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RESTRICTED CALL FOR PROPOSALS

EU4Culture II – Sustainable Creative Ecosystems

Supporting the Internationalisation Component

Online Information Session · 29 July 2026, 12:00 CEST

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A programme funded by the European Union and implemented by the Goethe-Institut

What we will cover today

1

The call-in context

EU4Culture II, the internationalisation gap, objectives and expected results

2

Who can apply & what can be funded

Eligibility, consortium rules, beneficiaries, eligible activities, budget principles

3

How to apply

The application form (Annex I), required documents, submission via GAP

4

Evaluation, timeline & questions

Two-stage evaluation, award criteria, key dates, Q&A procedure

EU4Culture II – Sustainable Creative Ecosystems

2025–2029 | Funded by the EU | Implemented by Goethe-Institut

EU4CULTURE II - strengthens the role of culture as **a driver for economic growth, social development and resilience across the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries and Belarusian Cultural and Creative Sector (CCS) in exile**

➤ EMPOWERED AND RESILIENT CREATIVE ECOSYSTEMS

- ✓ Enhanced cooperation within CCS and across sectors
- ✓ Increased role of intermediary organisations as advocates and facilitators for CCS
- ✓ Strengthened capacities
- ✓ Increased visibility and recognition of social and economic role of CCS

➤ EXPANDED INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

- ✓ Integrated EU-EaP CCS landscape
- ✓ Strengthened intercultural dialogue
- ✓ International cultural relations and knowledge exchange
- ✓ Increased international visibility of EaP CCS

➤ EU4CULTURE II SUPPORTS

- ✓ Creative platforms – Living Labs
- ✓ Cultural Intermediary Organisations
- ✓ Mentorship and capacity building for Living Labs and Intermediary Organisations
- ✓ International networking and peer-to-peer exchange opportunities

TOTAL max. BUDGET

EUR 500,000

Exact grant size depends on the scope and scale of the proposed activities

IMPLEMENTATION

Nov 2026 – Mar 2029

Up to 28 months, starting November 2026 after selection and contracting

CO-APPLICANT SHARE

~40 %

Benchmark share of the budget for activities implemented by co-applicants — to be justified in Annexes I & II

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

05 Oct 2026, 18:00 CEST

Exclusively via the Goethe Application Portal (GAP), in English

Eligible countries for the action: Armenia · Azerbaijan · Georgia · Republic of Moldova · Ukraine · Belarusian CCS in exile · EU member states

Creative Platforms — Living Labs

Multi-stakeholder platforms in selected regions of the EaP countries, using co-creation to develop and implement Creative Ecosystem Development Roadmaps for the local CCS - each with a defined geographic and sectoral focus.

Cultural Intermediary Organisations

Organisations developing and testing structured value propositions - practical solutions responding to concrete needs of CCS actors - working across regions, sectors and thematic challenges, in synergy with Living Labs.

This call funds the internationalisation dimension of both components. It targets the members of the Living Labs and Intermediary Organisations selected under EU4Culture II — not the broader CCS sector.

Who the proposals must serve

Primary beneficiaries: members of the Living Labs and Intermediary Organisations selected under EU4Culture II. Every funded activity must clearly and demonstrably serve them. Activities with no link to LL/IO members are not eligible.

Country	Number of the Living Labs	Geographic focus	Sectoral Focus
Armenia	2	Gegharkunik Syunik	Performing arts, music, visual arts, crafts, cultural tourism
Azerbaijan	1	Capital based involving CCS from the regions	Artistic craft (carpeting), Design Digital and Media Arts <i>Focus: Combining traditional cultural practices with innovation</i>
Belarus	1	In exile	Literature, publishing, cultural media
Georgia	2	Kutaisi Zugdidi (TBC)	Cross-sectoral
Moldova	2	Cahul (outreach to Gagauzia) Ungheni (outreach to Bălți)	Performing arts, visual arts, crafts, design, digital/media
Ukraine	2	Ivano-Frankivsk Lviv	Performing arts, music, audiovisual, design, digital/media

Proposals must address the geographic and sectoral focus areas of each Living Lab and Intermediary Organisation (see Annex A) - a one-fits-all approach across the six countries will score poorly. Opportunities must reach organisations beyond capital cities.

Why this call: the internationalisation gap

Research during the EU4Culture II inception phase across all six programme countries shows high demand for international cooperation — but limited, sustained engagement with European networks. Four structural barriers:

1 Limited access to EU funding

Limited access to European funding mechanisms, incl. Creative Europe, due to insufficient administrative, financial and language capacity

2 Capital-city concentration

International opportunities concentrated in capitals — regional organisations, the primary focus of Living Labs, are left out

3 Short-term relationships

Project-based international contacts that do not translate into institutional connections or lasting partnerships

4 Low visibility in networks

Insufficient knowledge of, and visibility within, European cultural networks, platforms and professional communities

The aim is not isolated international activities, but sustained, strategic engagement embedded in the Roadmaps and Value Propositions.

Objectives of the call — answering the gap

Overall objective: enhance the internationalisation of Living Lab members and Intermediary Organisations from the EaP countries through stronger engagement with European cultural networks, platforms and cooperation opportunities.

Specific objectives

Strengthen ties

between EaP CCS actors and European cultural networks, enabling active participation in Creative Europe and other relevant EU platforms

► **Addresses** GAP 1 • Access to EU funding

Promote exchange

knowledge exchange between EaP practitioners and EU network members, bringing international opportunities to organisations beyond the capitals

► **Addresses** GAP 2 • Capital-city concentration

Sustainable collaboration

building durable institutional relationships — not just short-term project partnerships

► **Addresses** GAP 3 • Short-term relationships

Increase visibility & access

raising the presence of Living Lab members and Intermediary Organisations within European and global cultural platforms

► **Addresses** GAP 4 • Low visibility in networks

Expected results

24+

organisations from EaP countries become members of Creative Europe Networks or other European cultural platforms — with lasting professional relationships that continue after the programme ends

24+

sustainable international collaborations established — including EaP–EU and EaP–EaP partnerships

ALL

Living Lab members and Intermediary Organisations have developed their internationalisation strategies

Your proposal will be assessed against a results framework with specific, measurable indicators, baselines and targets (Logframe, Annex III).

Who can apply — two routes

ROUTE A

Single applicant

A EUNIC member organisation:

- registered in an EU member state
- active in the EaP countries
- min. 10 years of experience in cultural development, international programme management or related fields

PRIORITY ROUTE

Consortium (2–3 members)

1

LEAD (mandatory)

EUNIC member - EU-registered, active in the EaP countries, min. 10 years of experience

2

CO-APPLICANT (mandatory)

Creative Europe Network - recognised under / affiliated with Creative Europe, active at application, min. 5 years of experience

3

THIRD CO-APPLICANT (optional)

Another EUNIC member (lead conditions) or another European Cultural Network (co-applicant conditions)

All members must be legally registered in the EU, non-profit, with a clear connection to the cultural and creative sectors. The lead applicant submits on behalf of the consortium and signs the grant contract; co-applicants are co-beneficiaries under the same cost-eligibility rules.

Who cannot apply

- ✕ Natural persons
- ✕ Profit-making companies
- ✕ Organisations without a clear connection to the cultural and creative sectors
- ✕ Organisations subject to exclusion under EU, Goethe-Institut or programme rules
- ✕ Applicants previously involved in preparing this call (conflict of interest)
- ✕ Organisations that are not legally registered entities
- ✕ European cultural networks acting as lead applicant
- ✕ Organisations not meeting administrative, legal or financial requirements
- ✕ Consortia of more than three organisations

Exclusion criteria apply to every consortium member (bankruptcy, tax/social security breaches, fraud, sanctions lists, etc.) — confirmed via the Self-Declaration Form (Annex VI) and checked against sanctionsmap.eu before contracting.

What can be funded || Examples

1

Strategic internationalisation planning

Strategies, partner mapping, planning workshops, consultancy — embedded in Roadmaps & Value Propositions

2

Relationship-building & networks

Matchmaking, participation in fairs/festivals/conferences, membership fees for Creative Europe & other European networks

3

Mobility & professional exchange

Residencies, study visits, training and mobility grants for LL/IO members in EU member states

4

Visibility & digital engagement

Communications to European audiences, online networking, multilingual materials, policy forums

5

Alumni & community building

Alumni networks, peer-learning, mentoring structures, digital communities sustained beyond the project

6

Cross-sectoral collaboration & sub-granting

Sub-grants to LL/IO members for cross-sectoral international projects and cooperation models

7

Country- & community-specific measures

Incl. hybrid formats for the Belarusian CCS in exile and locally anchored models per Living Lab focus

Activities may combine directions, provided they form a coherent, well-justified programme of work. Lists are indicative, not exhaustive.

What is not funded || Examples

- ✕ Activities with no clear link to Living Lab members or Intermediary Organisations within EU4Culture II
- ✕ Purely local activities with no international dimension
- ✕ Commercial or profit-driven activities
- ✕ Standalone events, unsustainable projects
- ✕ Activities already funded by another EU grant covering the same costs
- ✕ Activities focused only on the applicant's own visibility or programme needs

Tailored ≠ generic

A strong proposal explains why a specific opportunity fits a specific ecosystem — e.g. why a given design fair is strategically aligned with a Living Lab's sectoral focus and market-access needs.

Applying the same example generically across countries will be treated as insufficient.

Remember: no double funding, no profit, no costs incurred before contract signature.

PART 3

How to apply

The application form · required documents · budget rules · submission via GAP

Annex I — structure and page limits

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 General information
Application summary table | 6 Dissemination
max 2.5 pages — communication, dissemination & EU visibility |
| 2 Executive summary
max 1.5 pages — self-contained; added value of the applicant(s) | 7 Applicants' experience
similar & other actions, past 3 years — max 5 actions, 1 page each |
| 3 Description of the action
max 5 pages — relevance & necessity (3) + objectives & expected results (2) | 8 Mandate(s)
signed & dated by each co-applicant — authorises the lead applicant |
| 4 Quality of content & activities
max 12 pages — concept & methodology, country-specific approach, target groups, action plan (Gantt), sustainability | 9 Checklist
for self-guidance — delete before submitting |
| 5 Project management
max 10 pages — consortium, governance, team, cost-effectiveness, M&E, risks, horizontal issues | |

Total application narrative: max 40 pages. Do not alter the structure, headings or page limits of the form.

Filling in the form — practical rules

Language & format

English only · Verdana 10 pt · single spacing · A4 · 2.5 cm margins. Non-English supporting documents need English translations of relevant sections.

Clean before you submit

Delete all grey-italic instructions and the self-guidance checklist. Keep the section structure and headings untouched.

Answer the guiding questions

Each section mirrors the award criteria — evaluators score using those questions. Address them directly, with evidence.

Use the annexes consistently

Staff functions must match Annex II (budget); results must match Annex III (Logframe); country table must match Annex A focus areas.

Use of AI

AI may support your drafting - structure, language, English. It must not write the proposal for you. Generic AI text scores poorly.

Common mistakes to avoid: generic "one-fits-all" country approaches · vague results without indicators or targets · listing the Creative Europe Network co-applicant without explaining what it will concretely deliver · sustainability described in general terms · over-reliance on AI producing generic, inconsistent text.

Required documents — upload on GAP by the deadline

Document	Format	Submitted by
Annex I — Grant Application Form	PDF	Lead applicant
Annex II — Budget & Funding Plan	Excel	Lead applicant
Annex III — Logical Framework Matrix	PDF	Lead applicant
Annex IV — Legal Entity Sheet(s)	PDF, signed	Lead + each co-applicant
Annex V — Financial Identification Form	PDF, signed	Lead applicant
Annex VI — Self-Declaration Form(s)	PDF, signed	Lead + each co-applicant
Annex VII — Financial statements	PDF	Lead applicant
CVs of core team members	PDF, max 3 pages each	Lead + each co-applicant

Incomplete applications will not be evaluated — no requests for missing documents after submission. If you submit more than once, only the last version is assessed.

Annex II_Budget and Financial Plan

Direct eligible cost categories

- Staff costs (recommendation: $\leq 40\%$ of budget; no performance bonuses)
- Travel & accommodation
- Equipment (inventoried, dedicated to the action)
- Costs of services (expertise, translation, production...)
- Office & administration costs
- Other direct costs (audit, dissemination, insurance, bank charges...)

Key rules

7% flat rate

for indirect costs, on total direct eligible costs — no supporting documents needed

Justify every line

unit cost $\times$ number of units, necessity and link to activities (justification sheet in Annex II)

Non-retroactivity

only costs incurred after contract signature are eligible

No double funding & no profit

declare all other funding sources received or applied for

All figures in EUR. Payments in instalments (30% pre-financing / 40% / 20% / 10%) linked to report approvals. Records retained for 10 years; external audit for grants $\geq$ EUR 100,000 (budget for it).

Two-stage evaluation

STAGE 1 — PASS / FAIL

Formal & eligibility check

- On time, correct templates, complete, in English
- Applicant / consortium meets all Section 2 criteria
- Geographic scope & duration within the call
- No exclusion situations; sanctions-list check
- No double funding



STAGE 2 — SCORED

Quality assessment

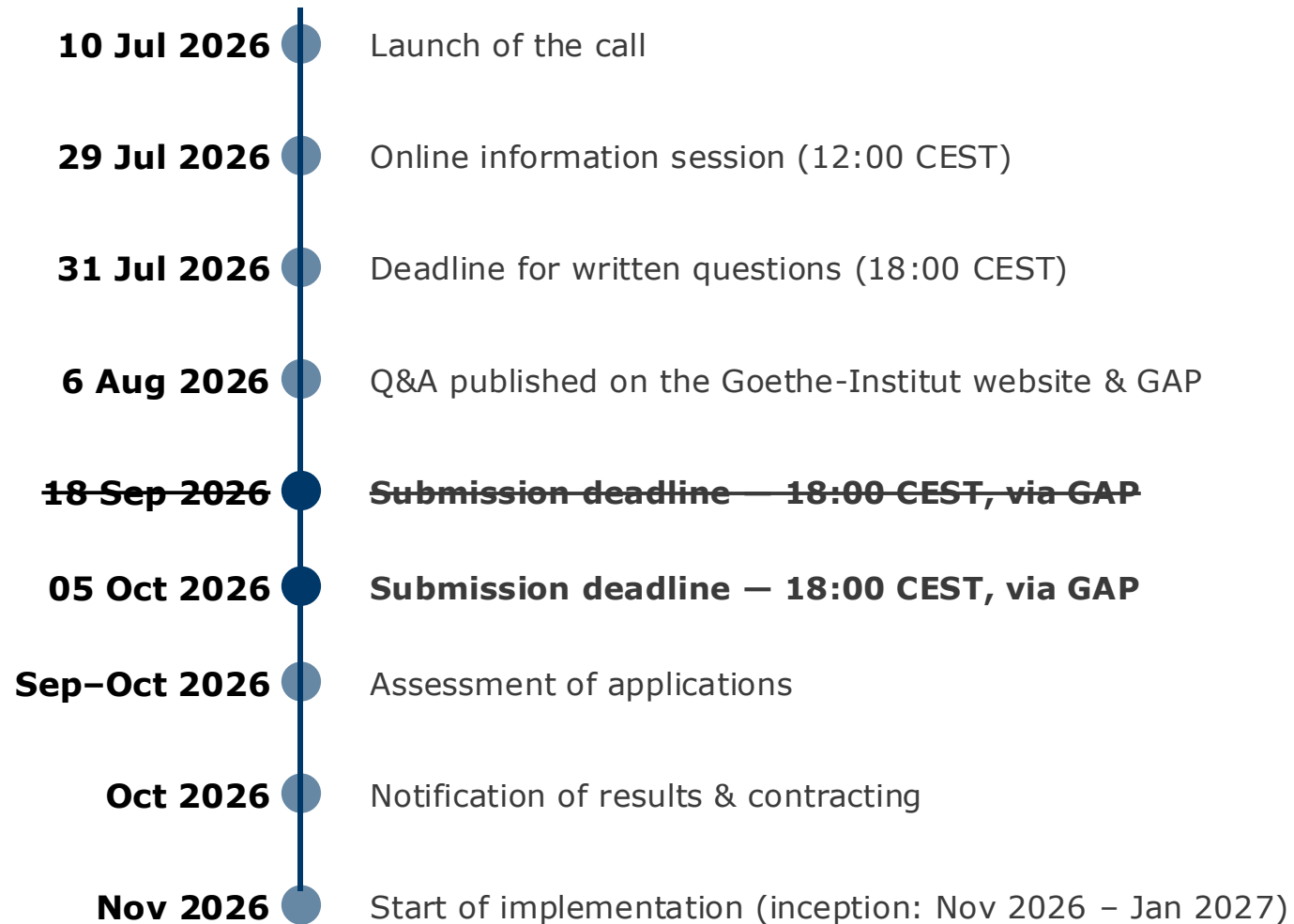
- Selection Committee scores each criterion 1–5, weighted to a total out of 100
- Overall pass mark: 60 / 100
- Every criterion also has its own minimum - falling below any one of them means the proposal is not funded, regardless of the total
- Operational capacity assessed under the design criterion

Applications that fail Stage 1 are not evaluated on quality. All applicants are notified in writing; complaints within 30 days of notification.

Award criteria — where the points are

Criterion	Minimum	Maximum
1. Relevance and impact	12	20
2. Design and methodology	12	20
3. Consortium composition & partnership quality	9	15
4. Effectiveness and expected results	9	15
5. Promotion of horizontal principles	6	10
6. Sustainability	6	10
7. Budget and cost-effectiveness	6	10

Key dates



Technical Guide

How to apply on GAP?

How to apply?

- Visit the webpage
<https://portal.gap.goethe.de/en-US/>
- Create a new account
- Receive the confirmation Email on your Email
- Click on the Link in your Email and activate the account
- If you don't receive a confirmation Email, please contact the technical support:
support.gap@goethe.de
- In order to apply you must have the valid Login account
- Application can be submitted only in **English**

START REGISTER

WELCOME TO THE APPLICATION PORTAL OF THE GOETHE-INSTITUT

Via our Goethe-Application Portal (GAP) you can apply for various funding programmes of the Goethe-Institut, such as EU-Funding programmes, the International Relief Fund, residency programmes, funding in the divisions of Music and Theatre/Dance as well as for the International Coproduction Fund and the Visual Arts Project Fund.

Please inform yourself in advance about our funding requirements and funding opportunities on the respective websites of our funding programmes.

In order to create an application you must create a user account. You can use the same account to create and submit all your applications. In order to register you need a valid e-mail address and a password containing at least ten characters, combining characters of the following character groups: uppercase letters, lowercase letters, numbers, other characters.

After your registration you will automatically receive an e-mail to activate your account.

LOGIN

Invalid username or password



LOGIN

[Forgot Password?](#)

Create a new account

To create a new account please click the button below

CREATE ACCOUNT

Not registered?

- Make sure you are registering as an organisation
- If not registered as an organisation, the system won't show the available call, as it's only eligible for legal persons

[START](#) [REGISTER](#)

CREATE USER ACCOUNT

All fields marked by a star (*) have to be filled out.

Please provide a valid email address and a password of at least 8 characters. The email address is your user account name.

User account type *

- ☒ Organisation / Enterprise
- ☐ Individual person
- ☐ Agency

ORGANISATION

Name of institution*

Street*

Additional info

Postal Code

City

Country* ▾

Telephone*

Email*

1. From the available calls, select EU4Culture

PERSONAL DATA **NEW APPLICATION** MY APPLICATIONS

SELECT FUNDING AREA

alphabetical order

Africa-Europe Partnerships for Culture: West Africa Component

The Goethe-Institut invites the festival organisers 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 internationalisation of the festival sector.

Creative Compass Georgia

Creative Compass Georgia is a project co-financed by the EU and the Goethe-Institut Georgia, which aims to promote sustainable growth and employment in the Georgian cultural and creative industries by strengthening capacity building, networking and cooperation between state and non-state actors.

EU Scholarship Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community

EU4Belarus: MOST IV

The European Union's project that helps Belarusians professionals to make mobilities to EU countries in the six thematic areas society, culture, business, education, health and care and sustainability.

EU4CULTURE II - Sustainable Creative Ecosystems

Music

Theatre and Dance

Visual Arts

2. Select call, relevant for your country

PERSONAL DATA NEW APPLICATION MY APPLICATIONS MY TASKS

SELECT FUNDING TYPE

EU4CULTURE II - Restricted Call for Proposals for Internationalisation Component

BACK

➤ You will be redirected to the official EU4Culture page

PERSONAL DATA NEW APPLICATION MY APPLICATIONS MY TASKS

☐ 1. About the Call

☐ General Contact Data

☐ 3. General Information about the Applicant

☐ 4. Operational and financial capacity of t...

☐ 5. Application form and supporting anne...

☐ 6. Declaration of Honor

☐ 7. Data Protection Declaration

☐ Save and Send

Application > EU4CULTURE II - Restricted Call for Proposals for Internationalisation Component

EU4CULTURE II - SUSTAINABLE CREATIVE ECOSYSTEMS

 Funded by the European Union





RESTRICTED CALL FOR PROPOSALS: SUPPORTING THE INTERNATIONALISATION COMPONENT

Goethe-Institut, within the EU-funded *EU4Culture II – Sustainable Creative Ecosystems* programme, invites eligible EUNIC member organisations to submit proposals under a Restricted Call for Proposals supporting the Internationalisation Component.

Applications may be submitted **by a single EUNIC member** or **by a consortium** led by a EUNIC member together **with a Creative Europe Network as co-applicant**.

The total budget available under this Call is EUR 500,000. One applicant or consortium will be awarded a grant to design and implement internationalisation actions supporting cultural and creative sector (CCS) actors participating in the EU4Culture II programme's key activities, namely the Living Labs and Intermediary Organisations, across the Eastern Partnership region: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarusian CCS in exile.

Submitted proposals must demonstrate a clear and direct link to the Creative Ecosystem Development Roadmaps to be developed by the selected Living Labs and the Value Propositions to be developed by the selected Intermediary Organisations within EU4Culture II. Proposals must aim to strengthen the internationalisation capacity, opportunities, and outreach of these initiatives by supporting the implementation of their Roadmaps and Value Propositions and delivering tangible benefits to their members and stakeholders in the eligible Eastern Partnership countries listed above.

Applications must be submitted in English no later than **18 September 2026. 18:00**

26

- Click on **save & next** after filling out **each** section, otherwise you won't be able to finalize your application

➤ **Before submitting the application, make sure that all the sections are checked, otherwise, you won't be able to finalize your application.**

The screenshot displays a web application interface for submitting an application. At the top, there are three buttons: 'BACK' (grey), 'SAVE' (grey), and 'SAVE & NEXT' (green). Below these is a navigation bar with four tabs: 'PERSONAL DATA', 'NEW APPLICATION', 'MY APPLICATIONS', and 'MY TASKS'. The 'MY APPLICATIONS' tab is active, showing a list of applications. The first application is 'EU4CULTURE II - Restricted Call for Proposals for Internationalisation Component'. Below this, there is a section titled 'SAVE AND SEND'. On the left, there is a checklist of sections to be completed, each with a checkbox. The sections are: '1. About the Call', '2. General Contact Data', '3. General Information about the Applicant', '4. Operational and financial capacity of t...', '5. Application form and supporting anne...', '6. Declaration of Honor', '7. Data Protection Declaration', and '8. Save and Send'. The '8. Save and Send' checkbox is highlighted with a red box. To the right of the checklist is a large text area for 'Final Remarks' with a character count of '1000 characters remaining'. Below the text area are three buttons: 'PRINT VERSION (PDF)' (grey), 'BACK' (grey), 'SAVE' (grey), and 'SEND' (green).

BACK SAVE SAVE & NEXT

PERSONAL DATA NEW APPLICATION MY APPLICATIONS MY TASKS

Application > EU4CULTURE II - Restricted Call for Proposals for Internationalisation Component

SAVE AND SEND

Final Remarks

1000 characters remaining

PRINT VERSION (PDF)

BACK SAVE SEND

Questions?

1

Written questions only

Submit by 31 July 2026, 18:00 CEST to eu4culture@goethe.de — individual consultations are not provided.

2

Answers for all

All questions and answers are compiled and published on 6 August 2026 on the Goethe-Institut website and GAP.

3

This session

Is recorded and will be made available on the Goethe-Institut website and GAP.