



We support arts and culture across wider Europe, by investing in creativity and boundary-crossing innovation.

How to apply for a STEP *beyond* Travel Grant

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Introduction

Grants are at the core of our work. The connecting power of culture is essential for creating open, inclusive and democratic societies – for 'building Europe'. We are looking for projects that have the potential to inspire people to transcend boundaries in this process.

Our grants programme stimulates transnational cultural collaboration, artistic expression and the mobility of artists and cultural actors. Our various grants schemes relate to different ECF focus areas and to specific regions of the European continent.

Europe goes beyond the European Union (EU), which is why our STEP *beyond* travel grants support travel across the wider European Neighbourhood – between EU and non-EU countries. ECF is committed to strengthening cultural ties between the present EU countries and the countries that are in the EU's immediate neighbourhood. We prioritise support for travel initiatives that originate from and within the EU Neighbourhood.

All of our activities revolve around the three strategic guiding principles, which are outlined below. Applications that tie in with these principles will receive a higher

score in the assessment procedure.

Our guiding principles

- **Empowerment of people through art and culture** – we want to support different communities in Europe and encourage the exchange and empowerment of under represented groups.
 - **Connecting sources of knowledge** – we think sharing and connecting knowledge is vital in creating an open Europe.
 - **Linking policy and practice** – we are interested in projects that help build this open Europe by contributing to cultural policy development locally, nationally, regionally and at a European level.
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1. Eligibility criteria

STEP *beyond* stands for “Supporting Travel for European Projects”. Our travel grants support individual artists and cultural workers travelling across borders in a wider European space, to explore, network and set up new collaborations. We also see our travel scheme as a tool for professional development, starting from planning, fundraising and application to payment procedures.

Eligible travellers should present a well-prepared travel itinerary and have a clear plan of activities, with at least one committed partner or host in the destination country. Funded travel should represent a starting point for continued collaboration and the resulting projects should have some impact on the local/regional arts & culture scene and/or policy-making.

Applications must be in line with all the eligibility criteria. Please read these carefully, as proposals that do not meet the criteria will not be considered.

1.1. Who is eligible?

a) Traveller's profile

- artist or cultural worker of any contemporary artistic or cultural discipline (individual or representing a cultural or artistic independent organisation);
- based in Europe or in its neighbourhood (relevant countries are): Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Macedonia (FYROM), Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kosovo/a, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco,

The Netherlands, Norway, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom;

- ECF prioritises on supporting up-and-coming artists and culture professionals therefore individuals aged up to 35 and/or in the first 10 years of a professional career in their relevant field are more likely to be considered.
- Individuals fitting the profile above whose travels correspond with the following types of travel objectives are more likely to be supported:
 - attending a networking meeting, festival or conference for the first time to expand professional networks;
 - setting up new cross-border partnerships for upcoming projects (especially in preparation/development phase). Experimental cross-sectoral partnerships are particularly welcome;
 - exploring arts & culture scene, followed by knowledge sharing with peers at local and/or international level;
 - attending crucial training for professional development.

In the case of group travel:

- we only allow a maximum of three individuals applying for the same event/project, with clearly justified and complementary role of each in the travel itinerary (each will be considered individually).
- group applications for travels to participate in an organised event (such as festival, art residence, conference, etc.) need to be submitted by host organisation.

Please note: The same individual may only receive one grant per year, and no more than two grants in total over a period of five years (counting from the date of their second STEP award).

b) Partner or host at destination:

- independent or institutional organisation (artistic, cultural or other sector if relevant) or individual artist or cultural worker;
- committed to acknowledging ECF's support (e.g. in case of any communication materials), if traveller's application is successful.

1.2. Eligible travel destinations

- Our travel grants support cross-border movement of artists and cultural workers within a larger European space. STEP *beyond's* geographical scope covers travel in the following countries listed below. Countries have been grouped to show the travel routes that we fund and the amount of funding for that travel route.

EU/EFTA:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and United Kingdom. (We do not fund travel between these countries)

EU Neighbourhood:

(1) WB : Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, FYROM/Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

(2) MUBR: Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus and Russia

(3) C/T : Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey

(4) MED : Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Syria, and Tunisia. (We do not fund travel between these countries)

Travel routes and funding specification

Travel between EU/EFTA and EU Neighbourhood

EU/EFTA	⇔	(1) WB:	€ 400
EU/EFTA	⇔	(2) MUBR:	€ 400
EU/EFTA	⇔	(3) Caucasus:	€ 700
EU/EFTA	⇔	(3) Turkey:	€ 400
EU-EFTA	⇔	(4) MED:	€ 400

Travel within EU Neighbourhood

(1) WB	⇔	(2) MUBR:	€ 400
(1) WB	⇔	(3) C/T:	€ 400
(2) MUBR	⇔	(3) C/T:	€ 400
(1) WB or (2) MUBRT or (3) C/T	⇔	(4) MED:	€ 700

Travel within (1) WB, (2) MUBR and (3) C/T	€ 250
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Please note: The grant amounts are not negotiable. STEP beyond travel grants are primarily meant for contributing towards international travel ticket expenses (low-cost travel options). If your travel is more expensive than the grant allowed, we encourage you to look for additional support elsewhere (see suggested links below).

2. Procedure and time frame

Only complete applications will be considered:

- a) Please download and fill in the application form (max 2 pages).
- b) Attach CV or biography (max 1 page per traveller).
- c) Include an invitation letter(s) in English, signed by partner/host and including:
 - full name and address of host/contact (and name of the contact person, if an organisation);
 - name and address of the traveller;
 - acknowledgement of the cooperation under development;
 - a version of the work plan, agreed upon by the contact person;
- d) Optional: up to three pictures (jpg, max 150dpi) of your work, if applicable;
- e) Complete the online registration form, attach these documents and send.

Please note: travel should only start after we have made our funding decision.

3. What we don't fund

We don't fund the activities listed below. Please read these carefully, as no exceptions will be made. If your travel is not eligible, we recommend you search for alternative funding at the online mobility portal www.on-the-move.org, or in the 'Funding' section at www.labforculture.org.

For travel in the Mediterranean region, check the Fund Roberto Cimetta (www.cimettafund.org). For travel within African countries, check Art Moves Africa (www.artmovesafrica.org).

Type of travel we don't fund

- Applications in which the traveller represents student bodies, commercial organisations, state institutions, amateur organisations, or organisations focusing primarily on education, therapy, religion or cultural heritage.
- Travel without at least one committed partner/host.
- Travel that is part of an organisation's own regular activities.
- Travel between EU/EFTA countries or the Mediterranean (MED).
- Travel to/from countries not listed in these guidelines.

Activities we don't fund

- Student, university or otherwise purely academic exchanges, research or meetings.
- Attendance to arts-residence programmes not in line with these guidelines or without a clear impact on the surroundings.

4. How we assess applications

After being submitted, eligible applications are evaluated by the STEP *beyond* team. The pre-selection is distributed among a group of external advisers, who come from all over Europe and have different fields of expertise. After this assessment ECF decides which proposals it will support. Both awarded and rejected applicants are notified by e-mail around one month after the application submission date. Please bear this in mind when applying, so you are still able to make all preparations for your travel (visa, etc.). All decisions are final.

Want to apply? Go to the [travel grant online registration form](#)