

# AFRICA-EUROPE PARTNERSHIPS FOR CULTURE

## WEST AFRICA

## Additional Call for Proposals – Festival Hubs

### 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 five (05) organisations to lead " Clusters". Selected organisations will receive grants of up to €100,000.

### 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
- 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**

Public or private organization, non-profit organization, foundation or collectives involved in the following cultural fields may compete: Cinema, AV & animation, Heritage, Literature, Music, 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. STEPS FOR EVALUATING APPLICATIONS**

- Step 1: SHORTLISTING (Checking of the provided documents: presence, compliance, quality...)
- Step 2: SELECTION (Evaluation of the projects by the jury)

### **NOTE:**

Progression to the next step is conditioned on meeting the requirements of the previous step.

At the end of the second stage, the organizations whose projects have been selected will be subjected to an audit.

## **7. PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

**Relevance and consistency of the proposal:** The objectives of the proposal align with those of the Africa Europe Partnership for Culture Project. The proposed activities allow for achieving the expected results. The implementation strategy is clear and coherent. (20%)

**Realism of the proposed budget:** The proposed budget allows for the activities to be carried out effectively to achieve the expected results. (20%)

**Collaboration with other African festivals and/or European festivals, and artist mobility:** The proposal clearly presents activities that promote exchanges between African festivals and/or between African and European festivals. The proposal promotes the mobility of artists. (20%)

**Organizational and financial capacity:** The activity and financial reports from the past two years demonstrate the candidate's ability to be part of the cluster. (20%)

**Consideration of gender:** How does the proposal intend to integrate the issue of gender into the implementation of activities? Is this relevant and realistic? (10%)

**Consideration of environmental sustainability:** How does the proposed plan integrate the issue of environmental protection into the implementation of activities? Is it relevant and realistic? (10%)

## 8. SOUTIEN FINANCIER

- **Grant Amount:** Up to €100,000 per selected organisation, based on a detailed budget submitted with the application.
- **Number of Grants:** Five (05) 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 Event organisation (retreats, presentations) Co-production funding travel Accommodation Outreach activities Costs related to accessibility (eg. adaptation for persons with disabilities) Environmental sustainability Mobility costs (international and local transport of artists, technicians, and partners) Short-term training for festival stakeholders (artists, technicians, and partners) Fees for artists Participation in international or national cultural events involving international actors	Debt repayments: Costs for paying off existing debts Purchase of land or building Currency exchange losses Seed funding or initial capital used to launch a new business Costs of related to raising additional funds and other fundraising activities Organisation operational costs and activities not directly linked to the projects Salary top-ups Costs not incurred during the project implementation period Purchase of alcohol

## 6. APPLICATION PROCESS

Submission Platform: Applications must be submitted via the Goethe Application Portal (GAP) in English or French.

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.
- Presentation of the festival: Description of the main activities, including foreign participants contribution if relevant.
- Summary of the project: objectives, expected results, main activities.
- Website and/or social media: Links to- website and/or social media.

## **10. APPLICATION SUBMISSION PERIOD**

The application submission platform will be open from 8<sup>th</sup> June to 28<sup>th</sup> June 2026 at 10:00 PM GMT.

## **11. NEXT STEPS**

1. Information sessions: Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2026, and Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2026
2. Checking of the applications: 29<sup>th</sup> June to 10<sup>th</sup> July 2026
3. Submission of full proposals by shortlisted organizations: 13<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> July 2026
4. Evaluation of the applications: 27<sup>th</sup> July to 09<sup>th</sup> August 2026
5. Audit: 10<sup>th</sup> to 30 August 2026
6. Publication of the results: 31<sup>st</sup> August 2026

## **12. FOR ANY OTHER INFORMATION**

If you have any questions about the call or the application process, please check our FAQs or contact: [eup-wa@goethe.de](mailto:eup-wa@goethe.de)

### **Annexes**

1. Copy of official National ID document of legal representative
2. Proof of registration of legal entity
3. Financial statements of the last 2 years
4. Narrative report from the last 2 editions
5. Proof of Bank Account (Bank confirmation letter or bank statement in the name of the organisation)
6. Last 3 months bank statements
7. Tax clearance certificate
8. Self-Declaration on financial eligibility (provided in GAP)

**Note: Do not block access to the documents provided as part of this call**