Perform Europe call for performing arts organisations, companies, artists, collectives, venues and festivals

You can read this full call on the [Perform Europe digital platform](#). You can also download the summary of this call in all the Creative Europe languages on [this page](#).

In a nutshell

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.

Since December 2020, Perform Europe has explored and mapped the context in which performing art works have been presented across borders in the past few years. The research team identified and analysed the current issues and disparities in the European system of performing arts touring and presentation and indicated some solutions for bringing change.

Throughout our Perform Europe journey, we will develop policy recommendations to advise the European Institutions and Member States on how to integrate a support scheme for performing arts distribution in the Creative Europe programme 2021-2027. We also aim at offering policy insights for other policy levels and fields, and for the sector at large.

Based on the learning points of our research phase, we have now released the [Perform Europe digital platform](#). This digital space is our platform for helping applicants to network and share best practices of more sustainable and inclusive touring and distribution practices.

Applications for the first step of the Perform Europe call are now open until 7 July 2021 on the Perform Europe digital platform. Please find the application guidelines, criteria and procedure below.

How to apply?

1. **Read the full call guidelines below thoroughly**.

2. Please note that **you will not be able to save a draft of your application once you start filling out the online Perform Europe application form**. The questions we ask are in a reference document that you can access on this page. You can **start preparing your application and motivation in advance** based on these questions. You'll be able to copy and paste your answers in the online Perform Europe application form.

3. Once you are ready, **please access the online Perform Europe application form** through the link below. There, you will be asked to set up your profile and to provide all the necessary information.

Apply now

Application deadline: 7 July 2021 at 23:59 CEST

Results announcement via email: End of July 2021

How does the Perform Europe application process work?

The Perform Europe application process is divided in two steps:

1) **This is the first step of the application process**. The call is detailed below and remains open to application **until 7 July 2021**. In this first step, all interested **producers** (organisations, artists, collectives, companies and presenters that have produced an artistic work) and **presenters** (festivals, venues, and other organisations offering a presenting context) are invited to apply to be part of Perform Europe's process of collective learning and networking organised by Perform Europe and supported by its digital platform. Applicants, selected in this step, will be invited to join two events, providing space for mentorship, pitching ideas, and sharing best practices of more sustainable and inclusive touring practices.

2) In the **second step**, while and after participating in the learning and networking process, **applicants selected in step 1** will shape partnerships among each other, co-create touring and distribution proposals and apply for Perform Europe grants. The total budget available is € 1,5 million; grant amounts will range from €10,000 to €100,000. **The second call will be published at the end of July only for those selected in the first step** (see a more detailed timeline of the Perform Europe application process at the very bottom of this call).

What is the first step about?

This is a call for performing arts **producers** and **presenters** motivated to shape cross-border partnerships meant to explore and test alternative ways of bringing **artistic work(s)** to people and places.

- 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.

Applicants may apply **in a double capacity**: both as a presenter and a producer.

- By **artistic work**, we mean productions and artistic initiatives and concepts that are ready to be applied and practiced in different environments. Perform Europe does not support production costs.

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:

- money,
- time,
- infrastructure,
- skills and capacities,
- knowledge and awareness,
- visibility and recognition,
- connectedness and collaboration,
- curiosity and inclusivity,
- solidarity and fairness,
- equity and equality.

In this first step, we are eager to discover organisations and artists with bold and courageous visions and ideas on how to innovate cross-border touring and distribution in a truly fair, inclusive, ecological, and human-centred way. These new ways should try to bridge the current gaps (above) in the cross-border landscape of showing artistic work and bring change to our performing arts ecosystem.

Whom are we looking for in the first step?

We are longing to hear from organisations and freelance professionals that:

- work in the performing arts: theatre, dance, performance (including amateur performance), circus and street arts. Please note that live music performances (including opera or musicals) are not covered by Perform Europe, except for music theatre;
- **for producers**: have an artistic work or artistic initiatives they would like to bring to other countries – physically, digitally or in a mixed way, between October 2021 and the end of June 2022;
- **for presenters**: have a festival or a space, or other context which would present an artistic work from another country between October 2021 and the end of June 2022;
- are based in one of the Creative Europe countries (see the full list at the bottom of this call) or in the United Kingdom;
- have a vision on how to collaborate across borders through sharing resources, practicing fairness and solidarity;
- are already practicing alternative and innovative touring and distribution practices and can demonstrate it, and also those that
- are eager to innovate their practices and have a vision on how to do it, but might experience too many constraints.

We especially encourage presenters and producers that have less visibility in the cross-border artistic landscape to apply for this call. We welcome applications from women, artists and organisations based in rural areas, those having disadvantaged socio-economic or ethnic backgrounds, identify as LGBTQIA+, have disabilities and any other people that identify as part of an underrepresented group within the performing arts landscape.

What are you asked in this first step?

- General information about you and your organisation

- General information about

    - **For producers**: your **artistic work(s)**, which you'd like to be part of a collaboration proposal

    - **For presenters**: your **presenting context(s) – festival, venue, outdoor space –**, which you'd like to be part of a collaboration proposal

- Your vision and ideas on sustainable and inclusive ways of bringing artistic work to people and places **(max. 400 words)**

- How your artistic work(s) / presenting context(s), which is/are part of your application, fit(s) this vision **(max. 250 words)**

- What you would like to gain from being part of a Perform Europe granted partnership **(max. 250 words)** and what you would be willing to share (skills, knowledge, money, visibility, infrastructure, experience, etc.) **(max. 300 words)**

Please note that **you will not be able to save a draft of your application once you start filling out the online Perform Europe application form**. The questions we ask are in a reference document that you can access on this page. You can **start preparing your application and motivation in advance** based on these questions. You'll be able to copy and paste your answers in the online Perform Europe application form.

What solutions will we be looking for in the second step?

More information about the second step of the open call will be published **at the end of July for applicants selected in step 1**. Producers and presenters applying for this first step should be open and motivated to enter the second step, where they will explore how to do things differently, look for like-minded partners, and then come up with joint exemplary innovative proposals of showing work and collaborating across borders.

We see such proposals to be based on **sharing resources and empowering each other,** in order to bridge the existing gaps. The envisaged projects might be happening in a digital realm, physical world, or a hybrid setting.

The proposals for the second application step will aim to explore how to:

- practice solidarity and fair attitudes and models;
- practice just relations between people,
- give visibility to those who don't have it but deserve;
- create time and use it in a way that would be meaningful for everyone involved;
- care for the environment, artistic value, and human well-being;
- share resources in a just way and use them with ecological concerns in mind;
- inspire viable economic models,
- create stronger links – between people, places, projects, skills, cultures; links that would make our ecosystems more sustainable;

and finally,

- create skills to be able to do all of the above again and again.

Those aspirations are certainly interconnected, but they don't have to be met all together. We'll 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.

The timeline

15 June - 7 July 2021 (3 weeks)	First step of the online application process
End of July 2021	Applicants selected in step 1 are informed via email and the second step of the call is announced
Early September - early October 2021	Applicants selected in step 1 enter the learning and networking period, co-create proposals and apply for step 2. Selected partnerships will be informed via email in October.
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 to advise the European Institutions and Member States on how to integrate a support scheme for performing arts touring (virtual and physical) in the Creative Europe programme 2021-2027.

Which countries are eligible to apply?

Countries that are eligible to apply for Perform Europe are the United Kingdom and Creative Europe countries: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Serbia, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Ukraine.

Go back up to the application procedure