

# THE OPEN CALL AND GUIDELINES OF PERFORM EUROPE 2023 - 2026

Funded by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union  
THE PERFORM EUROPE PARTNERS ARE PROUD TO PRESENT

# The Open Call of Perform Europe 2023 – 2026

## Reimagine international touring with us!

Perform Europe is a funding scheme offering EUR 2.1 million<sup>1</sup> for performing arts collaborations across all 40 Creative Europe countries. Perform Europe supports partnership projects which reinvent the way we tour across borders.

After a highly successful pilot project (2020-2022), Perform Europe will continue to put emphasis on exploring, with the performing arts sector, **how cross-border touring can be made fairer, greener, and more inclusive.**

Keywords: change-makers, inclusion, diversity, fight against climate change, fairness, trans-national collaboration

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

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<sup>1</sup> An increase of EUR 600 000 euros from the pilot where funding of EUR 1.5 million euros was granted to 19 partnerships composed of 85 partners: artists, producers, companies, presenters and other professionals and organisations.

## PRIORITIES OF PERFORM EUROPE

This is a call to the sector to create partnerships and propose **impactful** ideas that can generate real change, focusing on **at least one** of the Perform Europe priorities:

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

In addition to addressing one or both of these priorities, **all** Perform Europe proposals should aim for **quality** and **innovation**, and be built on **fair principles**.

**Read more about the priorities in our guidelines below.**

## CONDITIONS OF THE CALL

The open call was launched on 1 December 2023. We invite you now to build partnerships, jointly develop proposals, and submit them through our website before 31 March 2024, 23:59 CEST.

## FUNDING

Perform Europe will grant **EUR 2.1 million** to at least 35 partnerships.

Applicants can apply for grants in **three categories**:

- EUR 12 000 Small partnership projects
- EUR 32 000 Medium partnership projects
- EUR 60 000 Large partnership projects.

The maximum granted amount will be EUR 60 000, a requirement set by the funder, the European Union.

Of the total funding, 5% will be allocated to projects 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](#).

## PARTNERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Applications are submitted by partnerships. Each partnership must consist of a minimum of **three partners from a minimum of three Creative Europe countries**. Each application must include **at least one performing arts work** (excluding live music) 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 tool](#) on the Perform Europe website!*

## TIMELINE

1 December 2023	Launch of open call
31 March 2024 23:59 CEST	Deadline for submitting applications
3 June 2024	Announcement of selected partnerships
1 July 2024	Start of partnership projects
30 November 2025	End of partnership projects

From 1 December 2023 until 31 March 2024 Perform Europe with the networks behind it, will organise several information, promotion and knowledge-sharing events regarding the open call.

*To stay updated about all events and important news, subscribe to our [newsletter](#) and [social media](#).*

## IMPORTANT RESOURCES

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

## GET READY TO APPLY

- Read the full open call guidelines below
- Register and apply on the [Perform Europe website](#)
- **Apply before 31 March 2024 23.59 CEST**

# 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 across the 40 Creative Europe countries. Perform Europe supports innovative partnership projects that rethink the cross-border touring and presentation of performing arts works, to make it greener, more inclusive, and more diverse.

The research of Perform Europe's pilot project (2020-2022) 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 ability and willingness to practise fairness, equality, and equity.

In recent years, and especially following the Covid-19 pandemic, there has been a strong trend in the performing arts sector to rethink touring practices: the Perform Europe research and pilot project revealed strong examples of artistic work being brought to people and places in ways that cherish artistic values, create just relations, empower diversity of voices, care for the environment, and are meaningful and inspiring for everyone involved.

Built on these findings, Perform Europe will now 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 2023-2026 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. The call has two priorities:

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

Partnership proposals can focus on one – or both – of these priorities.

Perform Europe operates in a highly **diverse and unequal context**; 40 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 applications 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 that 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 move towards rectifying these disparities.

## B. Key terms explained

- **Evaluators:** independent experts who will be hired by Perform Europe to assess and rate applications, in accordance with the Perform Europe values and priorities.
- **Partnership proposal:** describes what your partnership wants to do and what changes 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.
- **Partnership:** a collaboration of minimum three partners based in at least three different Creative Europe countries. It is the group which submits the proposal.
- **Lead Partner:** Each partnership should select a '**lead partner**' responsible for submitting the application on its behalf, as well as for signing the contract 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. You 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **40 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](#).
- **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.
- **Touring:** the cross-border travelling and physical or digital presentation of performing arts works.

## C. How can you find partners, and how can they find you?

Perform Europe offers an **online matchmaking tool** specifically for this purpose! On the Perform Europe [website](#) you can register and create a profile for matchmaking. On your profile, you are invited to present yourself and your activities, and to list what you can offer and what you would need from a Perform Europe partnership. Once registered with your own profile, you can browse through other profiles of potential partners, and use tags to filter your search results. You can send 'quick match' requests to the ones you find relevant for a potential collaboration. When you choose 'quick match', an email indicating your interest is sent to the other contact. When they accept, you can both access each other's contact details and start communicating.

You are also invited to take part in two online meetings open to the entire sector, on 15 December 2023 and 2 February 2024, organised by Perform Europe. These will provide key opportunities to gain inspiration on the call's priorities and to find like-minded partners. You can find more information about the events [here](#) on our website.



## D. What should your proposal aim to do?

Your Perform Europe proposal should aim to address one or both of the following two **priorities for change**.

### 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 experience, 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 application, 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 underrepresented communities and 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, taking action towards producing fewer carbon emissions and addressing and working against climate impact.

**Next to addressing one or both of the above priorities for change, ALL Perform Europe proposals should aim for the following cross-cutting priorities.**

### Quality and innovation

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

## **Fairness**

A project 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 fair pay. 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 moving forward and making change.

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.

## **E. 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 document. Note that this document is only for preparation purposes: the application has to be submitted digitally on the Perform Europe website. 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 three working days.

In the application, we ask each partnership to:

1. List all the partners.
2. Describe the artistic work(s) which will tour across borders.
3. List the presentation contexts and locations.
4. Provide the title and a summary of the partnership proposal.
5. Describe how the proposal will address one or both of the priorities for change (1/ inclusion and diversity, 2/ the fight against climate change).
6. Describe how the proposal aims to meet the cross-cutting priorities of Perform Europe – Quality and Innovation and Fairness.
7. Describe your audience engagement, communication and promotion strategies (Please note that, if your proposal is selected, you will be expected to collect documentation,

photos, testimonials, audience numbers, and other communication materials and share them with Perform Europe).

8. Provide the detailed budget for implementing your proposal.

## F. What can the grant cover?

Each partnership should submit a detailed budget, using the template provided at the bottom of this document.

The Perform Europe grant can cover up to 100 % of the costs needed to implement the proposal, to a maximum of EUR 60 000. Co-financing is possible, but not mandatory. If the grant covers only a percentage of all expenses, and you will obtain other income, a commitment letter needs to be signed by all partners of the partnership to guarantee the availability of the total amount. If further fundraising is still going on, please provide more information under 'Other important financial information' in the budget template.

In their application, partnerships will 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. EUR 12 000 is considered a small size grant, EUR 32 000 a medium size grant and EUR 60 000 a large size grant. EUR 60 000 is the highest amount Perform Europe is able to award to a partnership, 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.

### **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 applicant partnerships and which can be applied and presented in different contexts, are eligible for funding.

Equally, presenting work in three countries can be done in many different ways and **does not necessarily involve physical travel**. Presentations aligning to the ideology 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. These are just examples of how versatile artistic concepts and presentation contexts can be, and are not examples of preference by Perform Europe.

The grant can cover the following (the list is not exhaustive).

- Staff costs for coordination of the project.
- 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.
- Copyright fees.
- Venue and equipment rental.
- Costs for transport of equipment, including insurance and permits.
- Costs for organising workshops, masterclasses, ateliers, or other activities connecting with local communities.
- 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.
- Communication costs.
- Training costs: each selected partnership is obliged to use at least 1.5 % of their budget for joint training, at the start of the project. This training should revolve around the key priorities the proposal will address and should aim to align the partners, in terms of skills and knowledge about the chosen topic(s). Perform Europe will provide a list of potential trainers with

different expertise; however partnerships are free to hire other trainers, outside this list.

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

Proposals can be implemented between 1 July 2024 and 30 November 2025. This gives each selected partnership 17 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 12 000, EUR 32 000 or EUR 60 000 to implement their proposals. The grant will be transferred to the lead partner of the selected partnerships, in three instalments:

- 30 % of the total grant will be paid after the contract has been signed by the lead partner and Perform Europe.
- 40 % of the total grant will be paid after the first presentation of the artistic work by the partnership.
- 30 % of the total grant will be transferred upon the completion of the entire Perform Europe project, after March 2026.

In order to receive the final instalment of 30 %, the partnership needs to submit:

- a final implementation report, including a financial report, no later than one month after the end date of the proposal;
- a Perform Europe experience survey filled out by each partner;
- all communication material, including audience numbers.

**If the proposal is not completed or partly completed, Perform Europe reserves the right to re-evaluate the amount of the final instalment.**

## H. 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:

1. Read the **full open call and guidelines**.
2. Create an account on our website. 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 application on time.
3. You can use our unique **Matchmaking tool** 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 **Toolkit** to build a sustainable partnership around innovative ideas!
4. 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.
5. **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.**
6. 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.
7. Take the time to review your application with all your Perform Europe partners to make sure everything is correct and nothing is missing.
8. Submit. 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.
9. After you submit your proposal, Perform Europe will review it to see if it meets the eligibility requirements. You will receive an email with confirmation of admissibility within four weeks of applying. If confirmed admissible, your application will then be assessed by the Perform Europe Evaluators.

# I. Application documents

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

- ⤵ [PDF version of digital application form](#)
- ⤵ [Budget 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](mailto:info@performeurope.eu).

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