

Northern Spaces for Creative Innovation

Call for Ideas

Deadline 15 February 2022

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Northern Spaces for Creative Innovation

1. What is this call about?

Creating spaces where cross-sectorial collaboration and innovation can flourish

Cross-sectorial cooperation is more and more present on the agendas of cultural and creative industries sector (CCI) practitioners and policy makers. Furthermore, cross-innovation is identified as a process by which CCI's share information, collaborate, and work with the digital, economic, environmental, social and education sectors to promote new thinking as well as innovative products, services, and activities. But what practices, partnerships and policies are needed for such cross-sectorial collaborations to happen?

We invite cultural and creative industries practitioners to test collaboration models and processes that create opportunities, whether physical or digital, for cross-sectorial cooperation and innovation in the Northern Dimension countries. Moreover, we are looking for collaboration models that connect the CCI field with the digital, economic, environmental, social, education and other sectors, building up a cross-sectorial cooperation ecosystem.

We aim to:

- ⇒ Create spaces and multilevel partnerships for such collaboration to flourish in Northern Dimension countries and beyond.
- ⇒ Promote new thinking as well as innovative products, services, and activities by fostering cross-sectorial connectivity, both face-to-face and or virtually.
- ⇒ Innovate traditional industries, transforming practices and processes that affect multiple entities and involve relevant societies and communities.
- ⇒ Address challenges which are key to innovation practices that most societies and economies will attempt to address in the coming years: health, climate change, digitalization, economic resilience with involvement of the local communities.
- ⇒ Build cross-border partnerships in the Northern Dimension region, in a fair and equal way.
- ⇒ Ensure the models found in this process can be sustained and upscaled for future use.

To learn more about the cross-innovation practices and trends in the region, read our latest study on ["Cross-sectorial cooperation and innovation within Creative and Cultural Industries - practices, opportunities and policies within the area of the Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture"](#) and visit the [CCIs in the Northern Dimension Countries website](#).

How does it work?

A two-step approach: first you submit the idea, then you develop the project.

We invite relevant partners to come together to submit innovative ideas for Northern Spaces for Creative Innovation. At this stage, teams need to present a relevant project idea, that is co-created with partners, in line with objectives of the call and addressing the needs in the sector or region.

- **Step 1 will shortlist 5 to 8 innovative ideas that will be further developed into project proposals.** Selected project teams will have six months to further define their partnership and proposal.
 - At this stage, teams develop their idea into a project plan that includes more details about the partnership, concrete activity plan, and evaluation and communication strategies.
 - At this stage, a minimum contribution of **EUR 5,000 and maximum of EUR 10,000** can be requested for testing of ideas and further development of the projects.
- **Step 2 will select 3 to 5 out of the innovative ideas selected in Step 1 that will be then implemented as pilot projects.** Selected teams will have a year to pilot their projects.
 - The implementation of the pilot actions will also include data collection for the evaluation that will be performed at the end of the projects.
 - Per project a **total maximum contribution of EUR 60,000** is available, which includes the contribution requested in Step 1.

Who can apply?

The call is open to organisations (public and private bodies) working in one or more of the Northern Dimension partner countries: **Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia, and Sweden.**

A minimum of **three partners from the Northern Dimension countries** are required with one of them administering the application. The partner administering the application must have a **legal existence for at least two years** on the date of the deadline for submission. The project team should include a **diversity of stakeholders** in the concerned country(ies), including at least one partner representing a non-CCI sector.

Partners should be from cultural and creative industries organizations and other sectors of all types: publicly funded organizations, public-private partnerships, private companies as well as not-for-profit or social business organisations and artist-led initiatives. Private individuals not eligible.

Partnerships and synergies with creative hubs, academic institutions, international organisations, and cultural institutes in the region are encouraged but not mandatory. Project teams are furthermore encouraged to have at least one partner from non-EU countries (i.e., Norway, Iceland, and Russia) in the Northern Dimension region.

Timeline

Call for Ideas	24 November 2021	Launch of Call
	15 February 2022	Deadline for submission of ideas
Step 1: Testing the best ideas	February 2022	Selection of best ideas
	March 2022-September 2022	Step 1: Testing and project design – refinement of project ideas
	15 September 2022	Deadline for submission of project proposals for Step 2
Step 2: Implementation of Pilot Projects	October 2022	Selection of pilot projects
	October 2022 – September 2023	Step 2: Implementation of pilot projects
	End 2023	Reporting and Final Event

After the first shortlisting of best ideas, EUNIC and NDPC will organise a workshop for the selected project teams to guide you through preparation of project proposals in Step 2 of the Call. After the second round a workshop with the selected projects will be organised and build networks and synergies and collect information on lessons learned.

Selection criteria

Ideas will be evaluated on the basis of the following selection criteria and corresponding maximum points to be awarded. In Step 2, the weight of the different criteria will change and lean more towards concrete activity plans and strategies impact, feasibility, and sustainability.

Criteria	Maximum points
Relevance of the project proposal The idea and proposal are in line with the main objective of the call to create spaces for cross-sectorial collaboration and innovation in the region for CCI and 'non-CCI' sectors. The project description is clear and well-defined and target groups that are identified fit the objectives that are outlined.	20
Innovation The proposed project brings new perspectives and processes enhancing cross-sectorial collaboration by innovating traditional industries, transforming practices and processes that affect multiple entities and involve relevant societies and communities in the ND region: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New concepts or ways of working between CCI sectors and non-CCI sector. • Partnerships with new stakeholders or brought to a new level by bottom-up approach and equality. • New ideas on entrepreneurship, profitability, and sustainability. 	20
Partnership set-up (cross-sectoral) and geographical coverage An inclusive approach is at the core of the design and implementation of the project. The proposal includes active inclusion, participation, and governance of all partners. The proposal clearly describes the role and involvement of each partner. Partnerships with 'non-CCI' organisations are included.	20

The proposed project is implemented by organisations from the Northern Dimension area and has at least one partner from another Northern Dimension country. Partner consortia including a partner from non-EU country in the region is desirable, but not mandatory.	
<p>Addressing the challenges and needs</p> <p>The project proposal addresses the economic and societal challenges of the coming years, such as health, climate change, digitalization, economic resilience and foresees inclusion of the communities and audiences in the process.</p> <p>This relates to a decentralized modus operandi where processes and structures are developed with a bottom-up approach and adapted to the contexts, strengthening people-to-people contacts and cooperation.</p>	20
<p>Impact, feasibility, and sustainability</p> <p>The project's activities are realistic within the timeframe and budget provided and take place in the Northern Dimension countries.</p> <p>The proposal includes activities and expected results that will last beyond the timeframe of the project or is a long-term action spanning over several years. Sustainable practices are included in project proposal.</p> <p>The project proposes a convincing communication strategy and foresees actions to share achievements and lessons learned to a wider audience.</p>	10
<p>Capacity and previous experience of the main applicant</p> <p>The main applicant has proven to have relevant competencies and capacity to implement the project. Furthermore, financial, and human resources have been allocated to manage the project consortia and funding.</p>	10
Total	100

Selection process

The Northern Spaces for Creative Innovation team will carry out a first eligibility check of all proposals in both steps. An **independent Selection Committee** will be established in order to evaluate the proposals and decide which ones will be selected for funding on the basis of the selection criteria.

All applicants will be informed about the decision directly after selection and can receive brief feedback on their proposal upon request.

2. How to apply

Documents required

The following documents need to be submitted:

- Application form completed in English (see template)
- Estimated balanced budget completed in English and drawn up in EUR (see template)
- Support letters from all identified project partners (see template)

Find all relevant documents for your application in the Google Drive.

When submitting your project idea in Step 1, you are asked to present an indicative budget for the whole project. We ask you to be realistic on the amounts applied for this preparatory step 1, as the whole project cannot exceed the maximum amount of EUR 60 000. See budget form for further clarification. If then your idea is shortlisted and selected, this budget will be revised and detailed as a part of the project proposal in Step 2.

Submission

Please submit the complete application package by **Tuesday, 15 February 2022 (at 23:59 CET)** to info@ndpculture.org. Please note that only complete applications sent to the email address above before the deadline will be considered. All applicants will receive confirmation when the application form has been received.

Our support to your application

Do not hesitate to reach out to the Northern Spaces for Creative Innovation team about the call or the application process by contacting info@ndpculture.org and Lina Kirjazovaite via lina@ndpculture.org.

We encourage you to start working on your application as early as possible to be able to resolve any potential issues in time.

Regular online Q&A session will be organised about the Call for Ideas during the application process. You can register to one or more of these sessions following [here](#).

Q&A Session #1	Wednesday, 15 December 2021	12:00 CET
Q&A Session #2	Wednesday, 12 January 2022	12:00 CET
Q&A Session #3	Wednesday, 2 February 2022	12:00 CET

The recordings of the sessions and the Frequently Asked Questions document will be created and uploaded on the [Google Drive](#) to answer common questions.

Please also consult [EUNIC](#) and [NDPC](#) websites for any updates on the Call for Ideas for the Northern Spaces for Creative Innovation.

About us

Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture

NDPC is a governmental initiative which brings together national authorities and cultural and creative industries (CCI) associations and experts. It works towards stronger, more competitive, and more resilient CCI's that contribute significantly to the sustainable development of the Northern Dimension region (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, the Russian Federation and Sweden). NDPC implements project activities to strengthen the CCI sector. It offers networking and professional development opportunities to creative professionals and provides valuable insights for policy development to national authorities.

The NDPC Secretariat is based in Riga. Read more www.ndpculture.org

EUNIC

EUNIC – EU National Institutes for Culture – is the European network of organisations engaging in cultural relations. Together with our partners, we bring to life European cultural collaboration in more than 100 countries worldwide with a network of over 132 clusters, drawing on the broad experience of our members from all EU Member States and associate countries.

EUNIC advocates a prominent role of culture in international relations and is a strategic partner of the EU, actively involved in the further definition of European cultural policy. EUNIC is a platform for knowledge sharing and capacity building amongst its members and partners. Read more on www.eunic.eu

Together

The Northern Spaces for Creative Innovation is implemented under the common EUNIC/NDPC project. The main purpose of our common project is to enhance dialogue and practical cooperation across culture and creativity sectors between actors from Northern Dimension countries. The project looks at strengthening people-to-people contacts and cooperation in the Northern Dimension region, enhancing cross-sectoral innovation and cross-border collaboration between CCI stakeholders. It also aims at identifying and filling the gaps when it comes to funding schemes for cross-border collaboration, offering professional exchange opportunities, providing capacity building schemes and opportunities for policy dialogue and networking. Our common project is co-financed by the European Commission.