Are you a socio-cultural centre running a project or an initiative on sustainability? Do you want to make your work visible and recognised on the European level and receive a small grant to support your organisation in pursuing it?

The ENCC is launching UP Grants, a microgrant scheme open to all European socio-cultural centres.

This scheme aims to support sustainability initiatives already in place, in order to boost them, provide visibility and disseminate them as good practices throughout the sector.

ENCC UP Grants are a combination of a classic award and a microgrant, as we would like not only to reward existing best practices, but also to give them the possibility and the push for further development - a dynamic initiative in a changing context.

Eligibility and preconditions:

All ENCC members, members of ENCC network members, as well as other nonprofit socio-cultural centres located in Europe (respecting Creative Europe Programme geographical eligibility) can apply to the UP Grants.

This microgrant scheme aims to support sustainability initiatives already in place, in order to boost them. Participants are requested to explain how they will use the microgrant for further developing their project (enlarging it, promoting and giving it more visibility, adding new elements, etc.).

Each participating organisation is allowed to submit several proposals. However, only one grant maximum per organisation will be awarded.

Projects must be submitted using the specific application form.* Within this form, applicants are free to use their creativity and decide how to best present their proposal (i.e. using pictures, a video or a presentation).

* The ENCC has chosen to work with Framaforms (from the Framasoft suite) as a step towards our "degooglization" and our shift to more democratic digital tools.

Selection criterias

In order to be eligible for the ENCC UP Grants, initiatives must :
- Fit one of the 5 topical strands (see below)
- Be innovative
- Contribute to awareness building and/or reach a wider community or a new type of target group
- Clearly assess their impact

Award criteria

Priority will be given to initiatives that engage the local community, citizens and organisations working in other sectors, highlighting the networking aspect of the practice. Applicants are also invited to explain the additionality provided by the microgrant (why the grant would make a difference in relation to this particular project).

Schedule and timing

Applications presenting the ongoing project and its possible developments can be submitted from the 10th of December 2020 till the 10th of February 2021.
Voting will take place from the 15th till the end of February 2021, and results communicated afterward.
Winning projects will be asked to implement their follow up plan and use the money provided from March to June 2021.
A short report on actions implemented with the microgrant, including an invoice and pictures/other supportive materials is expected by the end of July 2021.

Selection process

A team composed by ENCC representatives will check the eligibility of submitted applications.
All eligible proposals will participate in the competition.
Winners will be selected combining the evaluation of a jury of experts and the results of public online voting.
One grant per strand will be awarded.

Benefits

All participating projects will be included in a database and get visibility at national and international levels.

Participating organizations will also have the possibility of joining free specific webinars related to sustainability, such as mobility management, energy management, green procurements, or the circular economy.

Winning projects will receive a grant of **3.000 euros** (5 in total to be distributed). They will also be presented on the ENCC website and newsletter as well as in our annual report and on any other related publication.

Strands

1. Sustainable mobility

In this strand, we will select practices aimed at promoting sustainable means of transport and reduce the negative impact of transport, such as:
- Mobility management initiatives for the workers of cultural centres,
- Incentives for the audience that chooses to reach the venues of cultural events by using public transport (i.e. tickets for events at a discount rate for spectators that show a public transport ticket),
- Initiatives to raise awareness and facilitate the use of sustainable means of transport (i.e. bike repair courses, clear information about how to reach the venues with public transport included in all communication materials),
- Facilities to promote the use of sustainable means of transport (i.e. bike repair tools made available for the public, showers and/or changing rooms for employees that commute by bike, bicycle racks).

Applications for this strand should be able to assess their impact in terms of global pollutants' (CO_2 equivalent) emissions avoided, local air quality (NOx, PM emissions avoided), km of car trips avoided, or other suitable indicators.

2. Ethic digitalization / reduction of digital carbon footprint

In this strand, we will support initiatives that focus on:
- Moving away from digital tools offered by Big Tech (Google, Amazon, Apple, Facebook, Microsoft) and seeking virtuous or open source alternatives,
- Digitalisation for cultural organisations as not a market to be taken, but as a community of users who can choose, influence, create and share their own tools and participate in digital commons,
- Digital frugality: considering that digital resources are not infinite or illimited, reducing digital footprint in terms of online storage and archives, robust and economical website creation, limiting the number of digital tools and platforms used by staff to improve working conditions,
- Raising awareness initiatives for staff, users and communities on above topics.

3. Lifecycle / recycle / circular economy

In this strand, we will support initiatives that focus on contributing to a circular economy by reducing waste, increasing upcycle and re-use, such as:
- Green procurements: the purchase of environmentally friendly products and services, the selection of contractors and suppliers according to environmental criteria and the setting of environmental requirements in contracts,
- Repair Cafés, Do-It-Yourself workshops,
- Initiatives to ensure that both employees and the public follow guidelines for separate collection of waste and recycling,
- Raising awareness initiatives,
- Support to ethical purchasing groups and group buying of sustainable products and services.

Applications for this strand should be able to assess their impact through the use of quantitative and qualitative indicators relevant to the specific initiative: for instance, raising awareness initiatives should not only provide a number of attendance, but also assess the change in the habits of attendees (i.e. through questionnaires before and after); centres that adopt green procurements should provide indicators related to the volume of goods and services compared to their mainstream equivalent (in terms of Carbon Footprint, Water Footprint, Environmental Footprint, or other established indicators).

4. Social sustainability

Applications for this strand will be evaluated taking into account actions related to equality, inclusion and diversity work as sustainability work, such as:
- Projects that touch on the neighbourhood around the centres in terms of development / urbanism / public space, fighting city projects that are unsustainable or that create bad living conditions for already underprivileged communities.
- Transformations towards socially sustainable cultural centres.

Applications for this strand should be able to assess their impact through the use of quantitative and qualitative indicators relevant to the specific initiative, for instance taking into account community involvement, community support, stakeholders participation, use of public space.

5. Environmental sustainability

Applications for this strand will be evaluated taking into account the overall performance in the different aspects of environmental sustainability: energy efficiency and renewable energy, waste reduction, water management, greening spaces, and any other good practice to reduce the environmental impacts of cultural centres and events. Examples related to increasing energy efficiency and promoting production and consumption of renewable energy sources:
- Adoption of energy efficient devices and equipment in cultural centres and cultural events, such as LED lighting, A+ and A++ appliances, space heaters or heat pumps,
- Energy retrofitting of buildings, improvement of the thermal insulation, green roofs,
- On site production and use of renewable energy, such as solar panels, geothermal energy,
- Awareness raising initiatives, clear instructions for employees and public on how to use the spaces and appliances in order to save energy,
- Group renewable energy buying.

Applications for this strand should be able to assess the initiatives' impact in terms of kWh of energy saved, or CO_2 emissions avoided. Raising awareness initiatives should not only provide figures about the audience reached, but also

assess the change in the habits of target groups (i.e. through questionnaires before and after).

For any questions related to the microgrant scheme or the application process, contact Marjorie Leonard (marjorie.leonard@encc.eu).

Click here to fill the application form and submit your proposal.