

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY

9th CALL FOR APPLICATION

February 26th – April 16th, 2018

1. The International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD)

On February 26th, 2018 the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) launched its 9th call for funding requests.

The International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) is a multi-donor fund established under Article 18 of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Its purpose is to promote sustainable development and poverty reduction in developing countries that are Parties to the 2005 Convention.

It does this through support to projects that aim to foster the emergence of a dynamic cultural sector, primarily through activities facilitating the introduction and/or elaboration of policies and strategies that protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions as well as the reinforcement of institutional infrastructures supporting viable cultural industries. The IFCD is notably used to promote South-South and North-South-South cooperation, while contributing to achieving concrete and sustainable results as well as structural impacts, where appropriate, in the cultural field.

Since 2010, the IFCD has provided more than US\$ 7 million in funding for nearly 100 projects in over 50 developing countries, covering a wide range of areas, from the development and implementation of cultural policies, to capacity-building of cultural entrepreneurs, mapping of cultural industries and the creation of new cultural industry business models.

The IFCD invests in projects that lead to structural 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 corresponding institutional infrastructures¹, including professional capacities and organizational structures, deemed necessary to support viable local and regional cultural industries and markets in developing countries.

The following types of projects **ARE NOT** eligible for IFCD funding:

- Projects related to the production of cultural and artistic works and events, exclusively.

1. The term 'institutional infrastructure' should be understood as any public, collective and professional organizational structures (excluding working space and equipment, physical construction or restoration of buildings), capacities as well as legislative (legal) and administrative provisions deemed necessary for the implementation of policies.

- 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 (e.g. World Heritage sites) (Please refer to the World Heritage Fund).
- Projects aimed at offsetting a deficit, repaying a debt or paying interest.
- Projects sustaining ongoing activities with recurring costs.
- Projects financing permanent working spaces and/or equipment, exclusively.
- Projects financing physical construction or the restoration of buildings.
- Projects that focus on art education, including bolstering artistic skills within primary and secondary school environments.
- Projects that focus on cultural tourism.
- Projects that are conceived as scholarships or grants for personal needs.

2. Who can apply

- **Public authorities and institutions from [eligible countries](#) (developing countries Parties to the 2005 Convention).**
- **Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from [eligible countries](#) (developing countries Parties to the 2005 Convention):** Non-governmental organizations that, according to their national regulations, are non-governmental and non-profit and that meet the definition of civil society² mentioned in the Operational Guidelines.
- **International non-governmental organizations (INGOs) registered in countries [Parties to the 2005 Convention](#):** International non-governmental organizations (INGOs), which meet the definition of civil society mentioned in the Operational Guidelines; and which present projects that have an impact in developing countries at the sub-regional, regional or inter-regional level.

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

2. For the purpose of this Convention, *civil society* means 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 country of registration; they are representative of their respective field of activity, or of the respective social or professional groups they represent.

3. Basic requirements

<p>Beneficiary countries</p>	<p>Projects must be implemented and/or benefit only eligible countries (developing countries Parties to the 2005 Convention).</p> <p><i>Note for INGOs: 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.</i></p>
<p>Implementation period</p>	<p>The project implementation period shall be between 12 and 24 months. The projects should start, at the earliest, in March 2019, following the approval of the project by the Intergovernmental Committee in December 2018.</p>
<p>Areas of intervention</p>	<p>The IFCD finances projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue cross-sectoral cooperation in cultural policy making and/or implementation; • Strengthen processes and mechanisms for public policy-making and implementation; • Support the engagement of NGOs or civil society organizations in policy making and/or implementation; • Improve access to markets for cultural goods and services through the introduction of policy, advocacy and promotional mechanisms; • Support or facilitate the mobility of artists and cultural professionals from the global South; • Support or facilitate the development of innovative models and/or digital solutions for the creation, production, distribution and access to diverse cultural goods and services; • Address the identification of capacity gaps or support capacity building activities; • Widen participation in the creation, production and distribution of cultural goods and services to previously excluded regions and social groups; • Increase women’s representation as creators and producers of cultural expressions through professional networks and capacity development; • Facilitate policy measures or funding mechanisms to encourage and improve equitable access to cultural events, goods and services.

	<p><i>Please note, projects that address the different needs, aspirations, capacities and contributions of women and men, and those that challenge existing and biased/discriminatory policies, practices and programmes are strongly encouraged. Projects should affect change for the betterment of life for all, as well as contribute to youth empowerment and North-South-South cooperation.</i></p>
<p>Amount requested</p>	<p>The maximum amount that can be requested is 100,000 USD.</p> <p><i>Projects that are approved for funding will receive their allocations in several installments. Beneficiaries normally receive 50% of the total amount approved in the beginning of the project, another 30% mid-way through the project and the remaining 20% once all activities have been completed and the final reports are submitted.</i></p>
<p>Budget and Expenditure</p>	<p>Expenditures for project-related overhead costs are limited to a maximum of 30% of the total project budget.</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>The application and its complementary documents must be in English or French.</p>

4. How to apply

Prepare the Application form:

- Download and review the Call for funding;
- Download and review the [Annotated Guide](#);
- Download, save on your computer and complete the [Project Framework](#) (including the project objectives, budget, outputs/deliverables and list of team members). The Project Framework should be opened and completed in Microsoft Excel or similar applications;
- Gather digital copies for all [Complementary Documents](#) that are required for your application.

Complete the Application form:

All the project proposals must be submitted through the online Application Form.

- **Create** your account at <https://en.unesco.org/creativity/applicant/register>;
- **Log in** at <https://en.unesco.org/creativity/user/login> and complete all the fields in the online Application Form. During this process, you can save your application and come back later, using your login and password;
- **Upload** the Project Framework and Complementary Documents in the dedicated fields

- Before finalizing your application, ensure that all fields have been completed and accept the Terms and Conditions
- Date, sign and click on the '**SUBMIT**' button to finalize your application.

Please note that the application and its complementary documents must be submitted **in English or French**.

5. Submission deadline

All the Online Applications must be submitted at the latest by **April 16th, 2018 (midnight CET)**. Applications submitted after this date will not be considered for the evaluation.

6. Selection Procedure

Step 1:

- National Commissions will form a pre-selection panel made up of, in particular, Ministries of Culture and/or other Ministries responsible for the cultural industries, and members of civil society organizations specializing in the field of culture to undertake a first review ensuring that applications are relevant, meet the country's needs and priorities, are deemed to be feasible, and have been subject to 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 **15th May 2018, midnight CET**.

- International NGOs (INGOs) are not subject to the pre-selection procedure undertaken by the National Commissions. Each INGO may present a maximum of two applications using the IFCD online Application Form before the deadline (mid-April). The applications will be directly considered for technical assessment by the UNESCO Secretariat, which will verify if the applications are complete, fall within the areas of intervention of the IFCD, and are therefore eligible.

Step 2: Upon receiving the pre-selected applications from the National Commissions before the deadline (mid-May), the UNESCO Secretariat will perform a technical assessment to ensure that the applications are complete, fall within the areas of intervention of the IFCD, and are therefore eligible.

Step 3: All eligible funding requests will be evaluated by an international panel of experts from UNESCO's five regions. Each application will be reviewed by two members of the Panel of Experts, based on the evaluation criteria established for the IFCD.

The results of the technical assessment and the IFCD Panel of Experts' evaluation will be published in November 2018 on the 'Results' page of the IFCD website.

Step 4: Final recommendations of the Panel of Experts will be communicated to the Intergovernmental Committee of the 2005 Convention, which will make the final decision on those applications to receive funding from the IFCD during its 12th ordinary session at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from **11 to 14 December 2018**.

Step 5: The UNESCO Secretariat will inform the beneficiaries of the approved projects. Project implementation will start from **March 2019**.

7. Evaluation Criteria

Applications for funding requests to the IFCD will be evaluated on the basis of the 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 country where the project will be implemented and is deemed to be 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.

In addition, the Panel of Experts will evaluate the applicants' capacity 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 or are used to support sporadic activities.

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.

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.

8. Support

For more information on the IFCD application process, please contact the Secretariat at the email address: ifcd.convention2005@unesco.org or visit the website en.unesco.org/creativity/ifcd.