

CULTURE AND Creativity FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS



Funded by
the European Union

Open Call for Applications for Creative Leaders Exchange Grants for Individuals

Total amount available under this Open Call: 70,000.00 EUR¹

Ref N. Ref: CC4WBS003IN/2024

Deadline for submission of applications is extended to 10 January 2025

- ✓ **Are you a cultural leader who shapes trends, inspires innovation, and drives the cultural conversation within the Western Balkans?**
- ✓ **Are you looking for an opportunity to exchange experience and test your idea/s with peers working in different countries or cultural contexts of Europe?**

You may apply for a grant of up to 10,000.00 EUR

Objective

Creative Leaders Exchange Grants for Individuals are designed to support peer-to-peer exchange, including networking and potential direct collaborations between cultural leaders from the Western Balkans (WBs) and host organisations/institutions from Europe through study and research visits.

The primary goal of the Creative Leaders Exchange Grants is to promote innovative approaches, methods, and formats in the arts and culture. They will create opportunities for sharing perspectives, knowledge, and fostering collaboration between grant recipients from the Western Balkans and their host counterparts in Europe.

This initiative will enhance the capacities and expand the professional networks of both the grantee and the host by:

- Facilitating international exchange of experience between the grantee and the host through study/research, collaboration or other initiative;
- Broadening professional perspectives through a fresh, forward-thinking approach to specific areas within the cultural sector;
- Encouraging the development of new ideas, with plans for their realization, and fostering innovative artistic practices;
- Expanding professional networks on a broader European scale;
- Promoting the diversity of cultural expressions from the Western Balkans.

¹ Organizers of the Call reserve the right not to disburse all of the funds under this Call for Applications.



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Your application should provide us with the following information:

1. About yourself (CV in English to be annexed).
2. Purpose of the visit and idea behind it.
3. Hosting organisation and arrangement details.
4. Duration in days, place and timing of the visit. The grant implementation is estimated to start not earlier than March 2025 and should be completed not later than 31 December 2025
5. Signed letter from a host confirming its interest and availability within the expected duration of the visit.

This Open Call for Applications is open until 10 January 2025 by 23:59 (CET)!

I BACKGROUND

The “Culture and Creativity for the Western Balkans” (CC4WBs) project, funded by the European Union, is focused on fostering dialogue and reconciliation in the Western Balkans by enhancing the cultural and creative sectors for increased socio-economic impact. Over a 48-month period, the CC4WBs project aims to improve the performance of the cultural and creative sectors in order to enhance skills, knowledge, and access to financial aid to increase competitiveness and sustain co-production and circulation of goods and services in the Western Balkans and with the European Union.

For more information, please visit the [project's web page](#).

II SELECTION PROCESS

CULTURAL LEADERS:

- ✓ Aged 18+ from cultural and creative sectors in the WBs
- ✓ With evidenced record reflecting the leadership role
- ✓ From all cultural and creative sectors, such as architecture, archives, libraries and museums, artistic crafts, audio-visual including film, television, radio, video games and multimedia, tangible and intangible cultural heritage, design, festivals, music, literature, performing arts, publishing, photography and fairs, etc.
- ✓ Living and working in one of the Western Balkans IPA Beneficiaries
- ✓ Having at least an upper-intermediate level of English (speaking, listening and writing)

The applicant must be a resident in one of the Western Balkans IPA Beneficiaries². This shall be proved through the submission of a copy of your valid Identity Card.

Once this is established, the application will be assessed against the following evaluation criteria:

² Western Balkan IPA Beneficiaries are: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo* (as per UNSCR 1244/99).



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Criteria	Max points (70)
<p>ELIMINATORY:</p> <p>1. Are you a resident of one of the Western Balkan IPA beneficiaries, aged 18+? (ID to be attached)</p>	YES/NO
<p>2. Does your CV reflect the leadership and/or managerial role by providing information about <u>at least</u> one of the following requirements:</p> <p>At least two years of Creative Leadership in Organization(s)/ Institution(s), e.g. Leadership roles in creative projects or teams, such as being a creative director, lead designer, or head of innovation; Founding or leading a startup, company, or initiative that centres on creative products or ideas.</p> <p>At least two years of Mentorship and Teaching, e.g. Mentor or educator to others in creative roles; Creating or leading programs that nurture creativity or innovation in others (e.g. workshops, seminars, educational programs).</p> <p>Track record of Original Works or Innovation(s) introduced, e.g. Published creative works, such as books, designs, artwork or products that show originality; Innovations in your field that have had a tangible impact, such as new method/s or practice/s you have introduced.</p> <p>At least one Recognition for Creativity acquired, e.g. An award/s or honor/s specifically for creative achievements; Experience in presenting at regional or international conferences, symposiums, or exhibition/s related to creativity.</p>	YES/NO
<p>Candidates who do not pass both eliminatory questions will be excluded from the Technical Evaluation.</p> <p>The Call organiser reserves the right to check the above-listed requirements and/or references.</p>	
<p>TECHNICAL EVALUATION:</p> <p>Relevance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does your application provide a clear explanation of your identified needs for the visit - contribution to an innovation, e.g. new method, new artistic experiment or format, new practice, you plan to introduce to your future work? Do you have a European host to respond to the identified needs? Are visit objectives aligned with the purpose of the Call? 	30
<p>Value and Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will this experience benefit your future professional work in the short and medium to long-term? What is the expected change and impact of the proposed study/research visit on your and/or your organisation' future work? 	20
<p>Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upon completion of your visit, what will you do with the knowledge/skills/experience gained during the visit? How do you plan to apply and/or transfer the knowledge/findings to your peers/colleagues / etc.? 	20
<p>Candidates whose application does not reach a minimum of 40 points will be excluded.</p>	



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Language

- Upper-intermediate level of English language is mandatory and will be assessed based on a follow up interview with the applicant during the phase of contracting.

III PROCESS FROM THE SELECTION TO THE VISIT

- : The selected visitor will **draft** a visit/research plan including: a) draft agenda agreed with the host, and b) short description of the programme. *Further guidance on the visit/research plan format will be provided by the CC4WBs project team.*
- : The visitor is responsible for the planning of all logistical aspects of the visit. The host should provide the meeting/working space and logistical information for the visit and may support the visitor in planning their accommodation. The visitor will be responsible for arranging travel and accommodation.
- : The host and visitor will **finalise** the plan for the visit and send it to the project team before the visit takes place. Visits are not expected to start before March 2025.
- : A feedback questionnaire by the visitor and the host will be completed after the visit, provided by the CC4WBs project team.
- : One month after the visit, visitor should submit an Implementation Report to the project team.

IV HOW TO APPLY?

1. download and fill out the [APPLICATION FORM](#) and [BUDGET](#)
2. attach a CV in EU format
3. attach a signed letter from a host (confirming its interest and availability within the expected duration of the visit)
4. attach a copy of your valid ID card

Submit the 1-2-3-4 package to the following address:

CC4WBS.APPLY@britishcouncil.org

with the following subject: **Your Name Application for Exchange Grant**

Please note that Applications received in any form other than as described above will not be considered.

- Supporting documentation, **not exceeding 35 MB**, should be sent via email and attached to the email application. They should not be shared through WeTransfer or similar platforms.
- Applicants will receive an email confirming the receipt of their application.

V NOTICE OF RESULTS AND RULES FOR APPLYING

The organisers of the Call will notify you about the receipt of the application, immediately upon submission. The notification about the status of your application (approved or rejected) will be sent directly to the email address used during the submission process, in a period of max 60 days from the submission deadline.



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VI CLARIFICATIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For further information and clarification, potential applicants may submit their questions concerning the Open Call for Applications via the CC4WBS.INFO@britishcouncil.org. Answers to the received questions will be provided via email during the period of the Open Call. A list of frequently asked questions will be made available at this [link](#) 5 days before the call deadline.

VII CONTRACTING

Each selected grantee whose application is approved will have to undertake a due diligence process as per the requirements of the Organiser of Call, following which a contract will be signed, regulating terms and conditions. Any legal actions related to the obligations of either party shall be regulated in the contract, following the award of the grant to the successful applicant. The organiser of the Open Call for Creative Leaders Exchange Grants reserves the right to adjust the proposed budget.

VIII MONITORING

In order to ensure that funds are used as earmarked, monitoring activities for the control of their use will be regularly implemented by the Contractor. The modality and timing of monitoring activities will be agreed upon following the signing of the Contract with the successful applicant.

IX VISIBILITY

Successful applicants will be instructed to follow [“EU visibility guidelines for external actions”](#) as all communication and visibility activities implemented under the framework of the CC4WBS programme will seek to ensure synergy with the EU Communication Strategy. Successful applicants will also be instructed to use the CC4WBS visual identity in all applicable occasions during the implementation of their activities through the Creative Leaders Exchange Grant. Visual identity guidelines will be shared with the successful applicants.

X PRIVACY NOTICE

Your personal information will be securely transferred and/or stored in the following locations: WBs IPA Beneficiaries, European countries. We will keep your information for a period of 7 years after the programme closure if your application has been successful, and 5 years if your application has been unsuccessful.

You have the right to ask for a copy of the information we hold on you, and the right to ask us to correct any inaccuracies in that information. If you have concerns about how we have used your personal information, you also have the right to complain to a privacy regulator.

For further detailed information about your entitlements, how to submit a complaint and how we process personal information, applicants are strongly advised to refer to the Privacy section of partners' websites before submitting the application:

- British Council www.britishcouncil.org/privacy or at CC4WBS.INFO@britishcouncil.org.



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