

CultureAndHealth Platform

European Call for Projects

2025-2026

Coordinated by Culture Action Europe

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Are you an artist or artist collective passionate about working at the intersection of culture, health and wellbeing?

The CultureAndHealth Platform's call for project proposals could be just what you are looking for! Become part of a transformative European initiative that supports projects in the interprofessional space between culture and arts and one or more of the following sectors: health, care, education and social/community.

This European co-funded call invites project proposals from artists and artist collectives collaborating with non-cultural organisations (e.g., care homes, hospitals, social NGOs, mental health services etc.) to enhance the health and wellbeing of individuals or communities.

The call has a two-stage application process and will award eight working grants of €8,000 each as of May/June 2026.

Stage 1: Expression of Interest with a draft idea - deadline: 02 February 2026

Stage 2: Full Application & Selection from the shortlisted proposals - deadline: 30 March 2026

Eligible countries where the project can be implemented: Albania, Armenia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Kosovo, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Tunisia, Ukraine.

Note: Additional national calls for a separate round of proposals for the CultureAndHealth Platform will open as of 15 January 2026 in the following countries: Austria, Finland, Germany, Italy, Ireland, the Netherlands, Malta, Spain, Sweden, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, and Spain. They will be featured on the CultureAndHealth Platform website.

For further details, please see the 'Call Process and Timeline' section.

What will you be offered?

Key benefits of the CultureAndHealth Platform for selected artists include:

- An opportunity to work in the culture, health and wellbeing area with a strategic vision and/or possibly test new ideas
- Financial support for projects that bridge culture, health and well-being (€ 8000 per project),
- Increased visibility by being part of a European CultureAndHealth platform project and featured on the platform's website,
- Peer support and networking opportunities with other artists working in the field of culture, health and well-being across Creative Europe countries,
- Trainings and capacity-building initiatives,
- Mentoring/work counselling,
- Showcasing events to highlight artists' work.

What kind of projects qualify?

Your project needs to be embedded in a local community/ies and create longer-term connections. These projects should foster meaningful connections between arts and culture and the health, care, social and (for Youth) educational sectors, including institutional and non-institutional settings. They should aim to enhance people's well-being by ensuring access to artistic and cultural practices as opportunities for expression, participation and empowerment, in accordance with cultural rights. The proposed actions contribute to quality of life, support and care pathways, and promote both prevention and improved health outcomes. The project needs to be implemented between May 2026 and April 2027.

Projects may include:

- **participatory art programs** for people experiencing physical and/or mental illnesses, loneliness or social isolation
- **participatory art programs** that focus on prevention of mental ill-health or the management of illnesses in different settings.
- **participatory art programs** in formal and informal educational/social care settings to enhance youth mental health
- **art in health or social care settings**, including projects that enhance health and social care environments and support the staff and the patient's well-being

- **productions in healthcare settings**, which could include performances, installations, and exhibitions that support general well-being and highlight health-related issues
- **artist residencies** in healthcare, social care or educational settings
- **socially-engaged arts**: community arts to enhance health and wellbeing
- Other similar projects or a mix of the above examples – surprise us...

The projects should focus on integrating new artistic practices or strengthening existing programmes within local communities and established structures to foster sustainable, long-term connections. They should also contribute to developing the artists' work.

For participatory projects, priority will go to those that include more than six sessions with the same (or nearly the same) group of participants, fostering sustainable relationships through repeated engagement—an approach highlighted in the CultureForHealth Report and common in arts-on-prescription methods.

**Important!**

Applicants are required to **work together** with a partner organisation/institution **outside of the cultural sector** (e.g. care homes, hospitals, social NGOs working with specific target groups, mental health services etc) to enable the possibility for the continuation and long-term sustainability of the project.

Already in stage 1, applicants are required to reach out to a partner organisation/institution outside of the cultural sector and provide a *proof of contact/interest* from the partner.

In stage 2 of the application, you will need to attach a *signed copy of a letter of intent* from the cooperating institution/ organisation that is outside of the cultural sector.

Who can apply? Eligibility criteria

Resident or nationals of a participating country to the Creative Europe programme, who do not have a national call in their own country, organised by the CultureAndHealth Platform. These are the following countries:

Albania, Armenia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Kosovo, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Tunisia, Ukraine.

Note: Additional national calls for a separate round of proposals for the CultureandHealth Platform will open as of 15 January 2026 in the following countries: Austria, Finland, Germany, Italy, Ireland, the Netherlands, Malta, Spain, Sweden, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, and Spain. They will be featured on the CultureAndHealth Platform website.

You may apply for the grant as an individual artist, or as a collective/working group/NGO registered company. This specific call does not aim to support larger cultural organisations or institutions.

Artists who have already been supported financially by the CultureAndHealth Platform (through national calls, shadowing/hosting programs or participants of the Artistic Exploration Lab) are not eligible. Only fully completed applications will be considered in the selection process.

The project implementation needs to take place between May 2026 and April 2027.

Prerequisites

To qualify as a participating artist (or artist collective), you need to have the following

Essential requirements:

- Applicants must be able to demonstrate the following:
 - At least 3 years of experience as a practicing artist, and
 - either a higher arts education qualification or equivalent professional experience.
- Have experience in working with groups, leading workshops, or engaging people through participatory arts
- Be fluent in the language of the community where you are working.
- Have adequate knowledge of English to a level that enables you to present your project, participate in English language trainings and engage with fellow artists

from other parts of Europe. In the case of an artist collective, it is sufficient if only one of the artists has this skill.

- Be interested in starting or continuing long-term work in the interprofessional field of culture and health/arts and health.

Desirable skills and requirements:

- Previous experience or training in working within the intersection of culture, health, social and/or care sectors is a welcome asset

Call process and timeline

Stage 1: Expression of Interest with a draft idea

Timeline – stage 1:

Call for Applications open: 12 December 2025, - 02 February 2026

Call deadline Stage 1: 2 February 2026 at 12:00 midday, CET (Brussels time)

Online Information Webinar: 16 December 2025, 10.00 CET – [Zoom Registration Link](#)

Applicants notified of next round selection decision: 24 February 2026

Application overview – stage 1:

The application must be submitted via this application form. Please see all the questions to answer in the form. To provide an overview here, you are asked to elaborate on the following in the application form:

- Primary art form of the project
- Project objectives (1000 characters maximum)
- Description of the project (2500 characters maximum)
- The formal consent of a partner organisation from the health, care, social, or educational sector to participate in the collaboration. (In stage 1 proof of contact needs to be confirmed, in stage 2 we require a signed letter of intent)
- Your experience in culture and health
- Timeline of your project
- CV (maximum 3 pages)
- Artist Portfolio (maximum 5 pages)

Stage 2: Full Application & Selection

Timeline:

Full applications shall be submitted between 25 February 2026 – 30 March 2026
Stage 2 Full application submissions deadline: 30 March 2026 at 12:00 CET (Brussels time)
Online Information Webinar: Monday, 06 March 2026,
Notification of 8 selected applicants: Monday, 20 April 2026,
Deadline for selected artists to accept: Monday, 20 April 2026, - Thursday, 23 April 2026
Notification of non-selected applicants: Wednesday, 29 April 2026
Contract signing period: Monday, 27 April 2026 - Friday, 15 May 2026

Application Overview – Step 2:

Longlisted applicants will be asked to submit a second application, including

- *A signed copy of a letter of intent* from the cooperating institution/ organisation that is outside of the cultural sector you are planning to work with
- 2-minute recorded video pitch in English: What is your project about, and what makes it stand out?
- Detailed project design and description
- Detailed budgeting of the project

Selection Criteria – Stage 1

The CultureAndHealth platform guarantees a transparent, accountable and independent selection process.

Only fully completed applications will be considered in the selection process.

Selection Criteria	Points
<p>1. Project idea that is effective and relevant for health and wellbeing of the target group.</p> <p>The Project Objectives and Expected Outcomes are clearly described - 3 points</p> <p>The proposal specifies how arts will contribute to these outcomes - 3 points</p> <p>The proposal understands the needs of the target group/participants. Access is equitable - 3 points</p> <p>The Project idea is aligned with the CultureAndHealth Platform's aims related to health and wellbeing - 3 points</p>	12
<p>2. Previous experience of the artist, references, education, artistic merits</p> <p>The artist's experience meets the essential requirements – 4 points</p> <p>The quality and relevance of the presented projects in the artistic portfolio fits the aims of the call - 4 points</p> <p>The artist's experience meets the desirable requirements - 2 points</p>	10
<p>3. Realistic and feasible planning of activities</p> <p>The project idea is realistic with well-defined activities and milestones – 5 points</p> <p>The project idea demonstrates capacity to deliver the project within the one-year timeframe and within the budget - 5 points</p>	10

<p>4. Engagement with the communities/audiences/participants</p> <p>The project idea contains actions that actively take the needs of the participants into consideration – 2 points</p> <p>The project actively engages participants by fostering an equitable, inclusive environment based on consent of the participants – 4 points</p> <p>The project collects feedback from the participants – 2 points</p>	8
<p>5. Solid and trustworthy partnership, co-designing the interventions/project/activities with the partner</p> <p>Relevant and solid partnership with a partner organisation/institution outside of the cultural sector – 3 points</p> <p>The project is co-designed with the partner – 3 points</p>	6
<p>6. The project's possibility to create longer term connections across sectors (health, social, cultural or educational sector)</p> <p>The project has potential for a longer-term partnership – 4 points</p>	4
Total Points:	50

Note: The detailed budget plan will be evaluated in stage 2.

In the final portfolio of selected projects, the CultureAndHealth Platform will strive to have a balance a) across the countries where projects take place and b) in artforms the projects are working with. We will furthermore strive to include in the final portfolio both the area of ‘prevention’ and ‘management of treatment’ of illnesses.

Financial terms

The eight successful applicants will each receive a total gross amount of EUR 8,000 (including VAT if applicable). 80% of the grant will be transferred to the artist at the beginning of the project, while 20% will be transferred after the final report once all reporting obligations have been fulfilled.

While it is not mandatory, obtaining co-funding from the partner institution or other financial sources is permitted and even encouraged. However, the use of other EU funding as co-financing to execute the project is not allowed.

The project funding must be used within one year of signing the contract.

The final project budget shall ensure fair remuneration and working conditions of all who are involved in the project implementation.

The use of volunteers is permitted, but they must be clearly identified as such.

Elements of the agreement between the artist and the platform

When receiving the grant, artists shall agree to be part of the CultureAndHealth Platform and its learning community, and therefore need to agree to work according to the principles it adopted:

1. Person-Centred: Value lived experience and enable potential
2. Equitable: Work towards a more just and equitable society
3. Safe: Do no harm, ensure safety, and manage risk
4. Creative: Engage, inspire and ignite change
5. Collaborative: Work with others to develop joined-up approaches
6. Realistic: Be realistic about what you can achieve
7. Reflective: Reflect, evaluate, and learn
8. Sustainable: Work towards a positive, long-term legacy for people and the planet

(The above Creative Health Quality Framework was prepared by the Culture, Health & Wellbeing Alliance (CHWA) and Jane Willis)

Establishing a safeguarding framework

Participation in the cultural activities needs to be based on a person's free will. To ensure a safe, respectful, and inclusive participation, a safeguarding framework needs to be in place during the project implementation. You can use the framework of your partner institution and/or use the template that the CultureAndHealth platform offers. We will provide help with establishing a safeguarding framework.

Reporting and evaluation

In stage 2 of the application process, applicants will be asked about how they plan to report and evaluate their work in cooperation with the target group.

Artists are required to submit a short report at the end of the implementation of their projects, which includes all points below:

- providing details about the artistic activities,
- the level of engagement of audiences,
- the effects they have observed on the participants,
- the relations with the health/social partners, lessons learnt,
- and needs and intentions for future work in the area of arts and health.
- Additionally, the artist should provide documentative pictures, that are taken throughout the project, which can be used in communication and take part in a self-evaluation.

Before signing the contract between Culture Action Europe and the grantee, a detailed guideline on reporting requirements will be available.

Visibility of the artist/artist collective

The artist/ artist collective will be featured on the CultureAndHealth Platform website. For this, please provide a short biography (3-5 sentences), a brief project description (4-6 sentences) and a picture so they can be showcased on our homepage.

Visibility of the EU co-funding

The EU co-funding for the project must be visible and communicated throughout its implementation.

How to apply

The application must be submitted via this application form by **02 February 2026 at 12:00 CET midday Brussels time**

Questions

In case there are any questions, please join our Online Information Webinar on 16 December 2025, 10.00 CET – [Zoom Registration Link](#)

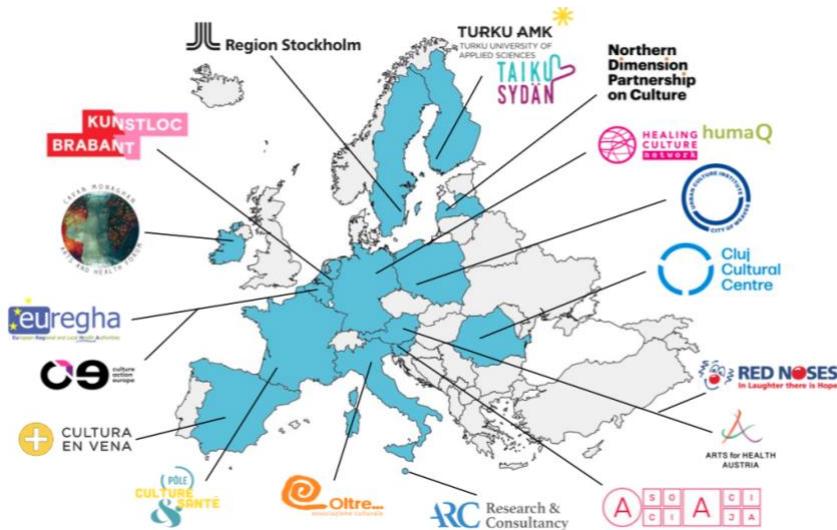
For further questions, please email us only via info@cultureandhealth.eu. Questions that reach us via different channels cannot be answered.

Background of the CultureAndHealth Platform

Culture and the arts play a vital role in enhancing our social, physical and mental health and well-being. Arts can contribute to both preventing illnesses and promoting healthy behaviours as well as helping in the management and treatment of illnesses, as outlined by the [World Health Organisation \(WHO\) 2019 report on arts and health](#) and the EU co-funded [2022 CultureForHealth Report](#). Across Europe, practice at the intersection of culture and health is already vibrant and growing. Over 850 projects in the field are compiled by [CultureForHealth mapping database](#). The task now is to better connect culture, health and social policies to create an enabling environment for the culture, health and well-being field. The recent EU Publication [Culture and Health: Time to Act](#) that was a jointly co-drafted by EU Member States representatives in the context of the “Open Method of Coordination: Culture and Health” now shows that there is a political momentum for a systemic change of policies in health, social and culture sectors.

The first-ever EU co-funded [CultureAndHealth Platform](#) was formed to support the structured development of this field. It aims to support artists working on the intersection of the culture, health, care and social sectors by providing grants, mobility and networking opportunities, building their capacities, and showcasing and promoting their work. Led by Culture Action Europe, a pan European cultural network representing over 290 members in 34 countries, with its coordination office based in Brussels, the below map shows the national focal points around Europe.

In the first project year, CultureAndHealth Platform’s national focal points launched 11 national calls for project proposals in Austria, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden. These countries will launch their national calls also in the year of 2026.





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