

Cultural heritage and diversity

As a result of centuries of exchange and migratory flows, Europeans share a rich diversity of culture. Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are contributing over €200 million through the EEA Grants to protect and restore cultural heritage and promote intercultural dialogue and diversity in the arts.

WHY FOCUS ON CULTURAL HERITAGE AND DIVERSITY?

The historical value of Europe's rich cultural heritage is undisputed. As well as its intrinsic value, the cultural sector is a significant contributor to job creation and smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Revitalising heritage has a direct impact on employment on sectors such as tourism. This brings long-term social and economic benefits, especially to local communities. However there are obstacles limiting progress in this area. In many of the beneficiary countries:

- > numerous cultural heritage sites are in need of restoration and modernisation
- > the potential for cultural exchange of artists and other cultural players is underutilised

Cultural heritage is also a key resource for sustainable development and social cohesion. Developing a better understanding of the multicultural history of Europe – particularly in the current context of rising intolerance – is crucial for improving tolerance and countering discrimination. That is why reinforcing intercultural dialogue, diversity and exchange are important priorities in many countries.

SNAPSHOT OF SUPPORTED PROJECTS

Estonia has a unique and rich blend of historical landmarks, many of which have though fallen into disrepair. Work started in the previous funding round continues with support for the restoration and conversion of manor houses into schools and cultural venues.

In the part of Nicosia most affected by the division of Cyprus, the Grants have provided support for the Centre for Visual Arts and Research. The Centre provides a platform to explore Cypriot cultural heritage through visual and creative arts - stimulating exchange between both Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities.

In Poland, funding has been used to develop an educational and cultural programme in the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw. Five Norwegian organisations, including the Oslo Jewish Museum, were involved in the project.



The Grants have supported renovation work and the creation of cultural venues in Warsaw's UNESCO-listed cellars in the Old Town.

WHAT WILL WE ACHIEVE?

The programmes contribute to:

- > Revitalising cultural heritage sites and protecting them for future generations
- > Improving accessibility to cultural heritage sites for the general public
- > Creating better understanding between Europeans through cultural exchange and dialogue

HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE IT?

Types of activities supported by the programmes include:

CONSERVATION AND REVITALISATION

- > Restoration of cultural heritage assets
- > Creative reuse of old or abandoned buildings for educational and cultural purposes
- > Development and preservation of traditional skills

DIVERSITY AND OUTREACH

- > Promotion of contemporary and live arts, including music, dance, theatre and opera
- > Reaching out to broader audiences and promoting cultural diversity
- > Documentation of European cultural history, including that of minorities such as Jewish and Roma communities

STRENGTHENING CULTURAL EXCHANGE

- > Encouraging cooperation and dialogue between cultural institutions
- > Organisation of film festivals, concerts and artist exchanges
- > Collaboration between experts on conservation techniques

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Projects are selected following open calls for proposals organised by the programme operator in each beneficiary country. Calls are published on the websites of the programme operators, donor programme partners and on www.eeagrants.org. In some cases, projects are already predefined in the agreements between the donor and beneficiary countries.

Local, regional and national bodies, non-governmental organisations and in some cases, individual artists, can apply for funding. Organisations must be registered in the relevant country to be eligible under a particular programme. More detailed information can be found in the individual calls when published.

BILATERAL COOPERATION

The cultural and creative sectors flourish on the exchange of ideas and techniques. The Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage and the Arts Council Norway are involved as donor programme partners in many of the cultural programmes.

Partners from various organisations from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway can also get involved in individual projects. In some culture programmes, project partnership is obligatory. Funding is available to support networking, foster project partnerships and to cover preparatory costs of joint applications.

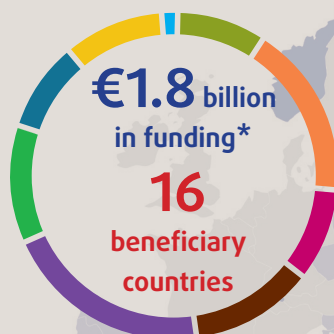
COUNTRY OVERVIEW: CULTURAL HERITAGE AND DIVERSITY

Country	Cultural heritage conserved	Cultural dialogue and diversity increased	Partner(s)	Grant amount (€ million)
Bulgaria	•	•		14.0
Cyprus	•			0.6
Czech Republic	•	•	Arts Council Norway	21.5
Estonia	•		Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage	4.5
Hungary	•	•	Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage	12.6
Latvia	•	•	Arts Council Norway Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage	10.0
Lithuania	•	•	Arts Council Norway Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage	10.0
Malta	•			0.8
Poland	•	•	Arts Council Norway	81.2
Portugal	•	•	Arts Council Norway	5.0
Romania	•	•	Arts Council Norway Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage	22.5
Slovakia	•	•		11.9
Slovenia	•			4.9
Spain	•	•	Royal Norwegian Embassy to Spain*	4.6
TOTAL				204.2

*The Royal Norwegian Embassy to Spain is the Programme Operator for the Cultural Diversity and Cultural Exchange programme

ABOUT THE EEA AND NORWAY GRANTS

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway provide funding to:



AREAS OF SUPPORT

- Environmental management
- Climate change
- Civil society
- Cultural heritage and diversity
- Human and social development
- Green industry innovation
- Justice and home affairs
- Research and scholarships
- Decent work and social dialogue

* EEA Grants €993.5 million (Norway 95.7%, Iceland 3.2%, Liechtenstein 1.1%) – Norway Grants €804.6 million, financed by Norway alone