

Open Call and Guidelines of Perform Europe 2026 - 2028

Perform Europe is co-funded by the European Union and implemented
by a Consortium of six organisations

Perform
Europe



International network
for contemporary
performing arts



EUROPEAN
FESTIVALS
ASSOCIATION



CIRCO
STRADA



EDN European
Dance Development
Network



PEARLE*
Live Performance Europe



idea
consult
moving society



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The Open Call of Perform Europe 2026 – 2028

Reimagine international touring with us!

Perform Europe is a funding scheme offering EUR 1.4 million for performing arts collaborations across all 41 Creative Europe countries. Perform Europe supports partnership proposals which reinvent the way we tour across borders.

The highly successful Perform Europe pilot (2020–2022) and second edition (2023–2026), was coordinated by a Consortium of six organisations; five major performing arts networks, IETM - International network for contemporary performing arts, European Festivals Association (EFA), European Dance Development Network (EDN), Circostrada, Pearle* - Live Performance Europe together with the research organisation IDEA Consult.

Co-funded by the European Union, Perform Europe has granted a total of €3.5 million to 61 cross-border macro-projects involving 272 partners. Together, they have toured over 80 artistic works across 41 countries, reaching new audiences and testing innovative approaches to inclusion, sustainability and cooperation.

Building on these achievements, the third and final edition of Perform Europe under the current Creative Europe programme (2021-2028) will continue to explore, together with the performing arts sector, how cross-border touring can become **fairer, greener and more inclusive, while further consolidating the knowledge, partnerships and practices developed through the programme.**

By the end of this third edition, Perform Europe will have supported at least 86 cross-border touring projects in total, building a substantial body of experience and knowledge that continues to strengthen the European performing arts ecosystem.

Keywords: *performing arts, theatre, dance, performance, circus, outdoor arts, puppetry, interdisciplinary, change-makers, inclusion, diversity, fight against climate change, sustainability, fairness, cross-border mobility, innovation*

Do you have an innovative idea that resonates with these keywords? Read on!

PRIORITIES OF PERFORM EUROPE

Proposals are submitted by collaboration partnerships of performing arts professionals and organisations. Partners should work on their proposal together. This is a call to the sector to create partnerships and propose **impactful** ideas that can generate real change via **two main priorities**:

- **INCLUSION & DIVERSITY**
- **FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE**

Each proposal should choose **one of the above main priorities to focus on**, while still taking into account and implementing measures related to the **second priority**. In addition, all proposals should aim for **quality and innovation**, be built on **fair practices**, and are encouraged to **promote collaboration across different regions within the 41 Creative Europe countries**. Read more about the priorities in our guidelines below.

CONDITIONS OF THE CALL

The open call was launched on 23 June 2026. We invite you now to build partnerships, jointly develop proposals, and submit them through our website before 22 October 2026, 23:59 CEST.

FUNDING

Perform Europe will grant **EUR 1.4 million** to at least 25 partnerships. Partnerships can apply for grants in **three categories**:

- EUR 15,000 - small grant
- EUR 25,000 - medium grant
- EUR 55,000 - large grant

In addition to the requested grant category, partnerships can request **top-ups** to address the sustainability and accessibility needs of their proposal. Each partnership may request any combination of the available top-ups, up to a **maximum total top-up request of EUR 5,000** per proposal. The maximum granted amount, including top-ups, will be EUR 60,000, a requirement set by the funder, the European Union.

Of the total funding, **5%** will be allocated to proposals which involve a partnership with **Ukrainian partners** or support initiatives for the **Ukrainian performing arts sector**.

WHO CAN APPLY

Any organisation and professional working in the performing arts, and legally based in one of the [Creative Europe Countries](#) (27 EU member states plus 14 [non-EU Participating Countries](#)).

PARTNERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

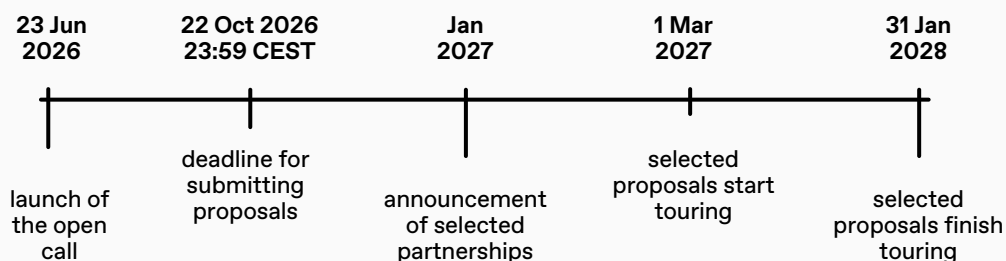
Proposals are submitted by partnerships. Each partnership must consist of a **minimum of three partners from a minimum of three Creative Europe countries**. Each proposal must include **at least one performing arts work** (excluding live music and opera) to be **presented in a minimum of three different Creative Europe countries**.



Important to note: Perform Europe will not cover production costs for new creations: proposals are supposed to include a **finished artistic work** (finished production or an artistic concept ready to be applied and presented in different contexts).

Looking for partners? Use the [Matchmaking Platform](#) on the Perform Europe website to join a community of over 2,300 performing arts organisations and professionals from 41 countries looking to make changes in the sector!

TIMELINE



During the open call period, Perform Europe will organise Help Desk sessions, information, promotion and knowledge-sharing events regarding the open call. Check out [events calendar](#) for more details.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES

- 📄 Perform Europe Conversation Starter for building partnerships and designing your proposal ([download](#))
- 📄 Perform Europe [Guidebook](#) and [Resources](#) for inspiration and research
- 📄 The pdf of the application form ([download](#))
- 📄 FAQ for all your questions ([learn more](#))

GET READY TO APPLY

- Read the full open call guidelines
- Register and apply on the Perform Europe [website](#)
- **Apply before Thursday, 22 October 2026 at 23:59 CEST**

📄 To stay updated about all events and important news

- Visit our website at performeurope.eu
- Subscribe to our newsletter [here](#)
- Follow us on social media @PerformEurope



Perform Europe Open Call Guidelines

Call for proposals to tour performing arts works in greener, more diverse, and more inclusive ways

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A. Context

Perform Europe is a funding scheme for the performing arts sectors in the 41 Creative Europe countries. Perform Europe supports innovative partnership proposals that rethink the cross-border touring and presentation of performing arts works, to make it greener, more inclusive, and more diverse.

Perform Europe's research work has revealed several disparities within the European performing arts sector in relation to touring. These include: access to knowledge, skills, resources, connections, collaborations, green mobility options, funding opportunities, as well as the ability and willingness to practise fairness, equality, and equity.

The performing arts sector has pioneered new practices of fair collaboration and touring across borders. The partnerships supported through Perform Europe 1 and 2 have demonstrated how powerful this work can be when artists and organisations are given the conditions to collaborate across borders with a clear, green, and inclusive objective. They have shown how artistic exchange can flourish beyond established circuits, how new audiences can be reached, and how innovative approaches to inclusion, sustainability and cooperation can emerge when barriers to mobility are reduced. At the same time, these experiences made visible the limits of the current system and how important it is to continue offering fair, targeted support frameworks.

Perform Europe will continue to put emphasis on exploring, with the sector, **how cross-border touring can be made fairer, greener and more inclusive.**

The Perform Europe Open Call 2026-2028 seeks proposals from partnerships which have innovative ideas and courageous visions on how to change the way in which we tour and present performing arts across borders, including digital presentations. The call has two priorities:

- 1) **diversity and inclusion**
- 2) **the fight against climate change**

Partnership proposals should address both priorities while choosing one as the core of their proposal.

A. Context

Perform Europe operates in a **highly diverse and unequal context**; 41 countries with various economic resources, cultural policy priorities, and geographic situations. Every performing arts organisation and individual professional has their own challenges and opportunities in terms of access to arts education, professional development, infrastructure, green mobility, financial resources for artistic development, creation and – ultimately – presentation and public visibility.

We strongly encourage proposals from partnerships from and with areas and communities that are currently underrepresented within the performing arts landscape. These communities include, but are not limited to: people based in rural areas, those who identify as LGBTQIA+, women, those having disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds, underrepresented racial backgrounds, ethnic backgrounds and gender identities, migrants, those with disabilities and any other people who identify as members of an underrepresented group within the performing arts landscape. [Perform Europe's 2021 research](#) revealed several disparities between countries and communities which are part of Creative Europe, their access to funding, knowledge, networks and collaboration opportunities. Perform Europe aims to contribute towards rectifying these disparities.

B. Key terms explained

- **Artistic work:** artistic productions, initiatives and concepts which are **ready** to be applied, practised or presented in different environments. It is the core element of each proposal, which the partnership unites around.
- **Capacity building sessions:** training activities organised by the partners to tackle their specific training needs, aiming at strengthening their skills, addressing structural challenges, contributing to longer-term professional development and more. Capacity building sessions can be open to the public, as long as they continue to serve the training needs of all partners. Those can involve external trainers or can be led by one or multiple partners. Each proposal is required to dedicate 1.5% of its grant request (excluding top-ups) to such activities.
- **Evaluators:** independent experts who will be hired by Perform Europe to assess and rate proposals, in accordance with the Perform Europe values and priorities.
- **Lead Partner:** Each partnership should select a 'lead partner' responsible for submitting the proposal on its behalf, as well as for signing the contract and receiving the grant from Perform Europe in the event that the proposal is selected.
- **Partner:** individual or organisation, professionally active in creating, presenting or touring artistic work. A partner can be an artist, presenter, producer, performing arts company, NGO, educational institution, artists' collective, residency space, venue, festival; any entity working in the performing arts which creates and/or presents artistic works. A partner can be part of several Perform Europe partnerships and submit several Perform Europe proposals. The evaluators may select more than one proposal of which you are part of.
- **Partnership:** a collaboration of minimum three different organisations or individual professionals based in at least three different Creative Europe countries. It is the group which submits the proposal.

B. Key terms explained

- **Performing arts:** under this call, [as stipulated by the European Union](#), performing arts include the following sub-sectors: theatre, dance, performance, circus, outdoor arts, and puppetry. Please note that artworks/touring opportunities primarily focused on live music, including opera, are not eligible for this call.
- **Presentation:** event of showing the artistic work in one presenting context. This can be **physical, digital, or hybrid**. The artistic work can be shown in several presenting contexts within the same country, as long as the minimum requirement for three presentations in three different Creative Europe countries is fulfilled. The artistic work can also be presented in other presentation contexts than those in the Perform Europe proposal, but these presentations will not be covered by the Perform Europe grant.
- **Presentation context:** the location where a presentation takes place.
- **Proposal:** describes what your partnership wants to do: your artistic proposal, who you are aiming to involve and reach and what impacts you want to make. Your proposal should inform how at least one artistic work will be presented in at least three different Creative Europe countries.
- **Touring:** the cross-border travelling and physical or digital presentation of performing arts works.
- **41 Creative Europe countries:** the EU Member States and non-EU countries that are participating in the Creative Europe programme funded by the European Union. You can find the list of the countries [here](#).

C. Eligibility Criteria

An application is eligible if ALL the following criteria are fulfilled:

- The partnership consists of a minimum of three 3 partners (professional organisations or individuals), legally based in at least three different Creative Europe participating countries (see the list on the next page);
- The lead partner receiving the financial support is clearly appointed by the partnership;
- The proposal consists of at least one finished performing arts work that will be presented in at least three different Creative Europe countries;
- The performing arts work(s) presented in the proposal cover(s) at least one of the eligible sub-sectors of the performing arts: circus, dance, outdoor arts, performance art, puppetry, theatre (live music and opera are not eligible).
- The implementation period for the partnership proposal is between 1 March 2027 at the earliest and 31 January 2028 at the latest;
- The partnership proposal addresses the following objective: to tour and present (physically and/or digitally) existing performing arts works across borders in a minimum three Creative Europe countries, contributing to the following priorities:
 - 1) Inclusion and diversity;
 - 2) Fight against Climate Change
- The application form is filled out in English;
- The proposal has been submitted online before the deadline of 22 October 2026 at 23:59 CEST and includes both a completed application form and budget form;
- The proposal budget is submitted using the Perform Europe budget template, is balanced (total income equal to total expenses), and all amounts are in euros.
- All proposals should include a cooperation agreement signed by ALL partners.

A proposal is NOT eligible if:

- It has previously received a Perform Europe grant (first or second edition);
- Partners are evaluators of Perform Europe;
- Partners are staff members of the Institutions and Agencies of the European Union;
- Partners are part of the Perform Europe Consortium, and their staff
- Case of double funding: partners or partnerships receiving other EU funding for the same proposal cannot apply for Perform Europe.

C. Eligibility Criteria

Eligible countries

All 27 EU Member States and [non-EU countries](#) participating in the Creative Europe Programme are eligible for the Perform Europe Open Call:

Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Moldova, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Ukraine.

In addition, Overseas Countries and Territories and the Outermost Regions of the participating countries are also eligible:

- Denmark: Greenland
- France: French Guiana, French Polynesia, French Southern and Antarctic Territories, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, New Caledonia, Reunion Island, Saint Barthelemy, Saint-Martin, St. Pierre and Miquelon, Wallis and Futuna Islands
- Portugal: Azores, Madeira
- Spain: Canary Islands
- The Netherlands: Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Maarten, Sint Eustatius

Applicants based in the UK **are not eligible** as the UK is no longer part of the Creative Europe programme.

It is the **country of residence** that determines eligibility for a Perform Europe grant, not nationality.

D. What is expected from selected proposals in Perform Europe

Selected Perform Europe partnerships are expected to participate in the following activities during the touring period:

- **Touring** - of course! Each proposal should include at least three **physical and/or digital** presentations of at least one artistic work in a minimum of three Creative Europe countries. In addition, proposals may propose complementary activities to strengthen their impact and touring objectives, such as public talks, training sessions, workshops, installations, and more.
- **Capacity-building activities** aimed at addressing knowledge and skills imbalances within the partnership. To foster greater equity within each partnership, these activities should be shaped by the partners themselves. Selected proposal must allocate at least 1.5% of its Perform Europe grant to such activities.
- **Sharing the experience with the wider sector.** Selected proposals will be involved in communication and knowledge-sharing initiatives, such as social media activities, interviews, newsletters, articles, etc., to inspire fellow professionals and organisations to innovate their practices.
- **Peer-to-peer sessions** involving all selected proposals, organised by Perform Europe. A representative of each proposal will participate in three online sessions of approximately 2 hours during the touring period (March 2027 to January 2028), aiming to enable comparative reflection on touring practices, challenges, and solutions, and to support collective learning across diverse contexts. Preparation might be required before attending the session. Compensation for the time allocated to follow these activities can be included in the proposal budget.
- **Administration and reporting.** All proposals must fulfil the reporting requirements within the timeline set by Perform Europe and outlined in the partnership contract. The workload of this activity should not be underestimated - proposals are expected to allocate sufficient time and resources to it, and are encouraged to consider this in their budget.

E. How can you find partners, and how can they find you?

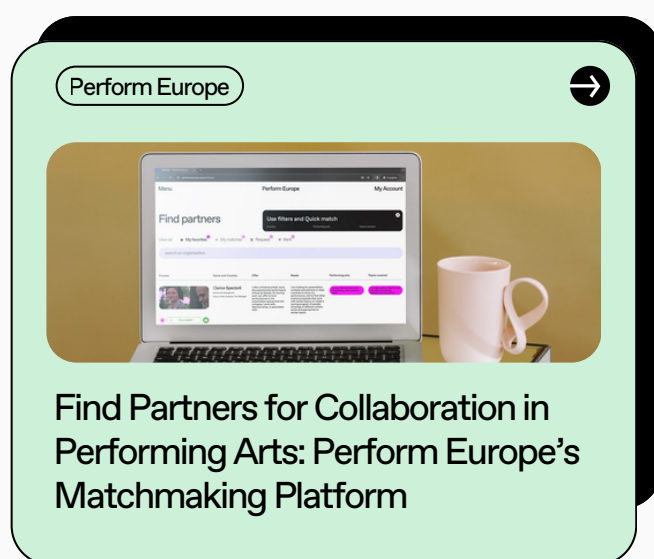
Perform Europe offers an online Matchmaking platform specifically for this purpose!

It connects individuals and organisations in the performing arts sector who are looking for partners to apply for the Perform Europe Open Call. You can create a profile to present your offers and needs, search for potential partners, send 'Quick Match' requests, exchange contact details, and start building a Perform Europe partnership.

Over 2,300 artists, collectives, organisations, venues, festivals and residencies from all eligible countries are already using the platform, and the list continues to grow every day. Join them by [creating an account](#) on the Perform Europe website.

Please note that all partners involved in a proposal have to create an account on our website in order to apply, but it is not required to engage with the matchmaking function.

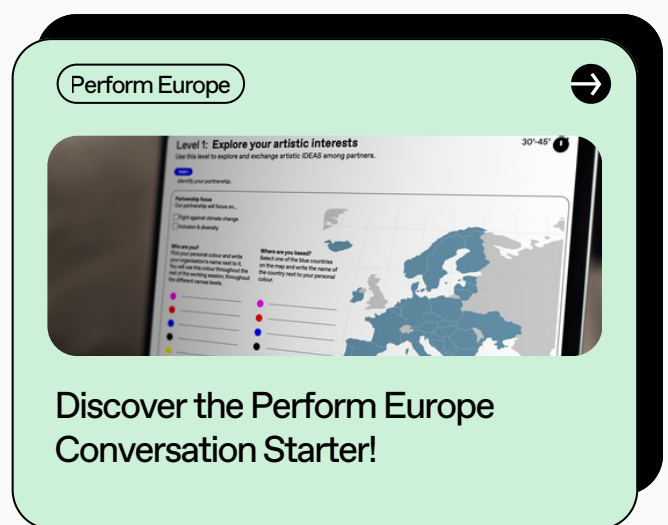
Learn more about the Matchmaking platform [here](#).



E. How can you find partners, and how can they find you?



Although the matchmaking platform helps you to find and connect with partners, it is essential that a newly formed partnership is capable of working together on a real project. We strongly advise you to clearly discuss shared goals, partners responsibilities and how you intend to collaborate fairly beyond the initial match before committing to apply together. You can use the [Perform Europe Conversation Starter](#) to identify common goals and challenges in your partnership and design innovative artistic proposals aligned with Perform Europe's aims and objectives.



F. Priorities: what should your proposal aim to do?

Your Perform Europe proposal should aim to address **two priorities for change: Diversity and inclusion and the fight against climate change**. We acknowledge that it can be too ambitious to implement the same level of change in both areas simultaneously; each proposal should decide on one priority to focus on, while still keeping in mind and implementing measures regarding the second priority. All proposals should therefore address both priorities: one as a core one and the other as a secondary focus.

1. Diversity and inclusion

Diversity means the presence of differences. Diversity in performing arts can be achieved for example through intentionally involving people with different backgrounds, identities, lived experiences, or circumstances, in the working methods, creation, content, presentation and audience of performing arts works.

Inclusion is the process of bringing people from marginalised groups* into decision-making processes, activities, and positions of power and, in the case of a Perform Europe proposal, bringing their artistic practices, lived experiences and realities to the forefront. Inclusion means welcoming, respecting, supporting, involving, valuing and empowering people, regardless of their background characteristics and according to their needs. By supporting the presentation of artistic works by and for marginalised groups, Perform Europe is striving for greater equity in the performing arts field.

2. The fight against climate change

Climate change is the greatest emergency of our time. Perform Europe is looking for innovative proposals for climate action, through a climate justice** lens. The performing arts can play a role in, for example, raising awareness, including those who are most impacted and their narratives, addressing climate-related inequalities, decreasing carbon emissions, including the digital environmental footprint, and addressing and working against climate impact.

* Different groups of people within a given culture, context and history at risk of being subjected to multiple discrimination due to the interplay of different personal characteristics or grounds, such as sex, gender, age, ethnicity, religion or belief, health status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, education or income, or living in various geographic localities. ([European Institution for Gender Equalities](#).)

** At the basis of climate justice is, as Creative Carbon Scotland has argued, 'a people-centred approach to climate change, treating it as a social, political and cultural issue as much as a scientific and technological one'. Others have also emphasised the close connections that exist between climate justice and the promotion of human rights and a human-centred approach to development. ([Climate Justice: Through the Creative Lens of the Performing Arts, IETM](#))

F. Priorities: what should your proposal aim to do?

Next to addressing one or both of the above priorities for change, **ALL Perform Europe proposals should aim for:**

Quality and innovation

Each partnership has to submit a proposal in which at least one performing arts work is toured across borders. The quality of the proposal, the artistic innovation proposed and the new and changed model of presenting and connecting with audiences across borders are important criteria for Perform Europe.

Fairness

Fairness is about improving working and social conditions for artists and other cultural professionals. A partnership proposal can only be fully impactful if it respects and is built on principles of fairness: creating meaningful partnerships in solidarity, taking care of each other, respecting boundaries and valuing the work of artists and cultural professionals through fair compensation. True changemakers interconnect fairness on a human, artistic, social, economic and environmental level. The focus on one aspect should positively reinforce all. For Perform Europe, this approach is key to making change and to strengthening cultural diversity and inclusion.

Perform Europe partnerships should be based on solidarity. We expect partners to acknowledge existing inequalities between them, and to bridge these inequalities by empowering each other and sharing resources. This could be on the level of financial means, time, knowledge, infrastructure, skills, visibility, etc.

We recommend using the [‘This is How We Work’ platform](#) to access up-to-date data on key aspects of working conditions in the cultural sector in the 27 EU member states.

F. Priorities: what should your proposal aim to do?

Geographical balance

Perform Europe aims to expand the participation and visibility of underrepresented regions in cross-border performing arts touring across Creative Europe countries. Underrepresented regions refer to countries, regions and areas that, despite active artistic production, remain structurally less present in European cross-border touring flows, as confirmed by the [research conducted during the first edition of Perform Europe \(2021-2022\)](#).

Proposals are encouraged to form partnerships that include underrepresented regions and which contribute towards collaborations between different regions of Creative Europe, aiming to bridge the gaps in access to networks, funding, other resources, and work opportunities between regions.

G. What are you asked for in the application?

You can download a PDF version of the application form through the link provided at the bottom of this page. **Note that this document is only for preparation purposes: the proposal has to be submitted digitally on the Perform Europe website.** Applicants with special needs who are unable to use the digital application form can contact Perform Europe at info@performeurope.eu to discuss alternative submission options. **In order to apply, each partner of a partnership needs to register on the website**, and this registration needs to be approved by the Perform Europe team. Make sure to register in time, as this approval process can take up to five working days.

In the application form, we ask each partnership to include:

1. A list of all the partners and a cooperation agreement ([template](#)) signed by all partners.
2. Name and description of your proposal, including objectives, priorities, and timeline.
3. Description of the artistic work(s) which will tour across borders, including links to visual materials.
4. Description of other complementary activities to your artistic work(s), such as workshops, public talks, etc.
5. A list of the presentation contexts, estimated dates and locations, indicating which artistic work(s) and other activities will take place in each context and when.
6. Description of how the proposal will meet the fairness requirements.
7. Details of the capacity-building activities the partnership is planning to organise.
8. Description of your communication strategy: objectives, target groups and visibility of the EU programme.
9. Detailed budget for implementing your proposal ([budget template](#)).



[PDF form of the application](#)

H. What can the grant cover?

Each partnership should submit a detailed budget, using the template provided at the bottom of this page. The budget must be balanced, meaning that the total expenses should be the same as the total income.

The Perform Europe grant can cover 100 % of the costs needed to implement the proposal, maximum EUR 60,000, including top-ups. If your project budget includes co-financing from other entities, you should include those amounts in the income section of your budget. If the Perform Europe requested grant is expected to cover less than 80% of all expenses, a commitment letter needs to be signed by all partners of the partnership to guarantee the availability of the total income to realise your project. If further fundraising is still going on, please provide more information under 'Other important financial information' in the budget template.

Partnerships should indicate which grant amount they apply for, based on the budget needed to implement their proposal, involving, for example, salaries and fees, travel and transport costs, communication costs, etc.

The Perform Europe grant categories are:

- **EUR 15,000** - small grant
- **EUR 25,000** - medium grant
- **EUR 55,000** - large grant

📄 [Budget template](#)

📄 [Co-financing commitment letter template](#)

H. What can the grant cover?



Important to note

Perform Europe **does not cover production costs of new creations.** This means costs to make new performing arts works to be premiered and staged are not covered. **The artistic work(s) must be already produced and ready to tour.**

Perform Europe recognises that **artistic works can be of different shape, scope, and format.** Artistic concepts which are developed within the proposal and which can be applied and presented in different contexts, are eligible for funding.

We understand that there might be some preparatory work needed for implementing a finished artistic work or an artistic concept in different contexts (e.g. rehearsals). The Perform Europe can cover a certain part of the production costs in order to prepare the artistic works presentations, up to **10%** of the requested funding amount*.

Equally, presenting work in three countries can be done in many different ways and **does not necessarily involve physical travel.** Presentations aligning to the concept of ‘showing without going’, can be conceived by artists in one place but shown by local artists in another, or can be shown in a transformative hybrid manner, etc. Partnerships are, in fact, encouraged to consider **digital experimentations** in their proposal. These are just examples of how versatile artistic concepts and presentation contexts can be, and are not examples of preference by Perform Europe.

* Please refer to the budget template, line E- Preparation costs in the expenses section

H. What can the grant cover?

In addition to the requested grant category, partnerships can request top-ups to address the sustainability and accessibility needs of their project. Each partnership can request any combination of the top-ups listed below, up to a maximum total top-up request of 5,000 euros per project.

Top-up categories:



Green mobility

EUR 400 per person per presentation date

Why? To support participants who commit to using more environmentally responsible travel modes (such as rail or other low-impact alternatives). It is intended to help offset additional costs associated with greener travel choices.



Audience access

EUR 800 per presentation date

Why? To support measures that enhance audience access to the artistic work, according to the project's specific context. Eligible measures may include, for example, translation, sign language interpretation, audio description, accessibility mapping, relaxed performance format or similar audience-focused access measures.



Accessibility support

EUR 400 per person per presentation date

Why? To support project participants who require accessibility-related support in order to participate fully in the touring activity.



Visa

EUR 120 per person needing a VISA

Why? To support project participants who are required to obtain a visa in order to travel to a presentation, by contributing to covering administrative and related costs.



Family

EUR 200 per child per presentation date

Why? To support project participants with parenting or caring responsibilities when a child is required to travel with their parent or carer. It aims to reduce mobility barriers linked to care responsibilities.



Overseas countries & utmost regions

EUR 175 per person per presentation date

Why? To support participants who are required to travel to and/or from Overseas Countries and Territories or EU Outermost Regions, recognising the limited availability of low-cost or low-impact travel options for these routes.

H. What can the grant cover?

EUR 60,000 is the highest amount Perform Europe is able to award to a partnership, including top-ups, as stipulated by the European Union.

The lead partner of a selected partnership will sign an agreement with Perform Europe, and will receive the requested grant in accordance with this agreement.

The grant, including top-ups, can cover the following (the list is not exhaustive)

Staff costs for coordination, administration and reporting

Travel, accommodation and subsistence of everyone involved in the presentations

Artistic fees and salaries of everyone involved in the presentations

Sur/subtitling and translation fees

Costs for **transport of equipment**, including insurance and permits

Copyright fees
Communication costs

Venue and equipment rental or purchase, in the case the presentation(s) cannot happen otherwise and if this cost does not exceed 5 % of the requested grant amount.

Costs for organising **complementary activities** to your artistic works, such as workshops, masterclasses, ateliers, or other activities connecting with local communities.

Capacity-building costs: each proposal is obliged to allocate at least 1.5% of its requested Perform Europe grant for training activities for its partners.

Specific **accessibility** costs:

Expenses incurred to make the project more accessible for people with disabilities, whether as artists, arts workers or audiences. These expenses can, for example, cover services and accommodations such as sign language interpreters, captioning, accessible facilities, sensory-friendly presentations, assistive technology, etc.

Specific **greening** costs:

Expenses incurred for implementing environmentally sustainable practices. These costs can, for example, include energy-efficient processes, lower carbon travel options, materials made from sustainable sources, costs to improve carbon footprint, etc.

I. If your proposal is selected, what's next?

Proposals can be implemented between 1 March 2027 and 31 January 2028. This gives each selected partnership 11 months to implement their proposal.

The lead partner of each selected partnership will sign an agreement with Perform Europe, according to which they will receive a grant of EUR 15 000, EUR 25 000 or EUR 55 000, plus the requested top-ups up to a maximum of EUR 5 000, to implement their proposals.



The requested grant (EUR 15 000, EUR 25 000 or EUR 55 000) will be transferred to the lead partner of the selected partnerships in three instalments:

1st instalment: 60% of the requested grant

When? After the lead partner has signed the contract with Perform Europe, and filled out an assessment survey.

2nd instalment: 20% of the requested grant

When? After the approval of the first narrative report and a financial statement, which the lead partner needs to submit one month after the first presentation of the artistic work by the partnership.

3rd instalment: 20% of the requested grant

When? Upon the completion of the entire Perform Europe project, and after the European Union has approved Perform Europe's Consortium final report, estimated in Summer 2028. In order to receive the 3rd instalment, the partnership needs to submit:

- a final implementation report, including a financial statement, no later than one month after the end date of the proposal.
- A Perform Europe experience survey filled out by each partner.

I. If your proposal is selected, what's next?

The requested top-ups, up to a maximum of EUR 5 000, will be transferred upon the completion of the entire Perform Europe project, and after the European Union has approved Perform Europe's Consortium final report, estimated in Summer 2028.

To receive the top-up payment, the lead partner needs to provide the following proof:

- **Green mobility top-up:** travel tickets or receipts per person travelling, demonstrating that the journey to reach the presentation location was completed via green means of transportation*.
- **Overseas countries and territories / Outermost regions top-up:** travel tickets or receipts showing travel from or to an overseas countries and territories / outermost regions.
- **Family top-up:** One official document (a birth certificate, family book, copy of child's identity card, legal guardian's document, etc.) proving custody of a child below the age of 18 during the implementation of the proposal.
- **Visa top-up:** Any document that proves that a partner applied for and received a visa, e.g. proof of payment, stamped visa, etc.
- **Accessibility support:** Any document that proves costs for accessibility-related support per person, e.g. proof of payment, invoices, travel tickets, etc.
- **Audience access:** Any document that proves costs for services related to audience access per presentation date, e.g. proof of payment, contracts, invoices, etc.

If the required tasks are not completed or only partly completed, Perform Europe reserves the right to re-evaluate the amount of the final instalment.

The payment schedule and timing of installments are subject to the receipt of the corresponding funds from the European Union to IETM, on behalf of the Perform Europe Consortium.

* Low-emissions means of transport, such as bus, train or car-pooling.

J. Step-by-step procedure for applying

This section is meant to guide you through the steps to create, edit, and submit your Perform Europe proposal. Please make sure to read it carefully before starting to work on your proposal:

01 Read the full open call and guidelines

02 Create an account on our website

If you don't have one yet. All partners of a partnership need to register and create an account, in order for the partnership to apply. The approval of accounts can take up to three working days, so early registration is recommended to make sure you will be able to submit your proposal on time.

03 You can use our Matchmaking Platform to find partners

Make sure your Perform Europe account is up to date, so potential partners can find you. Browse through other profiles, get in touch and form your Perform Europe partnership. You can use our designated [Conversation Starter](#) to build a sustainable partnership around innovative ideas!

04 Assign the lead partner

Once your partnership is formed, decide who should be the lead partner responsible for submitting your proposal on the Perform Europe website, as well as for signing the contract in case your proposal is selected, and sign a cooperation agreement between all partners to add to your proposal. You can find the template [here](#).

05 Cross-check the eligibility criteria for your project

Please make sure that your partnership includes at least three partners based in three different Creative Europe countries and that at least one and the same artistic work will be presented in at least three different Creative Europe countries.

J. Step-by-step procedure for applying

06 **Fill in the online application and review it with partners**

Fill in the application form and upload your budget on the Perform Europe website. You can create your proposal, save it, and edit it at a later stage.

08 **Review application with partners**

Take the time to review your proposal with all your Perform Europe partners to make sure everything is correct and nothing is missing.

08 **Submit your application**

Please note that clicking on Submit is final and that you will not be able to edit your proposal after that. You will receive an email once the final proposal has successfully been submitted.

09 **What happens after?**

After you submit your proposal, Perform Europe will review it to see if it meets the eligibility requirements. You will be notified in case your proposal is not eligible. If confirmed admissible, your proposal will automatically be assessed by the Perform Europe Evaluators.

K. Proposal documents

Please find below all the links to the documents that you need to prepare and submit your Perform Europe proposal.

- 📄 [PDF version of digital application form](#)
- 📄 [Budget template](#)
- 📄 [Cooperation agreement template](#)
- 📄 [Co-financing commitment letter template](#)
- 📄 [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

If you still have any questions after reading the open call, the guidelines and the Frequently Asked Questions, you are welcome to join the bi-weekly online [Help Desk sessions](#) organised by the Perform Europe team. Find more information here on our website.

If you have any access requirements that you would like Perform Europe to be aware of, please contact us at info@performeurope.eu.

L. Evaluation, award procedure, criteria

All proposals will follow the **standard submission and evaluation procedure** (one-stage submission and one-step evaluation).

Proposals will first be checked for formal requirements by the Perform Europe team. A proposal is eligible if it is complete and complies with all the eligibility criteria listed in section C. Proposals which do not meet all the criteria, will be excluded from further evaluation, and partnerships will receive a notification email. Eligible proposals do not receive any notification at this stage and are automatically sent for evaluation. They will be evaluated against the award criteria and ranked according to their overall scores.

1. EVALUATION

1.1 Evaluation Committee

The Evaluation Committee, the partners of the Perform Europe Consortium, will observe the evaluation procedure and guarantee its quality.

1.2 Independent expert evaluators

The selection process will be carried out by a group of independent experts from the performing arts sector, chosen for the diversity of their expertise with the general objectives of Creative Europe and Perform Europe, their expertise in performing arts sub-sectors and their geographical locations, gender identification, professional and life experiences, and capacity to engage with underrepresented communities. They are appointed by the Evaluation Committee and hired by the Perform Europe Consortium. Their names are communicated once the open call results are made public. The evaluators sign a declaration of non-conflict of interest once they receive the proposals. In case of conflict of interest, the Perform Europe Consortium will attribute the proposals to an expert without conflict of interest with the proposal.

Each eligible proposal is evaluated by two experts. The experts work independently from one another and follow an evaluation grid (see below).

The Perform Europe team will consolidate their evaluations and scores, resulting in a final evaluation and one score per proposal.

All eligible proposals will be informed about the evaluation result by email. Successful proposals will be invited for contract preparation via email; others will be put on the reserve list or will be rejected.

L. Evaluation, award procedure, criteria

1.3 Award criteria

The experts will assess each proposal against all award criteria:

Evaluation award criteria	
1. Relevance of the project (35 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How relevant is the proposal to both Perform Europe priorities (Inclusion and diversity, the fight against climate change) • If the selected core priority is inclusion and diversity: to what extent is the partnership including the priority in all aspects of the proposal (within the partnership, within the presented work, within the mode of presentation, audience outreach, accessibility practices, etc.)? • If the selected core priority is The fight against climate change: to what extent is the partnership including the priority in all aspects of the proposal (on the level of the partnership, travels of team and audience, content of the artistic work, use of materials, mode of presentation, use of technology, other sustainability practices, etc.)? • How well does the proposal address / take into consideration their secondary priority? • Does the proposal have a potential long-term impact for all the partners and the audience or community reached (regardless of scale), beyond the end of the proposal?
2. Quality of content and activities: artistic work(s), partnership, touring, innovation, budget (30 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How relevant is the artistic proposal of the performing arts work(s) that the partnership proposes to tour and present across borders? • How relevant, strategic and complementary is the partnership for the specific proposal? • How well is the proposal planned and prepared to achieve the desired results? • Is the touring in three countries prepared strategically (conditions, context, size, type of proposal, artistic value, professional development)? • To what extent, considering the highly diverse context partners operate in, does the partnership propose new or/and innovative practices (of any type: e.g. artistic, touring, presenting, business model)? • Is the budget realistic and corresponding to the proposal?

Figure: Evaluation grid to be used by the external experts.

L. Evaluation, award procedure, criteria

Evaluation award criteria

3. Fairness (25 points)

- To what extent does the partnership apply fair practices and working conditions, including fair payment for everyone involved?
- To what extent does the partnership promote solidarity (human, operational, financial) between the partners and between the partners and the artists and cultural workers?
- To what extent does the proposal contribute to the creation of fair working conditions that help the sector to 'grow' in a social, human, artistic, economic, and environmental sense with a long-term perspective?
- How well is the proposal tackling imbalances between the partners via capacity-building activities?
- To what extent does the partnership contribute to bridging imbalances across regions within the 41 Creative Europe countries?

4. Communication (10 points)

- Does the communication and dissemination strategy have the potential to reach and positively impact the audience, target groups and relevant stakeholders?
- Does the proposal proactively include and reach out to people, both performing arts professionals and audiences, from different geographical and socio-economic backgrounds, to ensure equal access and a diverse artistic offer?
- Does the proposal guarantee the visibility of its results, of the Creative Europe Programme, and the EU support?

1.4 Thresholds

Only proposals that pass the individual thresholds AND the overall threshold will be considered for further evaluation.

Individual thresholds

If the score on any of the individual award criteria is less than 50%, the proposal will be automatically excluded from further evaluation:

- Relevance of the project: **17.5/35**
- Quality: **15/30**
- Fairness: **12.5/25**
- Communication & branding: **5/10**

Overall threshold

The overall threshold is **70/100** points. Proposals that pass the individual thresholds per award criterion AND the overall threshold will be considered for funding, within the limits of the available budget. Other proposals will be rejected.

L. Evaluation, award procedure, criteria

1.5 Ex aequo

In the case of proposals with equal scores, a priority order will be determined. Starting with the highest-scoring group of proposals and continuing in descending order for every group of *ex aequo*: proposals will be prioritised according to their scores for the award criterion 'Relevance'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on scores for the award criterion 'Quality'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on their scores for the criterion 'Fairness'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on their scores for the criterion 'Communication'.

If this does not allow to determine the priority, a further prioritisation will be done by considering the overall proposals portfolio, the sub-sectors, and the geographical balance.

1.6 Specific support to Ukraine

5% of the total funding will be allocated to partnership proposals involving Ukrainian partners or supporting the Ukrainian performing arts sector. The highest-ranked proposals involving Ukraine, will be selected for funding (for least EUR 70.000 in total). The overall threshold of 70/100 points is not applicable to this specific selection procedure.

2. FINAL SELECTION

Following the evaluation criteria, the Perform Europe team will make a final proposal to the Evaluation Committee, composed of members of the Perform Europe Consortium. The Evaluation Committee will ensure the quality, impartiality, and coherence of the final selection. The final selection will be based on the evaluator's scores and criteria for balance, based on the vision and aims of Perform Europe.

Eligible proposals are notified about the final selection results (selected, not selected or reserve list) by email in January 2027.

Perform Europe

Reimagine
international
touring

Disclaimer

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International network
for contemporary
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