

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

NEW NARRATIVES GRANT CALL

1. General Information

Q: What is this call about?

A: This grant call is part of the Africa-Europe Partnerships for Culture: Southern Africa project, funded by the European Union and implemented by the Goethe-Institut. It invites non-profit, non-governmental organisations in 6 Southern African countries, namely: Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe to apply for funding to further develop their heritage narratives and make them more accessible in Southern Africa, Africa and Europe.

The aim is to:

- **Strengthen cultural cooperation** within Southern Africa and between Southern Africa and Europe
- **Enhance regional cultural production capacities**
- **Promote intercultural dialogue** through the co-creation of new narratives around tangible and intangible cultural heritage

Q: What is the funding for?

A: The funding is for 8+ organisations to develop heritage narratives in creative and innovative ways to increase visibility and contemporary relevance. Each selected organisation will receive up to €55,000 to manage a cluster, fund co-productions, and present the narratives to local audiences.

Q: What are the expected results of funded projects under this grant?

A: Funded projects are expected to produce multiple artistic co-productions—such as performances, exhibitions, installations, or films—that showcase the heritage narrative and its relevance to local and global audiences. The projects should contribute to increased visibility of the organisation and its narrative or practice, thereby fostering intercultural dialogue and promoting cultural diversity within Southern Africa, Africa and Europe.

Q: Who is organising this grant?

A: The grant is implemented by the Goethe-Institut.

Q: Is this grant the same as the EUNIC Spaces for Culture?

A: While the EUNIC European Spaces of Culture projects fall under the broader Africa-Europe Partnerships for Culture framework, they are funded through a separate grant. The EUNIC Spaces for Culture grant forms part of the continental component of the programme and will support seven projects annually across Sub-Saharan Africa starting in 2025.

Both initiatives are funded by the European Union and reflect its evolving approach to international cultural relations—one that prioritises local ownership, diversity, and long-term impact.

Read here to find out more about the project: <https://europceanspacesofculture.eu/>

2. Eligibility

Q: Who can apply?

A: To be eligible, applicants must be non-profit, non-governmental legal entities registered in one of the six project countries: **Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, or Zimbabwe**. **UNESCO heritage sites are not eligible to apply, however, UNESCO-affiliated organisations may apply:**

- **UNESCO World Heritage Sites:** These are specific sites inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List (like Robben Island, Victoria Falls, etc.) - prestigious, internationally recognised sites with significant funding and visibility
- **UNESCO-affiliated heritage organisations:** These could include local organisations that work with UNESCO programmes, receive UNESCO support, or implement UNESCO initiatives but don't manage World Heritage Sites

The organisation must **manage a tangible heritage site** (e.g., archaeological site, historical building) or an **intangible heritage practice** (e.g., folklore, music, traditional crafts) of one of the six project countries (Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe).

Organisations must have been **legally registered and operational for at least two years**, with a proven track record of heritage-related activities. Preference will be given to organisations that represent **lesser-known heritage sites or practices**, especially those located outside major urban centres.

Q: Can I apply if I've received funding before from the Goethe-Institut or any of the EU Call for Proposals

A: Organisations that have benefited from EU funded and Goethe-Institut funded initiatives are eligible for funding. However, organisations cannot be funded for the same idea/project again.

3. Application Process

Q: How do I apply?

A: Applications must be submitted via the GAP platform: <https://portal.gap.goethe.de/en-US>. You'll need to create an account, complete the online form and upload all required documents.

Q: What supporting documents are required?

A: Prepare the following documents:

- Proof of legal registration of Organisation
- Copy of official National ID document of primary representative
- Copy of official National ID document of secondary representative
- Financial statements (last two years – from at least 2022-2023)
- Proof of capacity (document detailing infrastructure, workspaces etc. including photos of facilities, equipment and accommodation)

- Detailed Budget (use template provided on GAP)
- Proof of heritage work (portfolio or document showcasing past and current heritage-related activities)
- Proof of Bank Account (Bank confirmation letter or bank statement in the name of the organisation not older than 3 months)
- Tax compliance certificate
- Self-Declaration (provided in GAP)
- Two signed and dated Reference Letters from project partners your organisation has previously worked with. **Support letters from the EU Delegations and the Goethe Institut will not be accepted.**
- Website and/or social media: Links to website and/or social media
- In addition, you are welcome to provide support / proof of performance in other grant projects that the organisation has managed in the past to support your application.

Q: What language should applicants use?

A: Applications can be submitted in English. Alternatively, applicants may write their applications in their original/preferred language and provide English translations of all required documents and application materials.

4. Funding & Support

Q: How much funding is available?

A: Each selected organisation can receive a grant of up to €55,000. This funding is intended to support the management of a Narrative Cluster, facilitate artistic co-productions, and cover costs related to presenting the resulting heritage narratives to local audiences over a 15-month period.

Q: What can the funds be used for?

A: Eligible costs include staff costs, event organisation (e.g., retreats, presentations), co-production funding, travel, accommodation, outreach activities, and costs related to accessibility (e.g., adaptations for persons with disabilities) and environmental sustainability. Projects must use eco-friendly and sustainable and gender-sensitive practices where possible.

Q: Should we include the costs for the artists and creatives in our budget proposal?

A: No, there will be a separate call for artists/creatives which will cover their transport, flights, accommodation and per diems. **Do not include these in your budget.**

Q: Can one organisation submit more than one proposal?

A: Yes, however each proposal must be for a distinct project and will be evaluated independently. Each must meet all eligibility requirements and only one proposal can be selected.

Q: Am I able to co-finance the AEPC Organisations funding with other funding sources not affiliated with the EU?

A: Yes, you can co-finance the Africa–Europe Partnerships for Culture (AEPC) Organisations projects with other funding sources not affiliated with the EU, as long as the overall project budget remains balanced and transparent. Co-financing is not restricted to EU sources, meaning local, private, or other international funding can be included.

The key is to ensure that all contributions are clearly documented and that the project maintains the principles of fair partnership, local ownership, and transparency.

Q: Is there a maximum threshold for staff costs in the budget?

A: No, however, as good practice, staff costs should be budgeted for **no more than 20%** of the total project budget. Adherence to this guideline is **strongly recommended**.

Q: Which costs are ineligible?

A: The following costs are ineligible and should not be included in budget breakdown

- Debt Repayment: Costs for paying off existing debts
- Purchases of land or buildings
- Currency exchange losses
- Seed funding or initial capital used to launch a new business
- Costs related to raising additional funds and other fundraising activities
- Organisation's operational costs and activities not directly linked to the project
- Salary top-ups
- Costs not incurred during the project implementation period

5. Evaluation Criteria

Q: How will applications be assessed?

A: Applications will be evaluated based on the relevance and clarity of the proposed heritage narrative, the organisation's capacity to manage a Narrative Cluster, access to suitable working facilities, and the strength of its motivation to collaborate with interdisciplinary and international creatives. Reviewers will also assess the quality of proposed community outreach and audience engagement activities.

In addition to these core criteria, the selection process will consider **geographical diversity**, a balance between **tangible and intangible heritage**, and representation of lesser-known heritage sites. Proposals that promote gender equality, inclusion of persons with disabilities, and environmental sustainability will be prioritised.

Selection priority will also be given to organisations in Eswatini, Lesotho and Botswana as they lack representation in the first round of selections.

Q: When will applicants be notified of the application outcome?

A: Applicants will be notified of outcomes from 2 – 6 March 2026.

6. Technical Help

Q: I'm having trouble with the GAP portal. What should I do?

A: For technical issues, contact GAP Support at: eup-ssa@goethe.de

Q: Can I get help with my application?

A: Yes! You can access support by doing the following:

For individual queries, feel free to email eup-ssa@goethe.de

We encourage you to reach out early — all enquiries must be submitted **at least one week before the application deadline** to ensure timely support.

Deadlines

Call Publication: 5 January 2026

Application Deadline: 13 February 2026

Deadline for Enquires: 6 February 2026

Evaluation and Selection: 16 - 27 February 2026

Notification and Contracting: 2 – 6 March 2026

Project Activities Start: 16 March 2026

For any assistance with the application process, please contact:

EU Project Team at the Goethe-Institut Johannesburg:

Email: eup-ssa@goethe.de