

Perform Europe

Perform Europe Application Step 2

Call for proposals of showing performing arts works across borders in more fair, inclusive and sustainable ways

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Perform Europe is co-initiated by a Consortium of 5 organisations and funded by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union

Introduction

Perform Europe is an EU-funded project which aims to rethink cross-border performing arts presentation in a more inclusive, sustainable and balanced way, in the 40 countries of Creative Europe and the UK. The project is an 18-month journey, which includes a research phase, launching a digital platform, testing a support scheme, and designing policy recommendations.

We are happy to announce the guidelines of the **second step of the Perform Europe application process**. All producers and presenters selected in the first step are invited to shape partnerships, jointly develop touring and presentation proposals and, **as from 6 September 2021**, submit them through our digital platform.

Only producers and presenters who have been selected by the Perform Europe Jury in the first application step can be part of a Perform Europe partnership and submit a proposal in the second step. You can check the full list of candidates selected in step 1 on [this page](#).

- By **producers**, we mean performing arts organisations, companies and collectives, individual artists, or presenters which have produced an artistic work or developed an artistic concept that can be implemented in various contexts.
- By **presenters**, we mean venues, festivals or other types of organisations offering a presenting context.
- By **artistic work**, we mean productions and artistic initiatives and concepts that are ready to be applied and practiced in different environments.

In the first application step, we have identified innovative and courageous visions and ideas on how to develop cross-border touring and distribution in fair, inclusive and sustainable ways.

In the second step, we are looking for **joint proposals for showing art works across borders that will try to bridge the current gaps (see below) and bring change to our performing arts ecosystem**.

What do we mean by proposal, presentation and partnership?

A Perform Europe proposal should describe what **your partnership** wants to do:

- Your proposal should inform how at least one **artistic work will be shown by at least three presenters, in three different countries**. A Perform Europe **presentation** is an event of showing artistic work in one location. Each proposal submitted by a partnership should consist of at least three presentations of the same artistic work, planned to happen in at least three different countries (it can be shown in several presenting contexts within the same country, as long as the minimum of three presentations in three different countries is fulfilled).
- **Presentations can be digital, physical or hybrid**. At least one presentation of each proposal must be livestreamed and recorded.
- Your proposal should also **outline the promotion and audience engagement strategies** of your partnerships and indicate a **local reporter / writer / narrator for each country where a presentation will take place** (learn more about it in the part “What will you be asked for?” below).

A Perform Europe **partnership** is the group which submits the proposal. It needs to be composed of at least three different presenters, based in three different countries and at least one producer. Each partnership should select a leading partner which will be responsible for submitting the application on behalf of it.

To recap, here is what your Perform Europe partnership should include:

- **One producer** (= one artistic work) selected in step 1.
 - The **artistic work** should be the core element of each proposal, which the partnership unites around.
- **At least three presenters** (= three presenting contexts) selected in step 1 and based in different countries.
 - The artistic work can be shown in several presenting contexts within the same country, **as long as the minimum of three presentations in three different countries is fulfilled**.
 - Presentations can be digital, physical or hybrid, **but at least one presentation of each proposal must be livestreamed and recorded**.
 - The artistic work can be presented in other presenting contexts than those that are part of a Perform Europe proposal, **but such presentations will not be covered by a Perform Europe fee**.

Please note that **you can be part of several Perform Europe partnerships, and submit several Perform Europe proposals**, as long as they all meet the above requirements.

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How to find your partners for Perform Europe, and how can they find you?

The Perform Europe digital platform was developed as an online networking tool that you can use to search for artistic works and/or presenting contexts that are part of Perform Europe across the 40 countries of Creative Europe and in the UK.

The online networking and match-making process among producers and presenters selected in step 1 is now open on the Perform Europe digital platform until 4 October 2021. During this period, you are free to explore the available artistic works and presenting contexts, add the ones you find most relevant to your list and take contact with their producer or presenter to discuss a potential Perform Europe partnership and set up a proposal. **The application process to submit Perform Europe proposals will be open from 6 September to 4 October 2021 on the digital platform.**

For other producers and presenters to be able to contact you if they are interested in forming a Perform Europe partnership with you, the online Perform Europe page of your artistic work(s) and/or presenting context(s) should contain **all the necessary information**. You can **update the information** about your own artistic work(s) and/or presenting context(s) and **browse through the other artistic works and presenting contexts** by [logging in](#) to the Perform Europe platform, and going to the “Artistic Works” and “Presenting Contexts” pages.

You will also be able to take part in **two online workshops on 7 and 14 September** as well as **three online “Pitch Your Project” platforms on 8, 9 and 13 September**, organised by Perform Europe. These will be key opportunities to gain inspiration on sustainable and inclusive distribution and find like-minded partners. You can find more information about these events on [this page](#).

What gaps should Perform Europe proposals bridge?

Perform Europe’s research showed that there is a strong will in the European performing arts sector to reinvent the touring and distribution practices. Artistic work should be 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 local communities and artists.

The current landscape of performing arts collaboration in Europe is not balanced and inclusive enough, neither is it sustainable. There are some gaps – lacks, issues, obstacles – which prevent a “dream picture” from becoming a reality. Here are some of the most evident **gaps** experienced by the performing arts organisations and professionals touring across borders or willing to tour:

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1. money,
2. time,
3. infrastructure,
4. skills and capacities,
5. knowledge and awareness,
6. visibility and recognition,
7. connectedness and collaboration,
8. curiosity and inclusivity,
9. solidarity and fairness,
10. equity and equality.

What should your proposals aim to?

We seek proposals which are based **on sharing resources among partners and empowering each other, in order to bridge the existing gaps.**

Perform Europe proposals should **aim** to address at least 2 of the following:

1. practice solidarity and fair collaboration models;
2. embrace digital tools to make distribution more sustainable and inclusive;
3. empower voices of underrepresented professionals and give them visibility;
4. be relevant and inclusive towards local communities;
5. care for the environment and foster awareness about ecological concerns;
6. be considerate of the well-being of everyone involved;
7. inspire viable economic models;
8. create strong and long-lasting links between people, places, projects, skills, cultures;
9. develop and strengthen skills to continuously practice sustainable and inclusive ways of touring and presentation of the performing arts;

The aims are not listed in the order of importance or priority.

Those aims are certainly interconnected, but **they do not have to be met all together**. We will be happy to receive proposals which are focused on some aspects deeper than on others. At the same time, proposals that are only about one aspect are not what we are looking for: **all proposals should address 2 aspects at least.**

What will you be asked for?

The call for proposals will be open from **6 September to 4 October 2021** on the Perform Europe digital platform. In your proposal, you will be asked to:

1. Provide **the name and a summary of your Perform Europe proposal** (the essence, the main steps and elements, the timeline, the approach to sustainability and inclusivity and the relevance to the different aspects you selected). **max. 450 words**
2. List and provide information about the **presentations of your proposal**.
3. **List all partners** of your proposal: at least **three presenters** based in **three different countries** and **one producer**.
4. Describe your partnership:
 - a. Which resources (in relation to the 10 gaps described above) are you going to share among each other and how? **max 250 words**
 - b. What will be the conditions of the contract you'll be signing between each other (find more details below)? **max 250 words**
5. How sustainable is your partnership beyond the implementation of the Perform Europe proposal? **max 250 words**
6. How will your **proposal address (some of) the nine aims** listed above? **max 450 words**
7. **Describe your audience engagement, communication and promotion strategies**. Please note that you are expected to **identify and indicate a person for each country**, where the presentations of your proposal will happen, who will collect impressions and feedback from the audience about the presentations and **produce a report**. The name of the reporter / writer / narrator can be indicated later. **max 300 words**
8. Describe the **digital dimension** of your proposal and how it will play a role in **enhancing sustainability and inclusivity of your proposal**. **max 250 words**
9. Provide the **estimated budget** for implementing your proposal (find more details below).

If your proposal is selected by the Jury, what's next?

Selected partnerships will sign an agreement with Perform Europe, according to which they will receive **a support fee (between € 10.000 and €100.000) to implement their proposals**.

The fee can cover (the list is not exhaustive):

- **Travel, accommodation/subsistence and per diems** of artistic, technical and management teams participating in presentations
- **Artistic fees**
- **Accessibility costs**
- **Re-mounting costs:** transport of equipment including insurance and permits
- **Co-production cost** for coordinating the partners' work
- **Live-recording and streaming costs**
- **Sur/sub-titling, translation fees**
- **Copyright fees**
- **Workshops, masterclasses, ateliers, interactions with local communities**
- **Narratives** by local reporters

Each partnership should submit their own **detailed budget, as an annex to the proposal.**

The Perform Europe fee will not cover production costs.

Co-financing

There is no need for co-financing if your partnership is not able to provide it. The fee can cover up to 100% of the costs needed to implement the proposal (in particular, important for smaller, less internationally promoted producers and presenters), without exceeding the maximum amount mentioned above. If the fee covers only a percentage of all expenses and you can obtain your own income as co-financing, a commitment letter needs to be signed by all partners of the proposal to guarantee the availability of the total amount.

The selected partnerships will also conclude a partnership contract between each other, based on the conditions described in the proposal. The Perform Europe Consortium team may amend those conditions, if they do not sufficiently realise and promote fairer collaboration models between producers and presenters.

The total amount of the fee will be transferred to the lead partner of the partnership. The amount will be transferred in two instalments: 75% of the total fee will be paid after the contract has been signed by the lead partner and Perform Europe and upon the start of the first presentation of the proposal and the reception of its report; 25% of the fee will be transferred upon the completion of the entire Perform Europe project:

In order to receive the final instalment of 25%, the partnership needs to submit:

- A final implementation report submitted by the partnership no later than one month after the implementation of the proposal;
- A completed Perform Europe Experience Survey filled out by each partner.

If the proposal is not completed or partly completed, the Consortium keeps the right not to transfer the 25% or partly transfer them.

Timeline

6 September 2021 – 4 October 2021	Applicants selected in step 1 co-create proposals and apply for step 2 on 4 October 2021 at the latest. Selected partnerships will be informed via email mid-October.
Mid October 2021 – End of June 2022	Touring and distribution proposals selected in step 2 receive grants and are implemented.
End of June 2022	Policy recommendations produced by Perform Europe to advise the European Institutions and Member States on how to integrate a support scheme for performing arts touring (virtual, hybrid, physical) in the Creative Europe programme 2021-2027.