## 

## Fund for Bilateral Relations at Programme level

Support for study visits – travel support scheme

in Bulgaria and Liechtenstein, Iceland and Norway

The funding is intended for establishing partnerships and preparation of joint project proposals under six different calls under the PA14 “Cultural Entrepreneurship, Heritage and Cooperation” Programme.

1. **INTRODUCTION**

The PA14 “Cultural Entrepreneurship, Heritage and Cooperation” Programme, financed by the EEA Grants 2014-212 focuses on the role that culture and cultural heritage play as resources for local and regional development through measures for cultural entrepreneurship, employment and social inclusion. The following areas of support are defined and within their frames – project proposals will be funded:

1. Cultural heritage management, preservation and conservation related to national, regional and local development;
2. Documentation and accessibility of culture and cultural heritage;
3. Cultural entrepreneurship;
4. Audience development, including people in the diversity of culture, outreach and educational activities;
5. Networking and international culture cooperation/exchange;

The PA14 “Cultural Entrepreneurship, Heritage and Cooperation” Programme will support projects which aim to improve the conditions for representation of the artifacts at museums, galleries, libraries and chitalistha (unique Bulgarian community centers) as well as projects that will digitize the cultural history of social, ethnic and cultural minorities, and groups. The improvement of access to culture is also among the aims of the Programme as projects that will generate new cultural content through organization of festivals, performances, traveling performances, exhibitions, cultural routes and others.

In order to achieve the aims mentioned above, the Programme Operator of the PA14 “Cultural Entrepreneurship, Heritage and Cooperation” Programme will announce calls for project proposals according to the following the preliminary schedule:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **№** | **Outcome** | **Indicative Dates of Announcement of the Calls for Proposal** |
| 1. | “Cultural heritage management conditions enhanced” |  |
| 1.1. „Cultural heritage restored and revitalized” | | November, 2019 |
| * 1. “Access to cultural heritage” | | September, 2019 |
| 2. | “Access to arts and culture improved” | February, 2019  September, 2020 |
| 3. | “Awareness of arts and culture of ethnic and cultural minorities improved (Roma focus)” | April, 2019  April, 2021 |

1. **INVITATION FOR BILATERAL INITIATIVES AND TRAVEL SUPPORT SCHEME**

The overall aim of the current Call for bilateral initiatives is to support activities that aim to strengthen the bilateral relations between organizations from the Donor States and Bulgaria within the frames of the PA14   
“Cultural Entrepreneurship, Heritage and Cooperation” Programme.

The concrete aim of the Call is through the funding of the expenditures for traveling and subsistence to facilitate the establishment of bilateral partnerships between organizations from Bulgaria and the Donor States which have the intention to submit project proposals under the future Calls under the Programme.

1. **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS**

The eligible applicants under the current Call are organizations from Bulgaria or the Donor States which are active and operate in the cultural sector.

The Ministry of Culture will announce 6 (six) calls for project proposals and indicative dates are described in it.1. Under the different calls, there are different eligible applicants/partners as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **№** | **Outcome** | **Eligible Applicants** | **Eligible Partners** |
| 1. | “Cultural heritage management conditions enhanced” | Any non-commercial public entity, established as a legal person in Bulgaria, whose principal activity is in the cultural and creative sectors as defined in Regulation (EU) No 1295/2013 on the Creative Europe Programme[[1]](#footnote-1), including municipalities and regional administrations.  Natural persons are not eligible project promoters. | Any non-commercial, public or private, entity, and non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person in Bulgaria or in the Donor States.  Natural persons are not eligible project partners. |
| 2. | “Access to arts and culture improved” | Any non-commercial, public or private, entity, as well as non-governmental organizations, established as a legal person in Bulgaria, whose principal activity is in the cultural and creative sectors as defined in Regulation (EU) No 1295/2013 on the Creative Europe Programme[[2]](#footnote-2), including municipalities.  Natural persons are not eligible project promoters. | Any non-commercial, public or private, entity, and non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person in Bulgaria, whose principal activity is in the cultural and creative sectors as defined in Regulation (EU) No 1295/2013 on the Creative Europe Programme[[3]](#footnote-3).  Any entity, public or private, commercial or non-commercial, and non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person in the Donor States, whose principal activity is in the cultural and creative sectors as defined in Regulation (EU) No 1295/2013 on the Creative Europe Programme[[4]](#footnote-4).  Natural persons are not eligible project partners. |
| 3. | “**Awareness of arts and culture of ethnic and cultural minorities improved (Roma focus** | Any non-commercial, public or private, entity, as well as non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person in Bulgaria, whose principal activity is in the cultural and creative sectors as defined in Regulation (EU) No 1295/2013 on the Creative Europe Programme[[5]](#footnote-5), including municipalities.  Natural persons are not eligible project promoters. | Any non-commercial, public or private, entity, and non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person in Bulgaria, whose principal activity is in the cultural and creative sectors as defined in Regulation (EU) No 1295/2013 on the Creative Europe Programme[[6]](#footnote-6).  Any entity, public or private, commercial or non-commercial, and non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person in the Donor States, whose principal activity is in the cultural and creative sectors as defined in Regulation (EU) No 1295/2013 on the Creative Europe Programme[[7]](#footnote-7).  Natural persons are not eligible project partners. |

1. **ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES UNDER THE CURRENT CALL**

The current Call for Bilateral Initiatives is opened for all Outcomes indicated in it.1 and for the eligible applicants/partners in it. 3.

The activities must be implemented only on the territory of Bulgaria, Iceland, Liechtenstein or in Norway.

The maximum term for implementation of each bilateral initiative is 5 (five) calendar days. This includes the day~~s~~ of arrival and the day~~s~~ for departure.

1. **MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF FUNDING**

The maximum amount of funding which an applicant organization can receive under the current call is up to 5000 (five thousand) euros on the basis of expenditure justifying documents (invoices, boarding cards, tickets etc.) for already incurred expenditures.

Applicants under the call can receive funding for study visits from the Bilateral Fund only once.

1. **ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES**

According to the maximum amount of funding under the current call (point 5 from the Call), the following expenditures and the respective limits to them are considered eligible:

1. Expenditures for daily allowance for the maximum of two persons per applicant organization – 35 euros (thirty five) per day, per person in all countries.
2. Expenditures for accommodation for the maximum of two persons from applicant organization from Bulgaria in Iceland and Liechtenstein – 130 euros per night, per person.
3. Expenditures for accommodation for the maximum of two persons from applicant organization from Bulgaria in Norway – 145 euros per night, per person.
4. Expenditures for accommodation for the maximum of two persons from applicant organization from the Donor States in Bulgaria – 130 euros per night, per person.
5. Expenditures for airplane tickets, both directions (from Bulgaria to the Donor States and from the Donor States to Bulgaria); the persons have right to economic class.
6. Expenditures for internal transport in Bulgaria between the cities. Expenditures for taxi or car rental will not be reimbursed.
7. Expenditures for internal transport in the Donor States between the cities. Expenditures for taxi or car rental will not be reimbursed.
8. Expenditures for international public transport. Expenditures for taxi or car rental will not be reimbursed.
9. **DOCUMENTATION FOR APPLYING**

The documentation for applying include:

1. Application form (Annex №1) which shall be filled and submitted in English to the following [pa14culture@mc.government.bg](mailto:pa14culture@mc.government.bg) and describes the activities under the visit;
2. Invitation by the receiving organization.

Each organization from the Donor States shall provide an extract from information registrar that certifies its status.

The eligibility check of the applicants will be executed by the Ministry of Culture.

The documentation for applying is available at <https://www.eeagrants.bg/en/programs/culture>.

1. **PERIOD OF OPERATION OF THE CALL**

The current Call will be opened during the whole period of operation of the PA14 “Cultural Entrepreneurship, Heritage and Cooperation” Programme (until 2024) and until the exhaustion of budget of the Fund for Bilateral Relations (100 000 euros)

1. **EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS**

The Ministry of Culture approves or rejects the submitted application within 7 (seven) work days from the date of its reception at [pa14culture@mc.government.bg](mailto:pa14culture@mc.government.bg). The applicants will be informed about the decision via e-mail.

NB! Travels and hotels should not be booked/prepaid before confirmation on the funding is given.

1. **REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENDITURES**

Funding shall be given as reimbursement of already incurred documented costs. Applicants shall cover the expenditures from own funds and ask for reimbursement from the Ministry of Culture after participation in the bilateral event.

The request for reimbursement contains the following documents:

1. Request for Reimbursement/Report (Annex 2)

Copies of all expenditure justifying documents (invoices, boarding cards, tickets and etc.) shall be applied. The templates of the documentations are present at the EEA Grants internet site – https://www.eeagrants.bg/en/programs/culture.

The approved organizations shall submit the above-cited documents before the Ministry of Culure on the following e-mail – [pa14culture@mc.government.bg](mailto:pa14culture@mc.government.bg) within 30 (thirty) work days following the conclusion of the event. The Ministry of Culture will reimburse the amount within two weeks after complete template is received. Rejected expenditures will not be reimbursed.

1. OJ L 347, 20.12.2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. OJ L 347, 20.12.2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. OJ L 347, 20.12.2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. OJ L 347, 20.12.2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. OJ L 347, 20.12.2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. OJ L 347, 20.12.2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. OJ L 347, 20.12.2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)