

AFRICA-EUROPE PARTNERSHIPS FOR CULTURE

WEST AFRICA

Call for Applications for Medium-Sized Festivals

1. INTRODUCTION

The Goethe-Institut invites 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 strengthen cultural collaboration between 15 West African countries and the European Union. It seeks to enhance local, regional, and intercontinental cultural cooperation, particularly through the internationalization of the festival sector.

The objective of this call for proposals is to select **forty-two (42)** medium-sized festivals operating in the cultural sectors of *Cinema, AV & Animation, Heritage, Literature, Music, Performing Arts, and Visual Arts*. Seven (7) medium-sized festivals will be selected in each sector. Applicants must indicate the cultural sector/theme for which they are applying in the application form. Each selected organization will receive a grant of **€50,000**.

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.

Cultural sectors / themes

Applications are invited from medium-sized festivals operating in the following cultural sectors/themes:

- Cinema, Audio Visual & Animation
- Heritage
- Literature
- Music
- Performing Arts
- Visual Arts

Applicants may submit only one application and must select one cultural sector/theme in the application form.

3. OBJECTIVES & RESULTS

Overall Objective:

Strengthen co-creation and regional and multi-country cultural cooperation between the European Union and Africa, as well as within Africa, among artists, creators, and cultural professionals, and promote intercultural dialogue, cultural diversity, and mutual understanding between the peoples 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 favorable environment for the mobility of artists.

4. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES:

The proposed activities must be linked to the project's objectives and carried out in a collaborative framework involving seven (07) medium-sized festivals, coordinated by a major festival, all of which are members of the same cluster, with a view to developing partnerships with European festivals.

The cluster is a group comprising seven medium-sized festivals and one major festival operating within the same artistic and cultural field.

The role of the major festival is to lead this cluster through activities such as capacity-building, mobility, work placements and networking, etc.

The proposed activities should relate to:

- The development of and participation in collaborations and co-productions;
- Participation in festival tours for artists and professionals;
- Staff participation in professional mobility schemes;

- Visits to festivals, fairs, events and major European professional networks with an international scope;
- The development and implementation of international marketing concepts.

NB: Proposals for collaborations, co-productions and mobility schemes must, as a priority, be directed towards the cluster's member festivals and other European festivals.

Furthermore, the activities should include measures to facilitate the participation of women (with the aim of achieving 50 per cent participation) and people with disabilities, as well as environmentally friendly 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, Performing arts, Visual arts.

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

6. APPLICATION EVALUATION PROCESS

STEP 1: PRE-SELECTION (Verification of the submitted documents: completeness, compliance, and quality)

STEP 2: SELECTION (Evaluation of project proposals by the jury)

Please Note:

- Progression to the next stage is conditional upon meeting the requirements of the previous stage.

7. AWARD 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. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- **Grant Amount:** Up to €50,000 per selected organisation, based on a detailed budget submitted with the application.
- **Number of Grants:** forty-two (42)
- **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.

ELIGIBLE 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

INELIGIBLE COSTS

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

9. APPLICATION PROCESS

Submission Platform: Complete applications must be submitted in a single submission through the Goethe Application Portal (GAP), either in French or English.

The GAP ensures a transparent and user-friendly application process that complies with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and 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.
- Proposed strategy: Description of the implementation strategy, including specific objectives, expected results, main activities, cross cutting issues.
- Networking and cultural exchanges: Motivation and strategy for working with artists/creatives, including any interest in involving European perspectives.
- Cross cutting issues: Measures for gender equality, inclusion, and environmental sustainability.
- Budget: Detailed budget ensuring cost-effectiveness ([template provided in GAP](#)).
- Website and/or social media: Links to- website and/or social media.

10. SUBMISSION PERIOD AND INFORMATION SESSIONS

The application submission platform will be open for a period of thirty (30) days, from **August 21 to September 20, 2026**.

11. Next Step

1. Information sessions: 28 August 2026 and 8 September 2026
2. Administrative and financial verification: September 21– to October 15, 2026
3. Project evaluation: October 16 to October 30, 2026
4. Publication of results: October 31, 2026

12. FOR ANY OTHER INFORMATION

If you have any question about the call or the application process, please contact us at:

- **Email:** eup-wa@goethe.de
- **Phone:** +226 25 33 04 49

Application FAQs: GI website

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

Supporting documents

1. A copy of the legal representative's official identity document

Valid identity card or passport.

2. Proof of registration of the legal entity

3. Financial statements for the years 2023 and 2024 or 2024 and 2025

Applicants must provide:

- Annual organisational financial statements for the required period (2023–2024 or 2024–2025); or
- Formal organisational financial reports where financial statements are not available.

The following documents cannot be accepted as substitutes: Festival financial reports;

- Festival financial reports;
- Project-specific financial reports;
- Narrative reports;
- Budget reports; or
- Project budgets.

4. A narrative report on the last two editions

5. Proof of a bank account

- A Bank Account Identification Statement; or
- A letter of confirmation from the bank issued in the name of the applicant organisation.

6. Bank statements for the last three months

Applicants must provide:

- The last three consecutive months of bank statements;
- Statements covering the full three-month period, including periods with no account activity; and
- Official bank-issued statements in PDF or another official bank format.

The following documents cannot be accepted:

- Password-protected bank statements;
- Excel spreadsheets;
- Self-generated transaction listings; or
- Partial statements that do not cover the full three-month period.

7. Certificate of tax compliance

Applicants must provide:

- A valid Tax Clearance Certificate (or equivalent tax compliance certificate) that is valid at the time of submission;
- A certificate issued in the name of the applicant organisation.

The following documents cannot be accepted:

- Expired Tax Clearance Certificates;
- Tax Identification documents;
- Tax Registration Certificates;
- Tax Identification Numbers (TINs);
- Tax registration confirmations;
- Similar tax identification documents; or
- Certificates issued in the name of a director, founder, shareholder, or legal representative instead of the applicant organization.

8. Declaration of Financial Eligibility

- Template available on the GAP platform.

Note: Government entities are also required to submit the relevant official financial documents. If the required financial information is not provided, we will not be able to conduct a comprehensive financial assessment.