

# ELIGIBILITY AND AWARD CRITERIA OF PERFORM EUROPE 2023 - 2026

Perform Europe is co-managed by a consortium of six organisations and co-funded by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union.

**Perform  
Europe**



International network  
for contemporary  
performing arts



EUROPEAN  
FESTIVALS  
ASSOCIATION



European  
Dance Development  
Network



Co-funded by  
the European Union

**An application is eligible if ALL of the following criteria are fulfilled:**

- The partnership consists of a minimum of 3 partners, legally based in at least 3 different Creative Europe Participating Countries<sup>1</sup>;
- All partners are professionals or organisations working in the performing arts sector, from all backgrounds and all levels of experience;
- The lead partner receiving the financial support is clearly appointed by the partnership;
- The partnership proposal consists of at least 1 performing arts work that will be presented in at least 3 different Creative Europe countries;
- The performing arts work(s) presented in the application cover(s) at least one of the eligible sub-sectors of the performing arts: circus, dance, outdoor arts, performance art, puppetry, theatre;
- The partnership proposal addresses the following objective: to tour and present (physically and/or digitally) existing performing arts works across borders in minimum 3 Creative Europe countries, contributing to one or both of the following priorities:
  - Inclusion and diversity
  - Fight against Climate Change
- The implementation period for the partnership proposal is between 1 July 2024 at the earliest and 30 November 2025 at the latest
- The application has been submitted online before the deadline of 31 March 2024 23:59 CEST and includes both a completed application form and budget form;
- Individuals or organisations previously selected for Perform Europe's pilot edition (2020-2022), apply within new partnerships,

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<sup>1</sup> Creative Europe Participating Countries:

- EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs))
- non-EU countries: listed EEA countries and countries associated to the Creative Europe Programme or countries which are in ongoing negotiations for an association agreement and where the agreement enters into force before grant signature ([list of participating countries](#))

with new proposals and new performing arts works;

- Partners are not evaluators of Perform Europe;
- Partners are not part of the Perform Europe Consortium and their staff, but can be their members
- Partners are not staff members of the Institutions and Agencies of the European Union.

**An application is not eligible in case of double funding:**

- Partners or partnerships receiving other EU funding for the same proposal, cannot apply for Perform Europe.

## **Perform Europe Evaluation, award procedure, criteria**

All proposals will follow the **standard submission and evaluation procedure** (one-stage submission and one-step evaluation).

Proposals will first be checked for formal requirements by the Perform Europe team. An application is eligible if it is complete and complies with all the eligibility criteria listed above. Applications which do not meet all the criteria, will be excluded from further evaluation, and applicants will receive a notification email. Eligible applications do not receive any notification at this stage and are automatically sent for evaluation. They will be evaluated against the award criteria and ranked according to their overall scores.

### **1. Evaluation**

#### **1.1 Evaluation Committee**

The Evaluation Committee, the partners of the Perform Europe consortium, will observe the evaluation procedure and guarantee its quality.

#### **1.2 Independent expert evaluators**

The selection process will be carried out by a group of independent experts from the performing arts sector, chosen for the diversity of their expertise with the general objectives of Creative Europe and Perform Europe, their expertise in

performing arts sub-sectors and their geographical locations, gender identification, professional and life experiences, and capacity to engage with underrepresented communities. They are appointed by the Evaluation committee and hired by the Perform Europe Consortium Lead. Their names are not communicated publicly. The evaluators sign a declaration of non-conflict of interest once they receive the applications. In case of conflict of interest, the Perform Europe consortium will attribute the application to an expert without conflict of interest with the application.

Each eligible application is evaluated by two experts. The experts work independently from one another and follow an evaluation grid (see here below). They will consolidate their evaluations and scores, resulting in a final evaluation and one score per application.

All eligible applicants will be informed about the evaluation result by email. Successful applicants will be invited for contract preparation via email; others will be put on the reserve list or will be rejected.

### 1.3 Award criteria

The experts will assess each application against all award criteria:

Evaluation award criteria	
<p>1. Relevance of the project 35 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How relevant is the proposal to the Perform Europe priorities (one, or both) (1. Inclusion and diversity, 2. The fight against climate change)</li> <li>- If focusing on <i>Inclusion and diversity</i>: to what extent is the partnership including the priority in all aspects of the proposal (within the partnership, within the presented work, within the mode of presentation, audience outreach, accessibility practices, etc.)?</li> <li>- If focusing on <i>The fight against climate change</i>: to what extent is the partnership including the priority in all aspects of the proposal (on the level of the partnership, travels of team and audience, content of the artistic work, use of materials, mode of presentation, use of technology, other sustainability practices, etc.)?</li> <li>- How will the proposal be beneficial for the further development of the performing arts sector moving towards more inclusive, diverse and/or green, sustainable practices?</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Does the proposal have a potential long-term impact for all the partners and the audience or community reached (regardless of scale), beyond the end of the proposal?</li> </ul> <p>Could it be an ambassador of <i>Inclusion and diversity</i> or <i>The fight against climate change</i>?</p>
<p>2. Quality of content and activities: artistic work(s), partnership, touring, innovation, budget 30 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How relevant is the artistic proposal of the performing arts work(s) that the partnership proposes to tour and present across borders?</li> <li>- How relevant, strategic and complementary is the partnership for the specific proposal?</li> <li>- How well is the proposal planned and prepared to achieve the desired results?</li> <li>- Is the touring in three countries prepared strategically (conditions, context, size, type of proposal, artistic value, professional development)?</li> <li>- To what extent, considering the highly diverse context applicants operate in, does the partnership propose new or/and innovative practices (of any type : e.g. artistic, touring, presenting, business model)?</li> <li>- Is the budget realistic and corresponding to the proposal?</li> </ul>
<p>3. Fairness 20 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To what extent does the partnership apply fair practices and working conditions, including fair payment for everyone involved?</li> <li>- To what extent does the partnership promote solidarity (human, operational, financial) between the partners and between the partners and the artists and cultural workers?</li> <li>- To what extent does the proposal contribute to the creation of fair working conditions that help the sector to 'grow' in a social, human, artistic, economic, and environmental sense with a long-term perspective?</li> </ul>

<p>4. Communication, outreach 15 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Does the communication and dissemination strategy have the potential to reach and positively impact the audience, target groups and relevant stakeholders?</li> <li>- Does the proposal proactively include and reach out to people, both performing arts professionals and audiences, from different geographical and socio-economic backgrounds, to ensure equal access and a diverse artistic offer?</li> <li>- Does the proposal guarantee the visibility of its results, of the Creative Europe Programme, and the EU support?</li> </ul>
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Figure: Evaluation grid to be used by the external experts.

#### 1.4 Thresholds

Only applications that pass the individual thresholds AND the overall threshold will be considered for further evaluation.

##### Individual thresholds

If the score on any of the individual award criteria is less than 50%, the application will be automatically excluded from further evaluation:

- 1. Relevance of the project: 17,5/35 points
- 2. Quality: 15/30 points
- 3. Fairness: 10/20 points
- 4. Communication and branding: 7,5/15 points

##### Overall threshold

The overall threshold is 70/100 points. Proposals that pass the individual thresholds per award criterion AND the overall threshold will be considered for funding, within the limits of the available budget. Other proposals will be rejected.

#### 1.5 Ex aequo

In the case of proposals with equal scores, a priority order will be determined. Starting with the highest-scoring group of proposals and continuing in descending order for every group of *ex aequo*: proposals will be prioritised according to their scores for the award criterion 'Relevance'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on scores for the award criterion 'Quality'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on their scores for the criterion

'Fairness'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on their scores for the criterion 'Communication and dissemination'.

If this does not allow to determine the priority, a further prioritisation will be done by considering the overall proposals portfolio, the sub-sectors, and the geographical balance.

### **1.6 Specific support to Ukraine**

5% of the total funding will be allocated to partnership proposals involving Ukrainian partners or supporting the Ukrainian performing arts sector. The highest ranked proposals involving Ukraine, will be selected for funding (for least EUR 105.000 in total). The overall threshold of 70/100 points is not applicable to this specific selection procedure.

## **2. Final selection**

A group of key experts will look at the composition of the top score selection and make a final proposal to the Evaluation Committee. The Evaluation Committee will ensure the quality, impartiality, and coherence of the final selection. The final selection will be based on the evaluator's scores and criteria for balance, based on the vision and aims of Perform Europe.

Eligible applicants are notified about the final selection results (selected, not selected or reserve list) by email, the latest on 3 June 2024.