



Directorate-General for Education and Culture

European funding for the cultural sector



European Commission



This document is aimed at those employed in the cultural sphere and gives details of whom to contact in order to obtain funding from the European Union. The funding is managed at European, national and regional levels. Information and assistance can be obtained from Commission representations, specialist national agencies and regional institutions in the Member States, and from Commission delegations in non-member countries.

A great deal of additional information on the European Union is available on the Internet. It can be accessed through the Europa server (<http://europa.eu.int>).

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European funding for the cultural sector



Besides the **Culture 2000** programme, which is specifically targeted at the cultural sector, a large number of European programmes have a cultural dimension.

They are managed by different Directorates-General and departments within the European Commission and have their own rules of operation and eligibility.

Before taking part in one of these programmes, it is therefore advisable first to consult the documents available on the Commission's Europa server.



| Cultural cooperation

The Culture 2000 programme helps finance Community cooperation in all sectors of the arts, such as the performing arts, visual and plastic arts, literature, music, history and cultural heritage. The programme has been allocated EUR 167 million for the period 2000–04 and aims to promote the cultural diversity of the European Union, creativity, exchanges between those active in the cultural sector in the EU and to make culture more accessible to the public. Financial support is awarded to projects selected on the basis of a call for proposals, which is published at the beginning of each year.



Culture 2000 programme :

http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/c2000-index_en.html

- **Contact the European Commission :** eac-culture@cec.eu.int

- **Culture contact points :**

http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/contact-point_en.html



| Support for the audiovisual industries

The MEDIA programme, which has been allocated a budget of EUR 400 million for the period 2001–05, supports the development, distribution and promotion of European audiovisual works. The sectors concerned are fiction (cinema and television), creative documentaries, animation and multimedia.

The programme also earmarks EUR 50 million for business and legal training (marketing, intellectual property law), training in technological subjects (computer graphics, multimedia) and courses in how to write screenplays for foreign audiences.



MEDIA programme :

http://europa.eu.int/comm/avpolicy/media/index_en.html

- **Contact the European Commission :** eac-media@cec.eu.int

- **Mediadesks :** http://europa.eu.int/comm/avpolicy/media/desk_en.html

| Technological research

The fifth framework programme for research and technological development (1998–2002) includes two programmes which incorporate a significant cultural dimension:

- **The programme on the 'information society'** comprises two key actions relating to the development of tools and systems for managing, disseminating and using digital content with a cultural theme: the key action 'multimedia content and tools', which has been allocated EUR 564 million, particularly the area relating to cultural heritage; and the key action 'essential technologies and infrastructures', for which EUR 1 363 million has been set aside.
- **The programme 'energy, environment and sustainable development'** features a key action called 'the city of tomorrow and cultural heritage', for which EUR 170 million has been earmarked; around a third of this sum goes towards identifying and evaluating damage to cultural heritage, whether built or movable heritage. This key action promotes the protection and sustainable management of cultural heritage, its preservation and development, and steps to make it more accessible to the public.

Funding can also be provided for certain cultural projects in the context of the international activities promoted under the fifth framework programme for research and technological development, particularly through cooperation with the Mediterranean countries.



Framework programme for technological research: <http://www.cordis.lu/fp5/>

- **National contact points:** <http://www.cordis.lu/fp5/src/ncps.htm>

Information society technologies programme (IST):

<http://www.cordis.lu/ist/home.html>

- **Contact the European Commission:** ist@cec.eu.int

IST cultural heritage sector: <http://www.cordis.lu/ist/ka3/digicult/>

- **Contact the European Commission:** digicult@cec.eu.int

Energy, environment and sustainable development programme:

<http://www.cordis.lu/eesd/src/research.htm>

- **Contact the European Commission:** eesd@cec.eu.int

Programme on confirming the international role of community research:

<http://www.cordis.lu/inco2/home.html>

- **Contact the European Commission:** inco@cec.eu.int



| Support for digital products and services

The activities of the research framework programme are now being carried out through two programmes which are more market-oriented.

The eContent programme, which has been allocated EUR 100 million for the period 2001–05, focuses on the commercial exploitation of European digital content. It aims to promote the production, use and dissemination of European digital products and services by supporting cooperation between companies in the field and players in the public and private sectors. The actions in receipt of funding relate to, *inter alia*, services which use public sector information, the development of digital databases and the necessary software tools. The key actions can involve subjects such as art, cultural heritage, archives, libraries and tourism. The programme is also concerned with multilingual access to multimedia products and services distributed via digital networks and their adaptation to local cultural requirements.



e Content programme:

<http://www.cordis.lu/econtent/>

- **Contact the European Commission:** econtent@cec.eu.int
 - **National contacts:** <http://www.cordis.lu/econtent/network.htm>
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The TEN-Telecom programme, which has been allocated EUR 276 million for the period 2000–06, promotes the marketing of European digital goods and services in the cultural field in areas of common interest, such as education and culture. By providing up to 50% of the funding for feasibility studies and 10% of the necessary investment, TEN-Telecom helps European companies through the critical phase of launching these services.



TEN-Telecom programme:

<http://europa.eu.int/tentelecom>

- **Contact the European Commission:** tentelecom@cec.eu.int
 - **National contacts:** <http://www.ten-telecom.org/en/tnncp.html>
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| Education and training in the arts

Apart from the training activities provided under the MEDIA programme, several programmes run by the European Commission relate to education and culture and to the training of professionals in the cultural sector.

The Socrates programme, which relates to all levels of education, and the **Leonardo da Vinci** vocational training programme have been allocated EUR 1.85 and EUR 1.15 billion respectively for the period 2000–06. They provide funding for European projects in the field of education and training in the arts, cultural management and crafts, educational projects in schools on cultural themes and projects to raise cultural awareness. One of the key themes of the programmes is language learning.

The Youth programme, which has a budget of EUR 520 million for the period 2000–06, plays a part in the cultural field by financing youth exchanges on cultural themes, periods of 'voluntary service' spent by young Europeans in restoring cultural heritage, and youth initiatives in the arts, etc.

It is possible to participate in these programmes, which are managed at European level, by contacting specialist national agencies. For some projects, however, it is necessary to contact the European Commission directly.



Socrates programme: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/socrates.html>

- **Contact the European Commission:** info@socrates-youth.be
- **National agencies:**
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/socrates/nat-est.html>

Leonardo da Vinci programme:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/leonardo/leonardo2_en.html

- **Contact the European Commission:** eac-leonardo2@cec.eu.int
- **National agencies:**
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/leonardo/leonardo2/nalist2.html>

Youth programme:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/youth/youthprogram.html>

- **Contact the European Commission:** youth@cec.eu.int
 - **National agencies:**
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/youth/program/natage.html>
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| Environment

The **LIFE project**, which has been allocated EUR 640 million for the period 2000–04, provides cofinancing for projects to conserve the environment and exploit the full potential of natural sites in the European Union and non-member countries.



LIFE: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/life/home.htm>

- **Contact the European Commission:** envinfo@cec.eu.int
 - **National contacts:** <http://europa.eu.int/comm/life/envir/natautho.htm>
 - **European Commission delegations:**
http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/delegations/intro/index.htm
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| Cooperation with non-member countries

The European Union has concluded a large number of cooperation or association agreements with non-member countries in central and eastern Europe, Asia, Latin America, the Mediterranean region and with the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. Most of these agreements include provisions on culture which allow projects to receive financing through cooperation programmes with these countries. A cooperation office, EuropeAid, has been set up in order to manage all these programmes.



EuropeAid cooperation office:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/index_en.htm

- **Commission delegations:**
http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/delegations/intro/index.htm
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| Support for investment

As part of its 'Innovation 2000' initiative, the European Investment Bank (EIB) group provides long-term funding for large companies and promotes the development of SMEs by providing bank loans or venture capital instruments for companies operating in the audiovisual sector and in the content industries (fiction, animation, documentaries and multimedia).

The EIB also provides long-term loans in order to support investment projects with a cultural element in the following areas:

- exploiting the full potential of cultural and architectural heritage (urban regeneration programmes or programmes for the preservation of historical sites);
- developing human capital (educational infrastructure, databases, etc.);
- research and industrial development.

These activities are carried out in conjunction with the Commission's aid programmes to promote European audiovisual content, research and development or the development of the less-favoured regions within the Union.

The promoters of large projects (with a budget of over EUR 25 million) can receive an individual loan directly from the EIB. SMEs wishing to receive a global loan (funding in the medium and long term), or to have a venture capital fund financed by the EIB group invest in their company, should get in touch with one of the banks or venture capital funds which are partners of the EIB. A list of these can be found on the web sites of the EIB and the European Investment Fund.



European Investment Bank:

<http://www.eib.org>

European Investment Fund (venture capital):

<http://www.eif.org>



| Regional and social development

The Structural Funds have been allocated a budget of EUR 195 billion for the period 2000–06. They encourage the development of disadvantaged regions and promote social and human development. The Structural Funds cover the bulk of the EU's expenditure on cultural activities – the cultural sector acting as a source of employment and a driving force behind local development by generating economic activity such as tourism and electronic services.

Financial aid focuses on **three main objectives**: helping regions where development is lagging behind to catch up (Objective 1); supporting economic and social conversion in areas facing structural difficulties (Objective 2); modernising systems of training and promoting employment (Objective 3).

The funding is granted on the basis of operational programmes adopted by the Commission in response to proposals from the Member States (94% of funds), which themselves form part of the policies adopted by the Commission at the beginning of the programming period (2000–06).

A certain proportion of the funds (5.35%) is earmarked for **four Community initiatives**:

- *Leader*, for the development of rural areas;
- *URBAN*, for the economic and social regeneration of declining cities and districts;
- *Interreg*, which promotes cooperation between regions for the purpose of economic development, including in the cultural field;
- *EQUAL*, which seeks to combat all forms of inequality in the workplace.

Finally, 0.4% of the funds go towards **innovative actions**, which aim to promote regional development by stimulating knowledge, technological innovation, the information society, regional identity and sustainable development. In this context, they are used to finance projects with a cultural theme. Innovative actions are approved by the Commission in response to proposals from the regions.



| The development of disadvantaged regions

The first two main objectives of European regional policy are pursued with assistance from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) and the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG). They are concerned with promoting the development and structural adjustment of regions whose development is lagging behind (Objective 1, for which 70% of the money available from the four funds has been allocated for the programming period 2000–06), and economic and social conversion in areas facing structural difficulties (Objective 2, representing 11.5% of the appropriations from the ERDF and the ESF).

The projects which receive funding for these purposes, particularly from the ERDF, the ESF and the EAGGF, frequently have a cultural dimension: this might involve restoring and developing architectural and cultural heritage, building cultural facilities, establishing cultural and tourism services or providing training in the arts or in the management of cultural activities. However, the Structural Funds are not used to finance costs which are linked directly to services in the arts sector.

For the candidate countries, the special accession programme for agriculture and rural development (Sapard) provides funding for rural development projects, some of which are designed to protect and develop rural heritage.



| Social and human development

To expand the jobs market and make it easier for the unemployed to find work, the European Social Fund finances Objective 3 projects (modernising systems of education, training and employment), for which 12.3% of the structural appropriations have been earmarked.

This area includes training projects for young unemployed persons or the long-term unemployed, some of which relate to artistic and craft activities. It also covers funding to promote employment and the setting up of small businesses.

The programmes are drawn up by the Member States in collaboration with the European Commission. They are then implemented by various organisations in the private and public sectors, such as national, regional and local authorities; education and training institutions; associations; trade unions and works councils; and private companies.



ERDF:

<http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int/>

- **Contact the European Commission:** inforegio@inforegio.org

- **National contacts:**

http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int/wbover/overmap/omap_en.htm

- **Innovative actions:** http://inforegio.cec.eu.int/innovating/index_en.htm

ESF:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/esf2000/index-en.htm

- **Contact the European Commission:** empl-info@cec.eu.int

- **ESF contact points in the Member States:**

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/esf2000/contacts-en.htm

EAGGF:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/rur/index_en.htm

- **Contact the European Commission:** agri-library@cec.eu.int

- **Leader initiative:** <http://www.rural-europe.aeidl.be>

- **RURAL carrefours:** <http://homepage.internet.lu/carrefour/>

Sapard:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/external/enlarge/countries/index_en.htm

Other useful addresses :

List of grants and loans from the European Commission :

http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/sgc/aides/index_en.htm

Official Journal of the European Communities :

publishes calls for proposals for the various programmes

<http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/oj/index.html>

European culture portal :

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/>

Council of Europe :

non-governmental organisation with 48 Member States, which finances projects on heritage, culture and languages

<http://culture.coe.int>

Unesco :

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation with 188 Member States, which finances cultural projects and awards training grants to young artists

<http://www.unesco.org>



Welcome
to the European
Culture portal



Europe and culture



<http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/>



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