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**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
2023**

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International fund for cultural diversity

Investing in creativity. Transforming societies.

On 16 March 2023,
the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD)
launches its 14th call for funding requests.

The International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) is a key instrument of international cooperation and assistance for **the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005)**.

Its purpose is to foster the emergence of dynamic cultural sectors in developing countries that are Parties to the 2005 Convention, through strengthening the means to create, produce, distribute and have access to diverse cultural goods and services. As a multi-donor fund, the IFCD promotes South-South and North-South cooperation, while contributing to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and gender equality.

Since 2010, the IFCD has invested US\$10.4 million through 140 projects in 69 countries in support of the creative economy and to bolster inclusive and sustainable economic growth. These projects cover a wide range of areas, from the development and implementation of cultural policies, capacity-building for cultural professionals and entrepreneurs, access to new markets, to greater participation in cultural life.

The UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005) is an international standard-setting instrument that recognizes the sovereign right of States to formulate and implement policies and measures that support the emergence of dynamic and diverse cultural sectors.



Basic information

Eligible countries

Projects must be implemented and/or benefit [eligible countries](#) only (developing countries that are Parties to the 2005 Convention). Applications from INGOs must be implemented in two or more eligible countries and demonstrate that the proposed project has an impact at the sub-regional, regional or inter-regional level.

Project Duration

12 to 24 months

Project launch date

From April 2024 at the earliest (upon the approval of the project by the Intergovernmental Committee in February 2024)

Amount

US\$ 100,000 is the maximum amount that can be requested*

Allocations will be sent in several installments:

Beginning of the project: 50%

Mid-way through the project: 30 %

Completion of the project: 20%**

Language

The application and accompanying documents must be in English or French

Submission deadline

16 May 2023 (12:00PM, Paris time)

* The project budget must include the allocation of resources for project communication. It must also include the costs of an external financial audit to be conducted at the end of the project.

** If approved, a funding contract will be signed between UNESCO and the applicant. All payments by UNESCO to finance the project will be made in US dollars. Please note that the recipient must be able to advance resources corresponding to the last payment, which amounts to 20% of the funding granted, in order to allow the finalization of the project activities.

Who is eligible?

The IFCD invests in projects that lead to structural and sustainable change through:

- The introduction and/or elaboration of policies and strategies that have a direct effect on the creation, production, distribution of and access to a diversity of cultural expressions, including cultural goods, services and activities
- The reinforcement of human and institutional capacities of public sector and civil society organizations deemed necessary to support viable local and regional cultural industries and markets in developing Countries

Who can apply

- Public authorities and institutions from [eligible countries](#) (developing countries that are Parties to the 2005 Convention)
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from [eligible countries](#) (developing countries that are Parties to the 2005 Convention) that meet the definition of civil society*
- International non-governmental organizations (INGOs) registered in countries [Parties to the 2005 Convention](#), that meet the definition of civil society* in the Operational Guidelines and that present projects that have an impact in developing countries at the sub-regional, regional or inter-regional level

Sectors of intervention

Projects may have a transversal (cultural policies, strategies, copyright, etc.) or sectoral focus. There are seven eligible sectors:

Audio-visual/cinema Design
Media arts Music Performing arts
Publishing Visual arts

* Non-governmental organizations, non-profit organizations, professionals in the culture sector and associated sectors, groups that support the work of artists and cultural communities. Criteria identified in the Operational Guidelines on civil society are: civil society have interests and activities in one or more fields covered by the Convention; they have a legal status in compliance with the established rules of the jurisdiction in the State of registration; they are representative of their respective field of activity, or of the respective social or professional groups they represent. (Operational Guidelines, Article 11)

Types of eligible projects

1. Projects submitted by **public authorities and institutions** that:

- Develop tools that contribute to decision-making and planning (mappings, sustainable statistical collection and processing systems, sectoral strategies, etc.)
- Create/strengthen public cultural agencies and institutions essential to the development of cultural industries, including developing the expertise of civil servants
- Establish/strengthen financing and market development mechanisms for cultural goods and services
 - Implement international cooperation agreements and treaties aimed at a more balanced exchange of cultural goods and services
 - Create/strengthen the pedagogical and organizational capacities of educational, vocational and technical training institutes in the cultural and creative sectors
- Promote the development of cultural industries in the digital environment, in accordance with the [Open Road Map](#) for the Implementation of Guidelines to Promote the Diversity of Cultural Expressions in the Digital Environment
- Strengthen participation in cultural life, in particular measures to promote engagement of vulnerable groups (including persons belonging to minorities and indigenous peoples) in the creation, production, distribution and access to diverse cultural expressions
- Create and implement measures or policies to promote gender equality in the cultural and creative sectors

2. Projects submitted by **non-governmental organizations (NGO)** that:

- Strengthen capacities of civil society focusing on policy participation, communication and/or networking
- Contribute to inform policy making, including monitoring and evaluation activities to determine the impact of cultural policies and measures to promote cultural industries
- Strengthen the pedagogical and organizational capacities of educational, vocational and technical training institutes in the cultural and creative sectors
- Create new financing opportunities and promote access to national and international markets for cultural goods and services
- Promote the development of cultural industries in the digital environment, in accordance with the [Open Road Map](#) for the Implementation of Guidelines to Promote the Diversity of Cultural Expressions in the Digital Environment
- Strengthen participation in cultural life, including measures to promote engagement of vulnerable groups (including persons belonging to minorities and indigenous peoples) in the creation, production, distribution and access to diverse cultural expressions
 - Create and implement measures to promote gender equality in the cultural and creative sectors

What projects are NOT eligible?



- **Projects exclusively aiming at the production of cultural and artistic works and events**
 - **Projects related to safeguarding intangible cultural heritage (please refer to the Fund for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage)**
 - **Projects related to tangible cultural heritage including World Heritage sites (please refer to the World Heritage Fund)**
 - **Projects aimed at offsetting a deficit, repaying a debt or paying interest**
- **Projects exclusively financing permanent working spaces and/or equipment**
 - **Projects that are conceived as scholarships or grants for personal needs**
 - **Projects financing the physical construction or the restoration of buildings**
 - **Projects that focus on primary and secondary school environments**
 - **Projects sustaining ongoing activities with recurring costs**
 - **Projects that focus on cultural tourism**

* In accordance with the Operational Guidelines on the Use of the Resources of the IFCD approved by the Conference of Parties in June 2013, National Commissions for UNESCO and any other organizations participating in the pre-selection or approval of projects submitted to the UNESCO Secretariat are also not eligible for IFCD funding

Submission deadline

16 May 2023 (12:00PM, Paris time)*

Applications submitted after this date will
NOT be considered for evaluation

Prepare the application

- Review the Call for Funding
- Review the [Annotated Guide](#)
- Complete the [Project Framework](#)**
- Gather required [Complementary Documents](#)

Submit the application

- Create your account at
<https://en.unesco.org/creativity/applicant/register>
- Fill out the online Application Form at***
<https://en.unesco.org/creativity/user>
- Upload the Project Framework and
Complementary Documents
- Date, sign and click 'SUBMIT' to finalize your application

How to apply

*To avoid technical problems at the time of submission, please ensure to submit your application well in advance of the deadline.

**Use Microsoft Excel (2011 or later versions) or similar applications.

***In order to avoid any loss of information, it is strongly recommended to prepare all the information requested in the form in a Word document beforehand.

Selection Procedure

Step 1

National Commissions for UNESCO will form a pre-selection panel consisting essentially of representatives from Ministries of Culture and/or other Ministries responsible for the cultural industries and members of civil society organizations specializing in culture. They will review the application for relevance and feasibility, whether it meets the State's needs and priorities and if the proposal has been subject to a consultation among stakeholders. This panel will then perform an online **pre-selection of a maximum of four funding requests** (two maximum from public authorities/institutions and two maximum from NGOs) by **30 June 2023**, midnight, Paris time.

Step 2

Upon receiving the pre-selected applications from the National Commissions, the **UNESCO Secretariat** will perform a technical assessment to ensure that the applications are complete and fall within IFCD's areas of intervention. The Secretariat will also review applications from international NGOs (INGOs) at this stage as they do not go through the National Commission panel.

Step 3

All eligible applications will be evaluated by an **International Panel of Experts** from UNESCO's six regions. Each application will be reviewed by two members of the Panel against the evaluation criteria established for the IFCD. The results of the preselection, the technical assessment and the IFCD International Panel of Experts' evaluation will be published in **January 2024** on the '**Results**' page of the IFCD website.

Step 4

Final recommendations by the International Panel of Experts will be communicated to the Intergovernmental Committee of the 2005 Convention, which will make the final decision on projects to receive the funding during its 17th ordinary session at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from **27 February - 1 March 2024**.

Step 5

The UNESCO Secretariat will inform the beneficiaries of the approval of their application, as well as the steps necessary to proceed with the elaboration of a contract for the implementation of the project.





Applications for funding requests to the IFCD will be evaluated against criteria on how the funding request:

- **Addresses the objectives, priorities and areas of intervention of the 2005 Convention and the IFCD**
- **Meets the needs and priorities of the State where the project will be implemented, is feasible and relevant**
- **Contributes to achieving concrete, measurable, realistic and sustainable results**
- **Has a potential structural impact leading to the emergence of a dynamic cultural sector**
 - **Promotes South-South and North-South-South cooperation**
 - **Ensures that the project's impact/long-term benefits can be achieved and promotes the sustainability of the project**
 - **Satisfies the principle of financial accountability**

The skills and competences of key people involved in the implementation of the proposed activities as well as the involvement of stakeholders in the design and implementation of the project will also be evaluated*.

An International Panel of Experts will evaluate the capacity of the applicant to implement the work plan and manage the budget, ensuring that:

- **Overhead costs do not exceed 30% of the total budget**
- **Requested funds are to be spent principally on project activities**
- **Resources are not spread too thinly and are not used to support sporadic activities**

Additional financial assistance, either in the form of self or co-funding, is highly advisable as a means to engage more partners in the process and to contribute to the smooth implementation and sustainability of the project*.

***To this end, it is recommended to attach supporting documents confirming the involvement of the project partners in its implementation, if applicable.**



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For more information on the IFCD application process,
send an email to convention2005.ifcd@unesco.org
or visit the website <https://en.unesco.org/creativity/ifcd>

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Diversity of
Cultural Expressions

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