



EFFEA

EUROPEAN FESTIVALS FUND
FOR EMERGING ARTISTS

EFFEA Call#5

Launch of the call

1 September 2026

Application deadline

3 November 2026 at 23.59 CET

**Implementation period
of EFFEA residencies**

1 January 2027 > 31 December 2027

Fragment from photo GATA at MOT | © Stefan Samandov



EUROPEAN
FESTIVALS
ASSOCIATION



Co-funded by
the European Union

1. What is the EFFEA Fund?

The **European Festivals Fund for Emerging Artists – EFFEA**, an initiative of the **European Festivals Association**, is a fund that supports collaborations between festivals from different countries. Together, these festivals provide emerging artists with a platform to develop their work and gain visibility on the international stage. EFFEA extends an open invitation for festivals to collaborate across borders and establish a network of colleagues centred around the concept of a residency. Through EFFEA, festivals join hands to foster the success of emerging artists.

EFFEA's fifth call for festivals to support emerging artists is open from **1 September to 3 November 2026**. **50 residencies** will be selected involving **50 emerging artists** (individuals, groups or collectives) in the seat of around **150 festivals**, a leading festival in collaboration with a minimum of two partner festivals each.

2. What is the EFFEA Residency?

The EFFEA Residency is an artist-in-residence programme that aims to foster the international careers of emerging artists in the seat of a minimum of three festivals. Co-produced by a leading festival in collaboration with partner festivals, each from a different eligible country, the residency provides emerging artists with dedicated time, space and support to explore their ideas and creative projects, whether original works or the evolution of existing ones. Within this framework, artists forge close ties with festival programmers, emphasising a commitment beyond a singular presentation. The goal is to build lasting, meaningful connections between artists, festivals, and audiences.

There are two categories of residencies:

1. EFFEA Discovery: Festivals support artists at the early stages of their careers but with a strong potential to break through internationally. **40 grants of 8.000€ will be attributed to this category.**

2. EFFEA Springboard: Festivals support artists already established in their own country and ready to develop their careers internationally. **10 grants of 15.000€ will be attributed to this category.**

The Discovery residency must include:

- 1 work-in-progress presentation (or production results) at the leading festival.
- 1 workshop (live or online) hosted by the leading festival and involving at least one programmer from each partner festival. The workshop aims to connect artists and festivals, provide artists with constructive feedback on their work presentation and strategies for engaging with festival makers. The workshop should enhance networking, visibility, and future opportunities. A list of attendees must be included in the final report.
- 1 EFFEA film: a high-quality film of up to 2 minutes about the residency, to be uploaded as part of the final report.
- Participation in the EFFEA Intake and Outtake Seminars.

The Springboard residency must include:

- 1 presentation of the production result at the leading festival and each partner festival, with at least 3 presentations in total.

- 1 live masterclass led by the artist at the leading festival and each partner festival, taking place in at least 3 countries. The masterclasses should focus on the creation and production process, inviting active participation and collaboration with local artistic communities. Sessions may also be open to a broader audience. A list of attendees must be included in the final report.
- 1 EFFEA film: a high-quality film of up to 2 minutes about the residency, to be uploaded as part of the final report.
- Participation in the EFFEA Intake and Outtake Seminars.

3. Who are the emerging artists?

Emerging artists often face challenges in gaining visibility and require time and space to nurture their talents. The festival scene, ideally suited for showcasing new talent, is often dominated by established artists, limiting opportunities for newcomers. Recognising this, EFFEA provides incentives for festivals to invest in discovering and nurturing these talents, enabling them to connect, research, and engage with international networks. EFFEA extends its support to emerging artists at different stages of their careers, recognising the diverse trajectories within the artistic landscape.

The EFFEA Fund defines emerging artists not by age but by their novelty to programmers and audiences and their potential for international breakthrough. This includes individual artists and groups across various artistic disciplines.

The leading festival is the leader and the main contact - responsible for the project.

The leading festival is expected to

- Apply for the EFFEA Fund and provide an official report at the end of the residency.
- Receive the grant payment.
- Sign the residency contract (between the leading festival and EFA).
- Oversee the project's needs, handle overall coordination and financial planning for the project, and manage all aspects of implementation.
- Promote the artists through social media and/or other channels, feature their work in the festival programmes and offer tailored support to help the artists build their international careers (e.g. feedback, reflection sessions, mentoring sessions with industry professionals, etc).
- Participate in the EFFEA Intake and Outtake seminars, online meetings held at the beginning and end of the residency implementation period, respectively.

Partner festivals participate in the project according to the specific roles and responsibilities agreed with the leading festival.

Partner festivals are expected to

- Promote the artists through social media and/or other channels, feature their work in the festival programmes and offer tailored support to help the artists build their international careers (e.g. feedback, reflection sessions, mentoring sessions with industry professionals, etc).
- Attend the artists' presentations, workshops, and masterclasses – whenever possible.
- Meet with the leading festival to explore collaboration and touring opportunities for the artist, such as co-presenting performances to reach wider audiences.

- Participate in the EFFEA Intake and Outtake seminars, online meetings held at the beginning and end of the residency implementation period, respectively.
- Liaise with the EFA team when needed.

4. Objectives

In addition to providing artists with opportunities to develop and showcase their work internationally, the objectives of the EFFEA Residency consist of:

- To **help artists develop their skills**, establish new collaborations and lasting relationships, and achieve their professional goals.
- To **offer co-operation** opportunities for festivals to work across borders on the topic of emerging artists.
- To establish a **co-programming platform** between festivals across Europe.
- To **offer audiences** new and surprising encounters with the arts in their own localities or in their own communities.

5. Who will benefit from this Fund?

Festivals

How? EFFEA Network: a peer-to-peer, highly personal programmers' and promoters' network; a platform for festivals to incentivise their work with emerging artists and contribute to the distribution and mobility of emerging artists through new co-productions, co-operation and transnational connections; network and collaboration between festivals; new programmes and new artists for festivals; financial support to promote the artists on a European level.

Emerging Artists proposed by the festivals

How? Research; network (of programmers and local artists in different countries); residencies/ workshops/ masterclasses; European visibility; capacity building; participation in festivals in different countries.

Audiences

How? Access to new talents and artists; access to new arts and repertoire; access to diverse and interdisciplinary works.

6. Eligibility criteria

- The partnership must represent at least 3 festivals from 3 eligible countries (1 leading festival and 2 partner festivals).
- Both leading and partner festivals must exist for at least one edition.
- Both leading and partner festivals must be registered on www.FestivalFinder.eu before submitting their application.
- A festival may apply for one grant as a leading festival and is eligible to apply for multiple grants as a partner festival.
- Proposed artists may be individual artists, collectives, companies, ensembles, or groups of any age and nationality.
- Artists must have either nationality or legal residence in one of the eligible countries.

6.1. Eligible Countries

Leading festivals and artists should have their official address in one of the following eligible countries:

Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Moldova, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Ukraine.

*Festivals with their official address from the following countries are allowed to participate as partner festivals **only**: Israel, Palestine, Switzerland, Turkey, and the UK. Artists from these countries can also be proposed.*

6.2. Eligible disciplines

Festivals and artists work in one or more of the following artistic disciplines: Architecture, Ballet, Contemporary Dance, Circus, Design/ Applied arts, Digital arts, Film, Folklore and folk arts, Heritage, Interdisciplinary, Literature, Music, Opera, Street Art, Theatre, Photography/ Video, Puppetry, Sculpture, Painting.

7. Financial conditions

7.1. Budget

- The value of a Discovery grant is 8.000€.
- The value of a Springboard grant is 15.000€
- As one of the main objectives of this project is to support emerging artists, it is required that a minimum of 80% of the grant value is used to cover costs incurred by the artists (*fees, travel, accommodation, subsistence, etc.*). A maximum of 20% of the grant value can be used to support the residency of the artist (*production of the workshops the masterclasses and the artists presentation, communication, promotion, etc.*)
- “In kind” costs made for the residency cannot be more than 10% of the grant value.

The use of the budget template is mandatory. It is available for download on the EFFEA website (application page) and at the end of this document. It should be uploaded during the application process.

7.2. Own contribution

The overall EFFEA project is partially co-funded with contributions from the participating festivals.

- When applying for an EFFEA Discovery Residency a contribution of 1000€ will be deducted directly from the paid grant.
- When applying for an EFFEA Springboard Residency a contribution of 2000€ will be deducted directly from the paid grant.

Your contribution supports central activities, which include the EFFEA Intake and Outtake Seminars, networking sessions, and the broader communication and promotion of participating artists and

festivals. The contributions help cover the overall project costs, as EU grant funding typically covers only a portion of the total budget for the EFFEA initiative.

7.3. Payments

- When applying for an EFFEA **Discovery Residency**, 4.900€ will be paid within 2 weeks after the contract has been signed between the leading festival and EFA. The remaining part (2.100€) will be paid within 30 days after the submission and acceptance of the report.
- When applying for an EFFEA **Springboard Residency**, 9.100€ will be paid within 2 weeks after the contract has been signed between the leading festival and EFA. The remaining part (3.900€) will be paid within 30 days after the submission and acceptance of the report.

8. Conditions and Selection Criteria

- The start and end dates of the residency must fall within the implementation period. This means that the residency start date must be **no earlier than 1 January 2027**, and the end date must be **no later than 31 December 2027**.
If applicants start the residency earlier or end it later, any costs related to the extended period must not be included in the budget submitted to EFFEA.
- Submitted proposals will be assessed for eligibility by the EFA team. All eligible proposals will be evaluated by the [EFFEA Jury](#), composed of members with diverse profiles in terms of artistic disciplines, geographies, backgrounds, gender, age, and, above all, with knowledge of the arts field.

Selection criteria include:

Relevance

- How relevant is the proposed residency to the artist's needs at this stage of their career?
- What is the relevance of the proposed residency to the artistic field?
- What are the objectives of the residency?

Quality

- Quality of the partnership and the role of the partners.
Additional partners beyond the two mandatory partner festivals can be considered an added asset to the partnership.
- Sustainability of residency within new production parameters (digital, duration, local co-creation).
- Innovative aspects of the residency.

Potential

- The proposal must should demonstrate the international potential of the artists' work.

Impact and sustainability

- Applicants should outline the expected results, impact (including the local impact) and legacy of the residency.

Budget

- Is the budget adequate to support and benefit the emerging artist? Is it fair and professional? Is the festival's contribution to EFFEA and the residency assured? Is the budget balanced?

The selection criteria assume that the residency:

- Is relevant for the artists, festivals and audiences.
- Has the potential to contribute to the artists' career development.
- Offers a market to artists beyond the residency period (longer-term development).
- Budget is built on the principle of fair remuneration for the artists at all stages (stay, rehearsal time, artistic fees, etc.).
- Addresses relevant contemporary topics such as diversity, sustainability (ecological, cultural, artistic, economic and social), digital tools and inclusion. These can be cited as motivation and will be considered in evaluating the quality of the residency.

9. Exclusion Criteria

- Artists selected for a **Discovery residency** in a previous EFFEA Call are not eligible for another Discovery residency.
They remain eligible to be supported through a Springboard residency.
- Artists selected for a **Springboard residency** in a previous EFFEA Call are not eligible to be supported through new EFFEA calls.
- Festivals holding their very first edition at the time of application are not eligible to apply.
- Festivals that do not fulfil the eligibility criteria and conditions are not eligible to apply.

10. How to apply and what the leading festivals should provide during the application?

The leading festival must submit the application online via the [EFFEA website](#). Applications cannot be submitted in any other way.

The leading festival will be asked to fill in:

- General information about leading festival/ organisation.
- Information about the proposed artists, including short biographies and links (text and/or audiovisual).
- General information about the partner festivals.
- Motivation for supporting the artists and establishing the partnership for the residency.
- Letter of intent with the artists (template available for download).
- Letter of intent with the partner festivals (template available for download).
- A detailed budget form (template available to download).

The Leading Festivals must

- Upload and sign all required documents (including the budget and letters of intent with the artists and the partner festivals).
- Ensure that the proposed residency dates fall within the eligible implementation period. Ensure that the proposed artists meet the EFFEA eligibility criteria regarding previous participation.

Artists who received a Discovery grant through a previous EFFEA Call remain eligible for a Springboard residency under Call #5.

11. Reapplying

- Festivals that applied in previous EFFEA Calls, whether selected or not, may apply again.
- Partnerships formed in previous EFFEA Calls may also apply again.
- The eligibility and exclusion criteria concerning previously supported artists still apply. Please refer to the exclusion criteria above.

12. If the proposal is selected, what's next?

Applications will be evaluated in November 2026. Applicants will be notified of the results by email in December 2026.

- All selected EFFEA residencies will be announced on the EFFEA website and social media. A description of each selected residency will also be published on the EFFEA website.
- The leading festival of the selected partnerships will sign a contract with EFA.
- Selected applicants will have **8 days** to accept and confirm the offer. If no confirmation is received within this period, EFA will consider the offer declined and may offer the grant to another project.
- The residency may begin once the grant agreement has been signed.

Once selected:

- Artists benefit from personalised support context offered by the festivals, embedded in a European platform and training environment offered in the EFFEA Intake and Outtake Seminars in collaboration with The Festival Academy.
- EFA will invite selected EFFEA Festivals and Artists to the Arts Festivals Summit. The event is attended by programmers, policymakers, city representatives, media, and business stakeholders.

If not selected

- Festivals whose proposals are not selected will be notified by email. Individual Jury feedback will not be provided.
- If a selected project does not accept the grant within the required 8-day period, EFA may offer the grant to a project on the reserve list.

13. Reporting

The leading festival must submit the final report through the EFFEA website. The report consists of an online narrative report and a signed financial statement.

- The narrative report covers: overview of the residency; feedback from the festivals and artists; activities and results, including information about the workshop/ masterclass; audience involvement; collaboration experience; visibility, promotion materials and relevant links; EFFEA film.
- The leading festival must upload a signed financial statement using the template available for download on the EFFEA website.

The report must be submitted after the completion of the residency and no later than **31 January 2028**.

14. Timeline

- Publication of the EFFEA Call#4: 1 September 2026
- Application deadline: 3 November 2026
- Jury Evaluations: November 2026
- Results announcement to applicants: December 2026
- Public results announcement: December 2026
- Implementation period of residencies*: 1 January 2027 - 31 December 2027
- EFFEA Intake Seminar: 26 January 2027
- EFFEA Outtake Seminar: 21 September 2027
- EFFEA Sessions:
 - EFFEA Info Session #1: 15.09
[Register here](#)
 - EFFEA Networking Session #2: 29.09
[Register here](#)
 - EFFEA Networking Session #3: 13.10
[Register here](#)
 - EFFEA Q&A #4: 20.10
[Register here](#)

**Residencies may take place at any time during the implementation period, following the signature of the grant agreement.*

Download Templates

- [Letter of intent with the emerging artists](#)
- [Discovery: Letter of intent with the partner festivals](#)
- [Springboard: Letter of intent with the partner festivals](#)
- [Budget Template](#)

The European Festivals Fund for Emerging Artists is an initiative of the European Festivals Association co-funded by the European Union, implemented in partnership with 15 EFFEA Platform Members: Croatian Composers Society (Croatia), Culture Matters (Czechia), PLMF Arts Management (Estonia), France Festivals (France), Stichting Caucasus Foundation (Georgia), German Centre - International Theatre Institute (Germany), Summa Artium Kultúra Támogató (Hungary), Association of Irish Festival Events (Ireland), ItaliaFestival (Italy), Kosovar Centre for New Music/ ReMusica (Kosovo), ARC Research and Consultancy (Malta), Asociația Centrul Cultural Clujean (Romania), ArtLink (Serbia), Sweden Festivals (Sweden), Development Centre "Democracy through Culture" (Ukraine).

Associated Partners: Culture Action Europe, European Music Council, Pearle Live Performance Europe, Circostrada, IETM, On the Move, European Dance Development Network, Művészetek Völgye.*