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Support to regional thematic networks of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs); Regional networks promoting independent pluralistic media and freedom of expression; and EU Award for Roma Integration

EuropeAid/179703/DH/ACT/Multi

Fostering the Culture of Participation in Regional Reconciliation Dialogue

District of Reconciliation

Grant Contract no. (CRIS) IPA IIII2024I460-910 - (OPSYS) PC-46494

ART FOR RECONCILIATION –

OPEN CALL FOR SOCIALLY ENGAGED PROJECTS

Financial Support to Third Parties Programme (FSTP)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS





1. How many projects can we apply for as project leaders, and how many as project partners?

Each project Applicant may submit only one application and may appear as a Partner in one additional proposal. Each Partner organization may appear in only one application under this Call. (Guidelines, p. 8).

2. Is the number of partners closely related to the size of the budget? Or more precisely: can we apply for the maximum grant amount with only one project partner?

The project leader and one project partner can apply for the maximum grant amount.

3. What is the project evaluation/scoring system?

You can find the evaluation/scoring system in the Guidelines on page 17, in the project evaluation table.

4. Does the call support projects that are still in the development phase, i.e., that have not yet entered the production phase?

The Call supports new ideas and projects that are in the development phase and that will reach the production and premiere phase during the project implementation. However, it is important to ensure that there is no double funding, especially if EU funds are involved.

5. What is the final deadline for implementation and justification of the project, if selected?

The pre-production and production phase of the project must not exceed 6 months. The local premiere must be held by the end of May 2026. In the second phase, supported projects will participate in up to 5 festivals – Districts of Reconciliation, which will be organized during 2026 and 2027 across the Western Balkans. For more details, see the Guidelines – section 9 Project duration.

6. Is it possible to apply with a project planned as a co-production?

Yes, the partnership is mandatory and must include at least one organization from another country listed in the Guidelines (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, or Serbia).

7. We would like to know whether we as a media are eligible to apply for the call?

The applicant and partners must be non-profit civil society organisations, therefore media outlet is eligible only if registered as a civil society organisation.

8. Can we apply to your call as an association from Montenegro?

An association from Montenegro can be the Applicant. Please refer to sections 6 *Eligibility of Applicants* and 7 *Eligibility of Partnerships* in the Guidelines for detailed instructions regarding applicants and partnerships.



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9. Can you tell us approximately when the results of the call will be announced?

The results will be published no later than September 30. All important dates related to the call can be found in the Guidelines on page 16 – Indicative Timetable.

10. We would kindly like to clarify the eligibility criteria. Our organization is registered as a public institution in the field of culture, we are unsure if institutions like ours are eligible to apply.

Public institutions are not eligible to apply, only registered civil society organizations. Please see the eligibility criteria in the Guidelines.

11. Regarding the project EuropeAid/179703/DH/ACT/Multi, I would like to know if the Lead Partner and the partner should be from 2 different countries or can be both from the same country.

Lead partner and Partner must be from two different countries, as stated in section 5.1. Partnerships, of the Guidelines.

12. Can experimental films be supported through the Call, and what materials and documentation need to be submitted?

In the Guidelines, under section 4 Art forms and disciplines supported by this Call, you can find instructions about the supported artistic forms, including:

Medium-length documentary and feature films – addressing personal or collective stories related to reconciliation, peacebuilding, remembrance, mutual understanding, and peaceful coexistence.

The required documentation and application procedure can be found in the Guidelines, section 11

Submission of the Application and supporting documents.

The application package can be downloaded from the link provided above in the Publications section.

13. Can organizations from other regions of Serbia also apply or submit applications to the call?

In the Guidelines for Applicants, under sections 5.1 Partnerships and 8 Eligible Countries (Locations), you can find the necessary information about applicants, partnerships, and eligible locations, including:

All project proposal activities must take place in one or more IPA III beneficiary countries as listed here: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia.

Applicants must act in partnership with at least one partner organization from another country listed above. (In case the action includes individual participants from Kosovo and/or Croatia, their participation may be covered from the applicant's project budget).*

14. We are unsure whether a choir of 30 participants can be considered and treated as an eligible expense. In one place, there is mention of visits to regional festivals with a maximum of 8 people, which is causing our dilemma.

In section 5.2 Mandatory local premiere, in the Guidelines for Applicants, you can find further explanation and an answer to your question:

Please note that the number of participants/performers involved in the local premiere does not have to match the number of participants expected to travel and perform at the District of Reconciliation Festivals (see section 5.3). While the local premiere may involve a broader ensemble or larger production



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team, participation in regional festivals is subject to logistical limitations (e.g., transport by minivan and accommodation for up to 8 people). Applicants are therefore encouraged to strategically adapt their artistic work for both local presentation and regional mobility.

15. Can we apply for this Call with the cultural event that we organize every year? We are also interested in whether, if approved, the funds must be spent by the end of the 2025 calendar year?

Please note that the focus of this call is on artistic productions and mobility, while existing events are not the focus of this competition.

The pre-production and production phase of the project must not exceed 6 months. The local premiere must be realized by the end of May 2026. In the second phase, supported projects will participate in up to 5 festivals — Districts of Reconciliation, which will be organized during 2026 and 2027 across the Western Balkans. Please refer to the Guidelines — section 9 Project duration for more details.

16. Are visual arts associations, registered as citizens' associations in the field of culture, eligible to apply for this call?

We kindly encourage you to carefully read the Guidelines for the Applicants, where the eligibility criteria are clearly stated. All application documents are available at the following link:

<https://lda-subotica.org/projektna-aktivnost/otvoren-regionalni-konkurs-za-drustveno-angazovane-umetnicke-produkcije/>

17. Is organizing an international art colony, with participation of artists and youth from the countries covered by the call, considered an eligible activity?

Already existing formats such as art colonies or festivals are not the priority of this call. The focus is on the creation of new, original productions. Please, make sure your proposal aligns with the priority topics, and especially with the required methodology of strong community engagement. Additionally, mobility and potential participation in regional District of Reconciliation festivals is a key component of the call.

18. Is it necessary to have formal partnerships with organizations from other countries, or can regional cooperation be implemented through direct participation of artists and youth from those countries (without formal partnership agreements)?

Please follow the instructions and requirements outlined in the Guidelines. All specified rules are mandatory. A partner organization fulfilling the same eligibility criteria as the Applicant from another eligible country is necessary.

19. Is it acceptable to implement the project in a smaller local community), if it contributes to the goals of the call?

Artistic productions developed and implemented in smaller communities that meaningfully engage the local population are especially encouraged.

20. The call for proposals refers to the Western Balkan countries, and as far as I understand, applications can be submitted by countries from that region. However, for the idea of my project, I



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would list Croatia — an EU member state — as a partner. I'm interested in whether this is allowed and whether the project would be disqualified if I include Croatia as a partner?

You can find the necessary information in the Guidelines for Applicants, in sections 5.1. Partnerships and 8. Eligible countries (locations):

All project proposal activities must take place in one or more IPA III beneficiary countries as listed here: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia.

Applicants must act in partnership with at least one partner organization from another country listed above. (In case the action includes individual participants from Kosovo and/or Croatia, their participation may be covered from the applicant's project budget).*

21. We would like know if it would be eligible to apply with a series of documentaries about the life of small ethnic communities living in North Macedonia, their cultural historic heritage?

Please note that partnership is mandatory, and must include at least one organization from another country listed in the Guidelines (section 5.1 Partnerships). In this regard, we especially advise you to carefully study the objectives and themes of the Call, outlined in sections 1 (Objectives of the Call) and 3 (Thematic priorities of the Call), to ensure that your project idea aligns with the priorities of the Call.

22. Can we publish our media content on a portal established by a company, since the citizens' association does not have its own media outlet?

Media content can be published on a portal established by a company.

23. Do all documents need to be in English — specifically, I'm referring to: Statutes of the Applicant and of the Partners, Registration documents of both the Applicant and the Partners, Balance Sheets and Profit and Loss Sheets for the past two financial years. Also, do the translations need to be certified and signed?

At this stage of the application process, it is not necessary to translate the documentation.

Organizations whose projects are selected for implementation will need to provide unofficial translations of the documents into English before signing the contract.

24. In which city/cities are the Spring Festival(s) of 2026 expected to be organized? (This will help us plan a more accurate budget for the participants in our application.

The District of Reconciliation Festival in 2026 is planned in August in Kumanovo, North Macedonia. But, as in the moment of writing the application it is not possible to know precisely in which and how many festivals you would participate if the project is awarded, it is best to put an average amount of expenses, focusing on 3-4 trips in the listed locations

25. Will there be a youth training event before June 2026? If yes, in which location/city is it planned or considered to be organized?

The youth training event in 2026 is planned between May-September 2026 in Podgorica, Montenegro, the exact dates are yet to be decided.





26. Since the grant foresees only 20% of the budget for Staff costs, will it be allowed to cover financial services for the implementation of the grant under the “expertise” budget line for project activities? Please note that the 20% limit is for both Budget heading 1 and 2 in total. You can include financial services for the implementation of the grant in the line Other services, but the emphasis should be on production costs. Also please consult the Eligibility of expenditures document for detailed guidance on allowed costs.

27. For projects lasting up to six months, the vast majority of donors request only the submission of a Final Narrative Report at the end of the project implementation period. We assume this is also the case for your project call? Or will an Interim Report also be required? There will also be an Interim Report based upon which the second installment will be disbursed. Please see section 9. Project duration in the Guidelines

28. According to the guideline for the call Art for Reconciliation – Open Call for socially engaged projects, under point 6. Eligibility of Applicants is stated that ..."The applicant must be registered no later than December 2022."

Could you please confirm whether this requirement applies only to the lead applicant or to all applicants/partners involved in the proposal?

This requirement applies to the partners as well - the project partners must fulfill the same eligibility criteria as the applicant. Please see section 7. Eligibility of Partnerships for more information.

29. Since we have already secured part of the funding for our documentary film, I would like to ask for clarification in what way we can be an eligible candidate for your call. If I understood correctly during the webinar, funding for the same project is not possible, but it is possible to fund those costs that are not covered in the project financed by another funder. Could you please provide me with additional instructions regarding this?

I would also like to request clarification regarding the festivals. Do the festivals within the scope of the “Art for Reconciliation – Open Call for Socially Engaged Projects” have priority for the premiere screenings?

Double funding is not permitted. However, costs not covered by another funder may be eligible but please note that funding artistic productions has priority in this Call. Furthermore, premiere screenings hold priority within your project implementation phase and also within District of Reconciliation festivals.

30. Can our project include organizing a regional art competition on the theme of reconciliation, which could be in the form of painting, graphic design, or similar artistic expressions? Are we allowed to engage artists from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Montenegro as members of the expert jury and pay them a fee for their involvement in the selection of works for the festival? The jury would meet online. In what way, and are we allowed to allocate awards or honoraria for the three winning artworks/artists?

Please note that the proposed activities and costs are not eligible for funding under our Call. We emphasize that the focus of the Call is on artistic productions and mobility. We especially encourage you to read carefully the objectives and themes of the Call, as outlined in sections: 1. Objectives of the Call, 3.



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Thematic priorities of the Call, and 5.3. Participation in District of Reconciliation Festivals, in order to ensure that your project idea aligns with the priorities of the Call.

31. How can we know (or plan) the participation of our production in the festivals — in other words, how many festivals should we plan to participate in? As far as we understand, the number of festivals we may participate in does not depend on our will or budget, but rather on the festival organizers, who have the right to invite the productions they consider suitable. For example, if we budget artist fees for participation in three (3) festivals but are invited to only one — or to all five — we will end up with a budget shortfall or surplus. We kindly ask for a more detailed explanation.

Since it is not possible to know with certainty how many festivals you will participate in at the time of writing the project, the recommendation is to plan an average amount of costs focusing on 3-4 festivals, which represents the most realistic estimate. It is not necessary to specify the exact number of festivals.

32. Can representatives of partner organizations involved in organizing and implementing project activities be included and budgeted as local facilitators, meaning they are not part of the core project team, or is it preferable that they are members of the project team and thus budgeted as project team members?

Representatives of partner organizations can be included in the budget category 'Services', since all payments will be processed through the applicant. The applicant will directly pay the fees to the members of partner's team engaged in project activities. The 'Human Resources' category refers to full-time or part-time employees of the organization submitting the project.

33. What is the usual amount of fees for engaging artists (should they be local or regional artists)?

We are not able to suggest a usual fee amount — this is left to your assessment and market research. We recommend consulting directly with the artists you plan to collaborate with. Also, there are no strict rules regarding engaging local or regional artists — the choice depends on your needs and alignment with the project idea. Please note that the project budget must be cost-effective and realistic.

34. We are writing to request information regarding budgeting costs for participation in the District and Reconciliation Festivals, given that the budget form is detailed and organized by months — for a period of 6 months. Should we enter the cost amount only in the Total column (columns F and M), considering that this activity will not take place during the first 6 months of the project implementation?

In the second part of the budget, within the monthly cost breakdown, expenses related to participation in District of Reconciliation festivals can be entered in column M.

35. Is it necessary to enter the EuropeAid ID number only if we have it? In other words, it is not mandatory for either the applicant or the partners?

That is correct, please enter it only if applicable, but it is not mandatory.

36. If the maximum allowed budget per project is €25,000, and in the end 20% is paid out only if the product, e.g., a performance, is selected to go to festivals, does that mean the total budget excluding





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festivals must be €20,000, which is 80% of the €25,000 maximum amount? In other words, is the final 20% tranche exclusively tied to festivals, or can the production budget be, for example, €23,000, with €2,000 allocated for fees related to festivals?

The final instalment is not exclusively tied to the District of Reconciliation festivals. Please keep in mind that 20% of the total project budget will be paid upon approval of the final financial report and after participation in the festivals, regardless of the fact that part of those funds are relates to the production.

37. Can the local premiere be held in two cities (one in the applicant's country and one in the partner's), or is only a single premiere allowed?

One local premiere is mandatory; however, it may be held in two cities—one in the applicant's country and one in the partner's—if the budget allows and the project team considers it suitable for the project.

38. Is the cooperation between the applicant and the partner mandatory in all phases of the project? For example, if we are staging a play, do the performers need to come from both partner countries?

Cooperation is mandatory but it is not required in every phase. It can take place during the development process, the performances, or both. In your example, the performers may come from only one country. It all depends on your project and how you structure it.

39. In which language should the performances be delivered?

Performances can be delivered in any language deemed necessary (one or more). For the festivals, translation and subtitles will be provided.

40. Where should the costs for project coordinator be inserted in the Budget form if our organization doesn't have permanent staff?

In this case, the project coordinator fee could be included in the Services section, as the Human resources heading is reserved exclusively for the persons employed in the project coordinator's organization.

41. Where should the project coordinator's costs be included in the Budget form if our organization does not have permanent staff?

In this case, the project coordinator's fee should be included under the Services section, as the Human Resources category is reserved for staff employed by the coordinating organization.

42. Do the supporting documents from partners need to be original, or can they be copies?

Partners may send their signed/stamped documents to the applicant via email. The applicant should then print and submit them by post along with all other supporting documents, as outlined in the Guidelines.

