form, a **mid-term technical and financial report** identifying the implementation of at least the first five months: description of the main activities, target groups reached, current and potential networking partners, attendance to capacity building and other training activities, and samples of communication and dissemination of the project as well as contacts with the EU delegations in the region. Audit report with an updated budget reporting the verifiable costs and the implementation period.

The grant beneficiary will submit, by electronic form, a **final report** within 45 days following the completion of the project. The final report should include:

- A **technical report** of no more than 5 pages, indicating:
 1. Impact of the project on target audiences,
 2. Main activities,
 3. Communication and dissemination activities at local, national and regional level, including contacts with the EU delegations,
 4. Main conclusions,
 5. Sustainability of the action, if applicable.
- A **financial report**, including the details of the project expenditures and financing, and the audit report (all original invoices shall be submitted and revised by the auditors).
- **Annexes**: documents that can support the technical report, such as publications, communication materials, videos, interviews, photos, lists of participants, etc.

The email address is: calltwo@smedcv.net

The grant beneficiary will upload any communication and dissemination material (Press releases, banners, posters, flyers, invitations, photos, videos etc...) on the SouthMed CV platform, throughout the implementation of the project.

6. Publicity

Grant beneficiaries must acknowledge the EU contribution throughout the project implementation (e.g. press releases, publications, posters, programmes, audio-visual material, website and social media dissemination, etc.).

To this end, the contracting party will provide communication guidelines for the visual identity to the **SouthMed CV** grant beneficiaries. [Please click here to download and read carefully the communication guidelines \(914 KB\).](#)

The contracting party reserves the right to use, disclose, reproduce and distribute the content and outcome of the funded projects.

7. Submission of proposals

Applications must be submitted online using the application form.

The application form is online at the following link: www.smedcv.net/application-form

Deadline: Applications must be sent online no later than **24 October 2016, at 21:00 (GMT)**.

Submitted applications shall be written in English.

Any question related to the preparation of the application may be sent by e-mail until **7 October 2016**¹¹ at the following link: <http://www.smedcv.net/contact-us>

¹¹ After this date a document with the frequent asked questions (FAQ) will be published on the website of SouthMed CV

8. Evaluation results and selected projects

On **19 December 2016**¹², the results of the evaluation process will be notified via email to all the applicants, and will be published via the **SouthMed CV** information channels.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Deadline for submissions: 24th October 2016 at 21:00 (GMT)

IMPORTANT: Applications will be assessed on a scale from 0 to 100 and will be ranked accordingly to their merit. The threshold is set at 75/100 points.

	Criteria	Definition	Max. Weighting
1.	Relevance of the project	This criterion evaluates the relevance of the content of the project vis-à-vis the objectives of the call for proposals and the needs of the cultural sector and target groups (the format, the feasibility and consistency of the project in relation to the objectives) in the area of implementation. This criterion both evaluates, how clearly and strategically those involved (final beneficiaries, partners, target groups) are chosen and how their needs have been defined and addressed, and how at long term the project might have an overall impact in the region in terms of sustainable cultural and/or social development.	30
2.	Communication strategy / dissemination capacities	This criterion evaluates the dissemination and communication strategy of the project and its adequacy to address different target groups and audiences, building synergies, networks and collaborations with other projects and operators.	20
3.	Quality of the financial offer	This criterion evaluates the project budget and the ratio between the estimated costs and the real costs. Applications presenting a clear funding strategy with detailed evidence of potential or confirmed complementary funding sources will be positively assessed.	20
4.	Potential of the project team	This criterion assesses the potential of the project by evaluating the quality and the structure of the project team and its partnership.	15
5.	Previous experience	This criterion evaluates the expertise of the applicant and the partners in the field(s) related to the project in order to ensure the good quality of the outputs.	15

¹² This date is to be considered indicative