

AFRICA-EUROPE PARTNERSHIPS FOR CULTURE

WEST AFRICA

CALL FOR APPLICATION : HUB FESTIVALS

1. INTRODUCTION

The Goethe-Institut invites the festival organizers in West Africa, to apply for grants under the project "Africa-Europe Partnerships for Culture: West Africa". This initiative, funded by the European Union (EU), aims to enhance cultural collaboration between 15 West African countries and the European Union (EU). This initiative seeks to strengthen local, regional and intercontinental cultural cooperation, particularly through the internationalization of the festival sector. This call for proposals seeks to select six (06) organisations to lead "Clusters". Selected organisations will receive grants of up to €100,000 to manage these clusters over an 18-month period.

2. AREAS OF INTERVENTION

Target countries:

Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sénégal, Sierra Léone, Togo.

Target cultural sectors:

Cinema, AV & animation

Heritage

Literature

Music

Performing arts

Visual arts

3. OBJECTIVES & RESULTS

- **Overall Objective:**

Strengthening EU-Africa and intra-Africa regional and multi-country cultural co-creation and cooperation between artists, creators, and cultural professionals, and to promote intercultural dialogue, cultural diversity, and mutual understanding between people of Europe and Africa.

- **Specific Objectives:**

To strengthen partnerships between cultural platforms, events, and organizations.

To Equip West African festival professionals and artists with skills for international engagement.

- **Expected results:**

Improvement of the organizational capacities of West African festivals.

Promotion of the collaboration between West African festivals operating in the same cultural sector.

Promotion of the twinning between West African and European festivals.

Creation of a favourable environment for the mobility of artists.

4. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES:

Activities will be implemented through trans-national clusters of on average, 7 medium-sized festivals, each of which will be led and managed by a grantee. Festivals that participate in the cluster will be selected in a separate call for proposals (see 'Grants for member festivals', below), which will be developed by Goethe-Institut jointly with each selected hub.

Therefore, activities should include:

- Co-development of a call for proposals for festivals to join the cluster
- Management and coordination of the activities of the cluster across all member festivals
- Hosting of joint cluster trainings.

Activities may also include, inter alia:

- Development of collaborations and co-productions § Creating festival circuits for artists and professionals
- Organising professional and/or staff mobilities between the festivals
- Visits to major European professional festivals, fairs, events, networks
- Development/piloting of international marketing concepts.

Activities should include measures to facilitate the participation of women (with the aim of achieving 50% participation) and of persons with disabilities, as well as environmentally sustainable practices.

5. ELIGIBLE CRITERIA

- **Legal status**

The applicant must be a legal entity registered in one of the fifteen (15) project countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sénégal, Sierra Léone, Togo.

- **Eligible organizations**

Any public or private organization involved in the following cultural fields may compete: Cinema, AV & animation, Heritage, Literature, Music, Performing arts, Visual arts.

Each organization must apply with only one project. Any organization that submits more than one project will be disqualified.

- **Experience**

The applicant must be legally registered and operational in one of the project countries for at least five years, with a demonstrated track record of activities in its sector.

6. AWARD CRITERIA

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Thematic Approach: Relevance and clarity of the project idea. (30%)

Organisational Capacity: Ability to manage a Cluster, including administrative, financial, and logistical capacity to coordinate artists/creatives and events. (25%)

Working Facilities: Access to adequate facilities (e.g., spaces for retreats, workshops, or presentations) to support artists/creatives in developing coproductions. (20%)

Motivation and Collaboration: Clarity of motivation and commitment to work collaboratively with interdisciplinary, international artists/creatives, including openness to potential European involvement. (15%)

Outreach Commitment: Quality and feasibility of proposed local outreach activities to engage communities, alongside a commitment to broader dissemination of co-productions/audience development (e.g., regional or international presentations). (10%):

Selection Considerations:

Gender equality and inclusion will be prioritised, ensuring women and women's narratives are well-represented in project teams and beneficiaries, and persons with disabilities have access to activities.

Environmental sustainability will be assessed, favouring proposals that incorporate eco-friendly practices.

7. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- **Grant Amount:** Up to €100,000 per selected organisation, based on a detailed budget submitted with the application.
- **Number of Grants:** Six (06) grants will be awarded across the fifteen (15) project countries. Payment Structure: Grants will be disbursed in instalments, subject to milestone-based progress and financial reviews to ensure compliance with project objectives.
- **Budget Assessment:** The indicative grant amount will be calculated based on the submitted budget, assessed for cost-effectiveness and plausibility. Final payments will reflect eligible costs incurred.
- **Additional support**

1. Selected organisations will participate in capacity-building workshops on gender equality and environmental sustainability.

2. The Goethe-Institut will provide logistical and technical support, including access to experts and networks to enhance project implementation.

ELIGIBLE COSTS	INELIGIBLE COSTS
Project staff costs	Debt repayments: Costs for paying off existing debts
Event organisation (retreats, presentations)	Purchase of land or building
Co-production funding travel	Currency exchange losses
Accommodation	Seed funding or initial capital used to launch a new business
Outreach activities	Costs of related to raising additional funds and other fundraising activities
Costs related to accessibility (eg. adaptation for persons with disabilities)	Organisation operational costs and activities not directly linked to the projects
Environmental sustainability	Salary top-ups
Mobility costs (international and local transport of artists, technicians, and partners)	Costs not incurred during the project implementation period
Short-term training for festival stakeholders (artists, technicians, and partners)	Purchase of alcohol
Fees for artists	
Participation in international or national cultural events involving international actors	

8. APPLICATION PROCESS

Submission Platform: Applications must be submitted via the Goethe Application Portal (GAP) in one of the three (3) project languages, namely French, English, and Portuguese.

The GAP ensures a transparent, user-friendly process compliant with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), data security standards.

Application Requirements:

- **Organisational Profile:** Legal registration details and a brief overview of the organisation's activities (max. 500 words).
- **Presentation of the festival:** Description of the main activities, including foreign participants contribution if relevant (max. 1,000 words).
- **Proposed strategy:** Description of the implementation strategy, including specific objectives, expected results, main activities, cross cutting issues. (max. 1,000 words).
- **Collaboration Plan:** Motivation and strategy for working with artists/creatives, including any interest in involving European perspectives (max. 500 words).
- **Outreach Strategy:** Plan for local presentation events and community engagement, including measures for gender equality, inclusion, and environmental sustainability (max. 500 words).
- **Budget:** Detailed budget outlining costs for cluster management, events, co-productions, and outreach activities, ensuring cost-effectiveness (template provided in GAP).
- **Website and/or social media:** Links to- website and/or social media.

9. SUBMISSION PERIOD AND INFORMATION SESSIONS

The application submission platform will be open for a duration of 45 days, from 11th September 2025 to 27th October 2025.

Information sessions will be held on :

- 18th September 2025
- 25th September 2025

10. FOR ANY OTHER INFORMATIONS

If you have any questions regarding the call for applications or the application process, please contact us at the following address:

- **Email :** EUP-WA@goethe.de / info-ouagadougou@goethe.de
- **Phone:** +226 25 33 04 49

FAQ about applications: Goethe-Institut website

GAP platform support (for technical issues) - support.gap@goethe.de

Supporting documents

1. Copy of official National ID document of legal representative
2. Proof of registration of legal entity
3. Financial statements last 2 years (Unaudited financial statements accepted)
4. Narrative report from the last 2 editions
5. Proof of capacity (document detailing infrastructure, workspaces, etc., including photos of facilities, equipment and accommodation)
6. Proof of Bank Account (Bank confirmation letter or bank statement in the name of the organisation)
7. Tax compliance certificate
8. Self-Declaration (provided in GAP)