**NOTICE ON THE PLANNED OPEN CALL**

**“SUPPORTING ACCESS TO CULTURE AND STRENGTHENING CULTURAL EDUCATION” UNDER THE EEA FINANCIAL MECHANISM**

**PROGRAMME “CULTURE” 2014-2021**

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| **Title of the call for project proposals** | Open call “Supporting access to culture and strengthening cultural education” of the European economic area (EEA) financial mechanism 2014-2021 |
| **Call number** | LT04-1-KM-K01 |
| **Objective** | Projects supported under this Programme shall contribute to the Programme Objective defined as *Enhancing socio-economic development through cultural cooperation, cultural entrepreneurship and cultural heritage management.*  The aim of the call is to select projects which contribute best to the Programme Outcome defined as *Access to cultural, artistic and creative activities improved* and two Programme Outputs defined as *Audience development supported at regional or local level* and *Local communities empowered through use of cultural activities.*  Programme will promote the mobility of cultural services and products in the regions, by providing equal opportunities for all the citizens, especially children and young people, to receive quality services oriented to cultural education. In order to mitigate social exclusion and discrimination, the Programme will seek that the mobility of high quality professional cultural and creative productions and services would reach out as much periphery as possible, including territories with high density of national minorities.  The Open call “Supporting access to culture and strengthening cultural education” will promote audience development and the mobility of high-quality professional cultural and creative productions and services.  It will pay special attention to innovative ways of engaging the audience and presenting high quality cultural and creative productions and services in the regions of Lithuania, responding to the local context, fostering participation and inclusion, involving local stakeholders and developing dialogue with local communities.  Cross-sectoral partnerships involving organizations beyond cultural sector will be encouraged in order to address complex challenges of access to culture.  Bilateral partnerships with donor states’ entities will be mandatory for all projects. |
| **Eligible applicants and partners** | Potential Applicants are Public or private entities, commercial or non-commercial and non-governmental organizations established as legal persons in the Republic of Lithuania.  The core activity of the Applicant or its partners from Lithuania shall be carried out in the cultural and/or creative sector as defined in Regulation (EU) No. 1295/2013 establishing the Creative Europe Programme.  Eligible Partners:  - Public or private entities, commercial or non-commercial and non-governmental organizations established as legal persons in the Republic of Lithuania. If the Applicant carries out its core activity outside of the cultural and / or creative sector within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 1295/2013 establishing the Creative Europe Programme, at least one partner from Lithuania shall carry out its core activity in these sectors;  - Public or private entities, commercial or non-commercial and non-governmental organizations established as legal persons in one of the Donor States whose principal activity is in the cultural and / or creative sector within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 1295/2013 establishing the Creative Europe Programme, and natural persons who are legal residents in Liechtenstein.  In this call, the same institution can submit one application only as an Applicant. Should an Applicant submit more than one application, the first submitted application only shall be assessed (based on the date and time of its submission), and all other applications shall be rejected.  The Applicant must have at least one partner from at least one Donor State. The number of project partners is unlimited. |
| **Eligible activities** | Assistance under Programme will be provided to the following activities, which must be implemented in the regions:   * Production and distribution of high quality content in all areas of cultural – creative sector (creation of new products or services or development or distribution of the existing ones in the course of the project); * Cultural education and audience development activities at regional or local level; * Cultural activities involving children and youth (up to 29 years of age), local communities or groups facing social exclusion and discrimination.   The created product shall be presented at least 3 times at different levels of the territory of Lithuania (in different locations):   * At least once at local level (in municipal districts / rural elderships); * At least once at the municipal level (in the municipal center according to the administrative division of the territory of Lithuania, except when the municipality is also the county center); * Not more than once at the county level (i.e. in Alytus, Marijampolė, Panevėžys, Šiauliai, Tauragė, Telšiai and Utena cities). Not eligible locations for presentation of products - cities of Vilnius, Kaunas and Klaipėda).   In the application form Applicants are obliged to set baseline and target values for the following Programme Indicators:   * Number of people attending events supported by the Programme; * Share of local beneficiaries participating in project activities; * Share of people reporting increased access to cultural activities.   Applicants shall seek to contribute to the achievement of such Programme output indicators:   * Number of activities supported; * Number of children and youth involved in events and activities at regional or local level (mandatory); * Number of local stakeholders involved in events and activities at regional or local level (mandatory); * Number of projects related to social inclusion and anti-discrimination; * Number of cross-sectoral partnerships supported; * Number of people participating in educational activities.   By the project, the Applicants shall seek to contribute to the monitoring indicators of the Programme output "Enhancing capacities of cultural players through bilateral cooperation”, if the project provides for activities related to these indicators:   * Number of implemented joint cultural activities; * Number of staff from Donor States in exchanges (disaggregated by gender, Donor State); * Number of staff from Beneficiary state in exchanges (disaggregated by gender, Donor State). |
| **Deadline for submitting applications** | *Shall be indicated when the Call will be launched.*  It is planned that for preparation and submission of the project applications 3 months period will be given for potential Applicants.  Open calls for project proposals shall be announced on [www.cpva.lt](http://www.cpva.lt) and [www.eeagrants.lt](http://www.eeagrants.lt).  In order to receive financing, the Applicant shall online via the DMS fill in an application. |
| **Selection process** | Evaluation of projects shall be organized by the Central Project Management Agency (Programme Operator).  Only for eligible applications, meeting project eligibility criteria, set in the Guidelines, benefit and quality evaluation shall be conducted.  At least two independent experts shall conduct a benefit and quality evaluation. Applications shall be evaluated in scores in accordance with priority project selection criteria, which may not be changed in the course of the evaluation of projects. The maximum possible score according to each criterion will be indicated in the Guidelines. The maximum score, which may be given according to all criteria of evaluation of the project’s benefit and quality, shall be 100. 50 shall be the minimum mandatory score for projects under this call.  At the time of the evaluation of applications, the CPMA may ask the Applicant to submit the missing information and/ or documents.  Applications shall be evaluated for no more than 90 days after the deadline for the submission of applications specified in the call for applications. |
| **Selection criteria** | The project shall meet the set project administrative criteria, project eligibility criteria and shall aim to meet the specific priority project selection criteria (benefit and quality) laid down in the Guidelines for applicants.  Applications shall be rejected if it is determined that:   * The same Applicant has submitted more than one application; * The application does not meet at least one eligibility criterion laid down in the Guidelines; * The Applicant does not meet at least one administrative compliance criterion indicated in the Guidelines; * The Applicant submitted misleading information in its application, or the Applicant or persons related to the application (the project planned for implementation) seek to receive information, which the CPMA considers to be confidential, or to unlawfully exert influence on evaluation results or evaluators; * The project scores less than 50 in the evaluation of benefit and quality. |
| **Total budget of the Call** | €1,500,000.00 |
| **Minimum and maximum grant applied** | The minimum grant applied for shall not be less than €50,000.  The maximum grant applied for shall not be less than €200,000. |
| **Project grant rate** | The grant rate is up to 90% of the total eligible expenditure of a project. |
| **Duration of the projects** | Up to 24 months |
| **Contacts for more information** | Central Project Management Agency (CPMA)  E-mail: [eeagrants@cpva.lt](mailto:eeagrants@cpva.lt), Tel. (+370) 5 210 7479, Fax (+370) 5 251 4401  Reply to questions posed by e-mail or fax will be provided within 5 working days after the receipt of the enquiry at the CPMA. |