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# Programme CZ - Culture

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Innovative Use of Movable and Immovable Cultural Heritage

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Open Call for proposals of projects to be funded from EEA Grants  
2014-2021

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The Ministry of Finance as the Programme Operator in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture - Programme Partner and the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage and the Icelandic Centre for Research – Donor Programme Partners

announces on 2. 8. 2021 Open Call for projects to be funded from the EEA Grants 2014-2021 under the Programme CZ - Culture in the support area Innovative use of movable and immovable cultural heritage.

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## 1. Identification and timetable of the Call

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Programme Operator	Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic
Call Code	CH2
Call name	Innovative Use of Movable and Immovable Cultural Heritage
Support Area	Revitalization of Movable and Immovable Cultural Heritage
Date of call announcement	2. 8. 2021
Opening date and time for the receipt of applications	2. 8. 2021 12.00 p.m.
Closing date and time for the receipt of applications	1. 11. 2021 12:00 p.m.

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## 2. Objective and Focus of the Call

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The main objective of this call is to strengthen cultural heritage management linked to its use and in this way contribute to regional development. The support will be aimed at immovable and movable cultural heritage of significant local and regional importance, with strong potential for influence on social and economic development of communities. The projects should fill a need of the local community – or, if possible, several needs. Involvement of the local population and local stakeholders, such as businesses, local governments and civil society, is encouraged. This can activate local resources in favour of the project goals. The funded project activities are not the final objective per se, but rather a way how to cater for and encourage long-term meaningful use of cultural heritage and test new models of cultural entrepreneurship. When used properly, cultural heritage can make places attractive for business development and tourism and ensure good living conditions and well-being for the local population.

The call is addressed to **owners and managers (legal entities) of movable and immovable cultural heritage** (listed cultural heritage, collections registered in the Central Register of Collections and registered library collections) that does not require significant construction and restoration works, but needs financial support to fund its **suitable non-commercial use either in the current or a new way**. Therefore, smaller grants will be allocated to support a wide range of non-commercial functions (including technical infrastructure) and events/activities serving to the public that are linked to respective cultural heritage. To a smaller extent, the grants will also support minor construction and restoration works.

Ideal projects are those that react to cultural, social and environmental **challenges and needs at the given place** and use the potential of the cultural heritage. They have been **extensively and transparently consulted** and **involve all relevant stakeholders** (however diverse and unconventional), **activate local communities** (all age groups, ethnic, cultural and social groups), who will participate actively and whose skills and experience will be used. We are looking for projects that will enhance the **development of local identity** and **will make cultural heritage accessible in an unconventional and attractive way**. At the same time, the applicants should focus on their development plan, test new **funding models** and possibly adjust their marketing strategy. The objective is to secure income that will enable long-term functioning and use of cultural heritage. To achieve this, they will employ **educational activities** or **partnership with donor state entities**, in the area of cultural entrepreneurship as well as, for example, in the training of professionals capable of creative and unconventional thinking who will be able to facilitate access to cultural heritage.

A simple proposal of a development plan (see the Guideline for Applicants) will be required to evaluate whether the proposed activities have a potential for a long-term benefit, development of other activities, sustainability of the applicant and sustainable use of cultural heritage. Please note an opinion of the local government or interested

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associations and groups (religious, ethnic, interest groups, etc.), proving that the projects corresponds to their needs and requirements will be also required. This opinion does not address cultural heritage protection).

The projects must not generate profit throughout the implementation period. However, cultural entrepreneurship is supported and the income from the project implementation can be used in accordance with the rules for use of the income generated in and/or after the project implementation period as specified in the Guideline for Applicants.

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### 3. Allocation of the Call

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**The financial allocation of the call** decisive for the selection of the projects to be funded is **81 370 608 CZK** (EUR 3 070 589). The grants are awarded in CZK.

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### 4. Eligible Applicants

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#### Entities that are owners or managers of cultural heritage<sup>1</sup>:

- Any entity, public or private, commercial or non-commercial, including non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person in the Czech Republic, or international organisations /entities or agencies thereof active in the Czech Republic.

Natural persons are not eligible applicants.

Potential applicants (both promoters and partners) are not entitled to participate in the Call if:

- They are in liquidation, insolvency, impending bankruptcy or if insolvency proceedings are brought against them;
- They have obligations towards the State and other public budgets (e.g. breach of Article III (10) of Regulation 25/2010 of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic applicable to applicants who have received a grant from the Ministry of Culture in the previous year);
- They have tax arrears in the tax records or arrears of insurance premium or of penalty on public health insurance or social security and national employment policy contributions<sup>2</sup>;
- Recovery orders have been issued against them after a previous decision of the European Commission declaring that the provided aid is unlawful and incompatible with the common market;

The conditions of applicant eligibility are assessed during the project appraisal and selection and must be met as of the date of submitting the grant application. Applicants use a solemn declaration in the grant application to state they and their partners (if relevant) meet the requirements of the previous paragraph.

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### 5. Eligible Partners and Support for Donor Partnership Projects

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The priority of the EEA Grants 2014-2021 is to strengthen partnership between the Czech entities and entities from the donor states, i.e. Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. The grant applications can therefore be submitted also in partnership with relevant partner institutions from the donor states. The partnership is not mandatory. However, it will be awarded additional points in the evaluation process. Eligible expenditure used to support and strengthen partnership can be included in the project budget.

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<sup>1</sup> Cultural heritage registered in the Central Register of Cultural Heritage of the Czech Republic (National Heritage Institute) or in the Central Register of Collections or in the libraries registered by the Czech Ministry of Culture. The categories of "National Cultural Heritage" and "UNESCO Heritage" are excluded.

<sup>2</sup> The no-arrears conditions are met if the tax payer has been permitted to delay the payment of tax or to pay tax in instalments pursuant to Section 156 of Act No 280/2009 Coll., the Tax Code, or to pay insurance premium and penalty in instalments pursuant to Section 20a of Act No 589/1992 Coll. on contributions to social security and to the national employment policy.

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**Eligible partners from donor states:**

- Any entity, public or private, commercial or non-commercial, including non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person in the donor states;
- International organizations/ bodies or agencies thereof active in any of the donor states;
- Natural self-employed persons who are legal residents in any of the donor states.

**Eligible partners at national level:**

- Any entity, public or private, commercial or non-commercial, including non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person in the Czech Republic or an international organization/ entity or agency thereof active in the Czech Republic;

Natural persons (including natural self-employed persons) are not eligible partners at national level.

To search for partners and to prepare grant applications in partnership with entities from the donor states, potential applicants can find detailed information on the existing support for bilateral cooperation at [www.eagrants.cz/culture](http://www.eagrants.cz/culture).

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## 6. Eligible Activities, Period of Project Implementation and Sustainability

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**In the area of immovable cultural heritage, support will be provided to innovative use of:**

- Immovable “Cultural Heritage” listed in the Central Register of Cultural Heritage of the Czech Republic. This involves buildings and groups of buildings as well as landscape and garden compositions forming part of cultural landscape.

The categories of “National Cultural Heritage” and “UNESCO Heritage” are excluded.

Note: Innovative use of immovable property in preservation areas (not separately listed as cultural heritage in the Central Register of Cultural Heritage of the Czech Republic) will not be supported.

**In the area of movable cultural heritage, support will be given to innovative use of:**

- Collection items and museum-type collections registered in the Central Register of Collections.
- Movable “Cultural Heritage” registered in the Central Register of Cultural Heritage of the Czech Republic.
- The most important parts of written cultural heritage. Historic written heritage (registered in the Central Register of Collections and Central Register of Cultural Heritage of the Czech Republic) as well as unique new library collections registered in the lists kept by the Czech Ministry of Culture may be subject to digitalisation, professional documentation and presentation.

The categories of “National Cultural Heritage” and “UNESCO Heritage” are excluded.

**Support will be given to the following non-commercial activities:**

Permanent, repeated or one-off **non-commercial activities serving to the public**, aimed at innovative use of the object of support (cultural heritage) and activities bringing together entrepreneurs, local government, the non-profit sector and owners and managers of cultural heritage. The projects may be of a community or regional scope, based on the knowledge of local needs. The activities should also be aimed at integration of disadvantaged groups (particularly Roma, but also other social, ethnic and cultural minorities). In the case of minorities, special emphasis will be placed on support for inclusive cultural events (involving both the majority and minorities), intercultural dialogue and partner cooperation between different stakeholders. It is desirable to also include in the project educational activities in the field of cultural heritage management and cultural entrepreneurship.

These non-commercial activities include:

- Activities in the field of contemporary arts (such as permanent and short-term exhibitions, concerts, festivals, performances, site-specific events, artistic residencies),
- Interactive media used to present cultural heritage and other content related to the object of support (such as interactive panels, virtual reality, mobile applications, digital games),

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- Educational activities (such as lectures, debates, screenings, seminars, courses, workshops, art studios, training programmes, historical trails, experience centres, conferences, research activities linked to the object of support (finding out new information about the subject of support and presentation thereof),
  - Other activities for the public and local community (such as lending of books in public libraries, leisure time activities including sports for children, adults and / or elderly people,
  - Purchase of technical equipment necessary for project implementation (up to 85% of the total eligible expenditure in the case of investment costs).

**Support can also be given to the following additional activities that can only be implemented as part of the activities defined above:**

- Educational activities in the area of cultural entrepreneurship and use of local cultural heritage (such as trainings, sharing of experience, mentoring from the partners, study trips),
- Creation and testing of new funding models (such as mobilisation of local volunteers and utilisation of their skills, development of attractive touristic products based on the local landscape/environment/history, charitable concerts, professional contemporary arts events).
- Capacity building of professionals in the area of creative and unconventional facilitation of cultural heritage (such as training of educators, lecturers, museum pedagogues in cooperation with universities or other expert organisations).
- Networking activities in the field of culture (such as cooperation with local action groups, local governments, schools/universities, environmental organisations, businesses, contemporary arts professionals and other unconventional entities that will contribute to sustainable use of cultural heritage).
- Digitalisation,
- Minor construction and restoration works up to 15% of the total eligible expenditure,
- Creation and implementation of a marketing strategy or audience development strategy, activities promoting the object of support (such as new/upgraded web pages, publications).

The activities shall be implemented in the Czech Republic and/or in the donor states.

The eligibility of the activities is further limited by **state aid conditions** (see Section 12 of the call). Therefore, the applicants are recommended to check the compliance of their projects with the conditions of the expected aid regime (e.g. restriction of the purpose, activities and eligible expenditure only to the area of culture pursuant to the state aid regime laid down in the General Block Exemption Regulation, support of digital games only in the regime under the De Minimis Regulation). The conditions of the available state aid regimes are described in a separate Annex 1 to the call “Clarification of State Aid Rules applicable to Open Calls for Proposals Funded by EEA Grants 2014–2021”.

The deadline for completing the project implementation, all its activities and its payments is **30. 4. 2024**.

**Given the limited amount of allocation, each applicant may only submit one grant application in this open call.**

In the grant application, the applicant indicates how the project outputs will be sustained after the end of project implementation. The sustainability period is generally set at 2 years (if applicable). Sustainability is not required for soft projects that have the character of one-off events, e.g. training of people, organized cultural events and short-term activities, etc. Projects that involve investment expenditures are subject to the obligation of maintenance and sustainability of investment property in accordance with the instructions provided in the Guideline for Applicants.

The Programme Operator monitors the Covid-19 pandemic and reacts to its development. It will adequately take into consideration the influence of force majeure on the programme implementation in the Czech Republic and will provide reasonable assistance and flexibility to ensure smooth and successful project implementation. See [www.eeagrants.cz](http://www.eeagrants.cz) for more information.

The Programme Operator strongly advises the applicants to take into account potential situation in the future (as the Covid-19 pandemic may last while the projects are being implemented), include it among project risks and consider how the project could mitigate its consequences and the risks related to it.

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## 7. Programme Objectives and Project Relevance

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The overall objective of the programme is to strengthen social and economic development through cultural cooperation, cultural entrepreneurship and cultural heritage management. In this support area, the programme aims to strengthen cultural heritage management related to its innovative use and contribute to regional development. It also supports activities directed at culture and inclusion of cultural, ethnic and social minorities.

In order to measure programme's achievements and impact, the expected programme outcomes and outputs were identified. Thanks to their indicators it will be possible to assess programme's development. The projects supported under this and the other calls within the programme contribute to the fulfilment of these outcomes and outputs.

With regard to the focus of this open call, the applicant shall describe the relevance of the project to the overall objective of the programme and enhancement of cultural heritage management (Programme Outcome no. 1) in the application. Based on the focus of the project, the applicant shall also describe how the project supports innovative use of cultural heritage (Program Output no. 1.3).

**In the application, the applicants will select the output and indicators that are relevant for their project**, specifying the planned target value (i.e. the value that should be achieved through the implementation of the project). The applicants make the selection in the list of programme indicators applicable to this call listed in the table below:

Programme Objective		Social and economic development strengthened through cultural cooperation, cultural entrepreneurship and cultural heritage management	
Programme Outcome/ Output		Indicator	Further Specification
Outcome 1	Cultural heritage management enhanced	Annual number of visitors to supported cultural heritage sites and cultural activities	Mandatory indicator, monitoring target value.
		Annual revenue (in CZK) generated by revitalised cultural heritage	Mandatory indicator, monitoring target value.
		Share of visitors to supported cultural heritage sites reporting increased knowledge of the cultural heritage of minorities, including Roma	Facultative indicator, monitoring target value.
		Number of jobs created	Facultative indicator, achieved value will be disaggregated by gender and age, monitoring target value.
Output 1.3	Innovative use of cultural heritage sites and objects supported	Number of interactive tools applied for the presentation of cultural heritage	Facultative indicator, binding target value.
		Number of professional staff members trained in entrepreneurship	Facultative indicator, achieved value will be disaggregated by gender, binding target value.
		Number of supported events at cultural heritage sites	Mandatory indicator, binding target value.

Every applicant shall set realistic target values for selected indicators in the application. The achievement of the target values will be monitored throughout project implementation by means of monitoring reports.

**Programme output and target values of the related output indicators are binding** as they are directly linked to project activities and its budget.

**The implementation of the project contributes to achieving of the programme outcome;** however, the achievement of the programme outcome may depend on factors that are outside the control of the project promoter. **The target value of the programme outcome indicator has been set up for the purposes of monitoring;** a failure to achieve the target value must be justified in the respective monitoring report.

In addition to the relevance of the project to the programme, the applicants are also required to define the purpose of the project in relation to the identified programme outcome no. 1 (Cultural heritage management enhanced) in the application. The applicant also defines the outputs of individual project activities including their respective indicators. **These outputs and the related target indicator values are binding** as they are directly linked to the activities of the project and its budget.

Detailed information regarding the setup of programme/activity outputs and programme outcome, their binding effect and the descriptions and definitions thereof are provided in the Guideline for Applicants.

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## 8. Eligible Expenditure

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As the programme aims at cultural heritage revitalisation, the projects must mainly include activities leading to an adequate long-term innovative use of the revitalised heritage and contributing to revitalisation and further development of the given site. At the same time, construction and restoration works are only supported as an auxiliary activity serving the adaptation to the new use of the cultural heritage, if needed.

For this reason, **construction and restoration works** necessary for the project implementation must not exceed 15% of the total eligible expenditure of the project.

Purchase of any technical equipment must be indispensable for the project implementation. The share of **investment expenditures** for purchase of equipment and for construction and restoration works **combined** must not exceed 85 % of the total eligible expenditure of the project.

The rules on which categories and types of expenditure are eligible and can be claimed as eligible are laid down in Chapter 8 of the Regulation on the implementation of the European Economic area (EEA) Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 and described in the Guideline for Applicants and in the [Guideline of the National Focal Point for Eligible Expenditures under the EEA/Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2014-2021](#).

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## 9. Grant Amount – Co-financing – Advance Payments – System of Payments

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The minimum grant amount is 1 325 000 CZK (EUR 50 000), the maximum grant amount is 6 625 000 CZK (EUR 250 000).

The grant rate is:

Grant (EEA Grants 2014-2021 + state budget)	Co-financing by the project promoter
Max. 90%	Min. 10%

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**The final date for eligibility of expenditure is 30. 4. 2024.**

The applicant may ask for an advance payment to finance the project at max. 60% of the awarded grant. For non-governmental non-profit organisations, the amount of the advance payment may be up to 70% of the total value of the grant (depending of the type of applicant, see the Guideline for Applicants). The applicant will justify its request for advance financing in the grant application. In accordance with Act No 218/2000 Coll. on budgetary rules, the advance payment is not provided to public entities funded from the state budget (organisational units of the state and state contributory organisations).

For interim payments, the expenditure of the project promoter will be reimbursed ex-post based on the expenses actually incurred (payment requests will be submitted together with the monitoring reports; monitoring reports shall be submitted every 4 months). The project promoter shall submit lists of expenses paid, including payment documents and the required annexes.

Each Payment Request (including the Advance Payment Request) shall be divided into investment and non-investment planned expenditure / expenditure and the share of non-investment expenditure in each Payment Request shall be at least 15% of the amount to be reimbursed.

The final payment (10% of the grant) will be paid after approval of the final report.

**There is no legal claim for the grant.**

**The Programme Operator reserves the right to not distribute all the funds available within the financial allocation of this call.**

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## 10. Drawing up and Submitting the Grant Application

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**Grant applications can be filled in and submitted only electronically through the information system CEDR (IS CEDR) by 1. 11. 2021 12:00 p.m.**

The grant application and its annexes will be drawn up in the Czech language (only the Brief Summary of the Project and relevant fields in the application will be written in English) and in the standardised format (if the standardised format is established for the given annex - see the Guideline for Applicants). Selected parts of the grant application will be also provided in English in a form of an annex.

The planned expenditure of the project will be set out in CZK.

**Given the limited amount of allocation, each applicant may only submit one grant application in this open call.**

The information needed for drawing up and submitting the application is provided in this call and its Annex 1, the Guideline for Applicants and its annexes and in the captions and help comments in the IS CEDR.

**For preparation of applications, applicants shall strictly follow the [Guideline for Applicants and its annexes](#).**

The guideline includes a **Checklist** that allows the applicants to verify the eligibility of their proposal and preparedness of their application to be submitted through the information system.

- The Guideline for Applicants is available at [www.eeagrants.cz](http://www.eeagrants.cz).
- The application must contain all required annexes - see the Guideline for Applicants. Standardised annexes can be downloaded from [www.eeagrants.cz](http://www.eeagrants.cz).

### **The required annexes include:**

- A binding opinion pursuant to the provisions of Act No. 20/1987 Coll., the State Cultural Heritage Conservation Act (applicable to movable and immovable cultural monuments, if relevant).
- Project documentation (project documentation for issuance of the building permit etc.) submitted in the electronic form (if relevant).
- A valid building permit, public contract or confirmation of legal force or a statement of the planning and zoning authority was provided saying that a building permit or consent is not required (if relevant)<sup>3</sup>.
- During the appraisal of the grant application, the applicant may be invited to submit paper forms of some annexes (large format annexes, drawings etc.).
- The mandatory data to be filled in the grant application include information on all consultants involved in the preparation of the grant application.

### **Technical requirements and recommendations**

- The application and annexes must be signed with a qualified electronic signature by the statutory or authorised representative of the applicant.
- The IS CEDR can be entered through: [www.eeagrants.cz/cedr](http://www.eeagrants.cz/cedr).
- In case of technical difficulties with the preparation and submission of the application it is possible to contact the person indicated on the home page of IS CEDR 2014-2021 (Contacts).
- The grant application and its annexes can be prepared in IS CEDR gradually, the system enables saving the parts already completed.
- The grant application must be filled in while bearing in mind that the process of project appraisal and selection will exclusively use the information contained in the grant application and its annexes. All parts of the grant application must be therefore filled in carefully, specifically and clearly.
- We recommend submitting the application sufficiently in advance before the deadline of the call. Leaving the submission of the application to the last minute could cause problems due to the system overload.

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<sup>3</sup> A valid building permit shall be submitted no later than the legal act on grant award is issued.



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## 11. Publicly Accessible Documents for the Implementation of the EEA Grants 2014-2021

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Documents (Regulations, guidelines and methodologies) are accessible on the following websites:

<b>Financial Mechanism Office</b> (mainly Regulation on the Implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021)	<a href="http://www.eeagrants.org">www.eeagrants.org</a>
<b>National Focal Point</b> (mainly the Guideline of the NFP for Eligible Expenditures)	<a href="http://www.mfcr.cz">www.mfcr.cz</a> , <a href="http://www.eeagrants.cz">www.eeagrants.cz</a>
<b>Programme Operator</b>	<a href="http://www.eeagrants.cz/culture">www.eeagrants.cz/culture</a>
<b>Programme Partner</b>	<a href="http://www.mkcr.cz">www.mkcr.cz</a>

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## 12. Process of Application Appraisal and Project Selection

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The phases of the project appraisal which will be applied in the selection of applications submitted under this call include:

### 1) Assessment of administrative and eligibility criteria

The administrative and eligibility criteria will be assessed by the Programme Partner according to the defined criteria.

Applications that do not meet the administrative and eligibility criteria will be excluded from further appraisal. In case more than 1 application is submitted by one applicant within this open call, the first application received in IS CEDR shall be accepted for further appraisal. The applicant may appeal against the exclusion of the application due to a failure to meet the administrative and eligibility criteria through IS CEDR within 15 days after receiving the decision on the rejection of the application.

The applicant will be informed of any shortcomings identified (e.g. completeness and legibility) and invited through the IS CEDR to make corrections of the annexes to the application. The applicant may make additions and amendments that do not increase the quality of the application. The application itself cannot be amended after its submission.

### 2) Assessment of the quality of the application by external evaluators

Each application is assessed by two impartial evaluators at least one of which shall be independent of and external to the Programme Operator and the Programme Partner. The resulting score of the grant application is the arithmetic average of the scores of both evaluators.

If the difference between the total scores of the evaluators is higher than 20% of the value of the higher score, the application will be assessed by a third evaluator. The resulting score will be the arithmetic average of the scores that are closest to each other.

### 3) Assessment of the applications by the selection committee

The selection committee receives a list of all projects that were assessed in terms of quality. The projects are ordered on the list by the resulting score received in the appraisal by external evaluators (arithmetic average of scores). The selection committee discusses the submitted projects and submits a list of recommended projects including reserve projects to the Programme Operator - the Ministry of Finance - for verification. The selection committee consists of the chairman and secretary (representatives of the Programme Partner without voting rights) and five members (experts) with voting rights, of whom at least two will be independent of the Programme Operator and the Programme Partners.<sup>4</sup>

### 4) Verification by the Programme Operator

The Programme Operator verifies the process of appraising the applications including a verification of each of the recommended applications.

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<sup>4</sup> Representatives of the Programme Operator, Financial Mechanism Committee, programme partners from the donor states (The Norwegian Directorate for cultural Heritage, The Icelandic Centre for Research) and the National Focal Point in CR will be invited to participate in the selection committee as observers.

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## 5) Approving/ disapproving the grant

Based on the result of the verification, the Programme Operator decides on approving/disapproving the grant and informs the applicant about the next steps. A grant approval letter and subsequently a legal act on grant award are issued for the successful applicants. Unsuccessful applicants receive a legal act on not awarding the grant. It is not possible to appeal the decision on non-awarding the grant. The Programme Operator shall publicise the list of the applicants to whom a grant has been awarded.

It is expected that the approved projects will start 6 months after the closing date for receipt of applications (i.e. April 2022).

### Information on the conditions of state aid

State aid shall be granted in one of the following regimes (or a combination thereof), provided that all respective conditions are adhered to:

- Under the **General Block Exemption Regulation** (hereinafter referred to as “GBER”)<sup>5</sup>, which assumes, provided that certain conditions are met, compatibility of the aid with the EU internal market within the meaning of Article 107 (3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (hereinafter referred to as the “TFEU”) and exempts such aid from the notification requirement of Article 108 (3) of the TFEU.;
- Under the **De Minimis Regulation**<sup>6</sup>, when de minimis aid is not considered state aid given its low amount, as it does not meet all definition elements of state aid pursuant to Art. 107 (1) of the TFEU.

Specification of the state aid conditions of the individual regimes forms part of this open call in the form of a separate annex “Clarification of State Aid Rules to Open Calls for Proposals Funded by EEA Grants 2014–2021”.

The aid regime under which support is to be provided shall be determined by the Programme Operator with respect to the amount of support, focus of the project and the conditions laid down by the GBER or the De Minimis Regulation.

Where a project partner is financially involved according to Section 5 of the call (i.e. when the partner receives a part of the grant from the project promoter to fund project activities), such partner must also comply with the rules for state aid.

Before providing the support, the Programme Operator will verify whether the projects recommended for support meet the conditions of the respective regime. As all the conditions established must be met, it can happen that the project will not be supported from public funds to the full/requested extent (see Section 9 of the call).

Please bear in mind that when a project is subject to the state aid regime under the GBER, such aid can only be used to fund **cultural purposes and activities defined in the GBER** (Article 53 (2)). If it is not possible to combine state aid regimes, then the expenses (and related activities) specified in Article 53 (4 and 5) of the GBER are considered as eligible.

In order to verify the compliance with the conditions of the respective regime, the Programme Operator will request from the beneficiaries and financially involved project partners any necessary information and a confirmation or affidavit of acceptance of the conditions related to the state aid provided, before the grant is provided.

In justified cases, projects not constituting State aid may also be supported under this call, as not all the defining features of State aid within the meaning of Article 107 (1) TFEU will be fulfilled (e.g. affecting trade between Member States).

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# 13. Criteria for Formal Requirements, Eligibility and Quality

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## 1) Formal requirements

- The application was submitted within the due period set in the call.
- The applicant has submitted only one application in this call.
- The application document is drawn up in the required language in line with the call.
- All mandatory data are filled in.
- The application is electronically signed by an authorised person.

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<sup>5</sup> Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty, so-called General Block Exemption Regulation. The up-to-date consolidated version here: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/CS/TXT/?qid=1601643214116&uri=CELEX:02014R0651-20200727>

<sup>6</sup> Commission Regulation (EU) No. 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid Text with EEA relevance. The up-to-date consolidated version here: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/CS/TXT/?uri=CELEX:02013R1407-20200727>.

- All mandatory annexes are complete and are provided in the required form in line with the call and the Guideline for Applicants.

## 2) Eligibility criteria

- The applicant is eligible.
- The partner/partners is/are eligible (if partnership is applied).
- The project complies with the focus of the call (programme area, outcome, outputs).
- The project activities are eligible.
- The place of the project implementation complies with the conditions of the call.
- The expected duration of the project implementation does not exceed the deadline for completing project implementation set in the call.
- The requested amount of grant and the financial limits comply with the conditions set in the call.

## 3) Quality evaluation criteria

### Detailed project quality evaluation criteria

Criterion	Maximum points for the given criterion (out of 100)
<b>1 Importance of the project and its social and economic benefits</b>	<b>60</b>
1.1 Innovativeness and creativity of the project (function of cultural heritage and chosen types of eligible activities), comprehensiveness (significance and interrelatedness of eligible activities and outcomes, involvement of relevant partners).	10
1.2 Innovative and creative use of cultural heritage (quality of content of each activity).	7
1.3 The degree of direct/indirect positive impact on the local community and its social and economic development, project activities are suitably designed with regard to the chosen target group(s) and needs of the local community (the intensity of use will also be evaluated).	10
1.4 The project is implemented in a broad and substantial cooperation involving all relevant stakeholders (including strategic cooperation between diverse entities: local governments, businesses and non-profit / publicly beneficial organisations), with a positive impact on the project.	5
1.5 The project proposal has been consulted with the local/regional community, i.e. with local government or interested associations and groups (religious, ethnic, interest groups, etc.) and is relevant to its needs and requirements. The project is expected to strengthen the community's relationship to cultural heritage, increase its interest in local/regional history and strengthen local/regional identity and awareness (see mandatory annex "The opinion of the local/regional community"). This opinion does not address cultural heritage protection.	5
1.6 The project is expected to contribute to job creation (at local/regional level) and creates new opportunities for business activities, development of local tourism and local products.	6
1.7 The project creates or tests new funding models and develops skills of the staff in the area of cultural heritage management, cultural entrepreneurship and innovative use (e.g. through educational events and sharing of information) that may contribute to long-term operation and use of cultural heritage.	5
1.8 Involvement of a donor state partner/partners contributes to the development of bilateral cooperation and significantly increases the overall project value and impact (cooperation, exchange of information, know-how, etc.). There is a potential for ongoing cooperation after project implementation.	6
1.9 The project contributes to the inclusion of social, ethnic and cultural minorities (such as Roma) and to a better awareness of their culture and life. The project improves access to minority groups and their culture, addresses their needs and improves their access to culture.	6
<b>2 Project structure, risks, activities and outcomes</b>	<b>25</b>
2.1 The structure of the project, its activities and outcomes is clearly defined. Individual activities are interrelated and directed to suitably defined outcomes.	10

2.2	Project publicity is well-defined and clearly described.	5
2.3	Project management is suitably defined and clearly described. The persons responsible for the implementation of activities and outputs have adequate experience.	5
2.4	The proposed time schedule of project implementation is consistent and realistic, corresponds to the needs of the given project and clearly defines the order of implementation of main project activities.	2
2.5	Project risks are clearly defined and relevant, including a proposal of risk elimination measures to be adopted to secure smooth project implementation.	3
<b>3</b>	<b>Cost-effectiveness and sustainability</b>	<b>15</b>
3.1	A detailed budget is provided for the entire project period. The expenses are eligible, the budget items presented are necessary for the implementation of the project activities, are in line with the content of the project and their value is adequate. The total costs of the project are adequate to the achievement of the planned outputs.	10
3.2	The activities proposed have the potential to bring long-term benefits and develop other activities, sustainability of the applicant and sustainable use of cultural heritage.	5
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>

### Point evaluation

In order to ensure the highest level of objectivity, every external evaluator evaluates the compliance with each criterion on the below-described scale from 0 to 5 points. The value obtained for each criterion is then converted by the percentage rate according to the maximum amount of points that can be obtained for the given criterion. For example, a grant application partly complying with a criterion with maximum score 10 points is evaluated by the external evaluator as 4 – Good. The number of points awarded for this criterion after the conversion by the percentage rate will be 8 points, i.e. 80% of the maximum number of points that can be obtained for this criterion.

0 – The project does not meet the evaluated criterion or the criterion cannot be evaluated due to missing or incomplete information (the grant application is awarded 0% of the maximum score for the criterion).

1 – Very poor. The criterion has only been fulfilled in a superficial and unsatisfactory manner (the grant application is awarded 20% of the maximum score for the criterion).

2 – Poor. There are serious and substantial shortcomings concerning the given criterion (the grant application is awarded 40% of the maximum score for the criterion).

3 – Satisfactory. Although the project addresses the given criterion from a broad perspective, there are shortcomings that would require corrections (the grant application is awarded 60% of the maximum score for the criterion).

4 – Good. The project fulfils the given criterion; with some space for improvement (the grant application is awarded 80% of the maximum score for the criterion).

5 – Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all aspects of the given criterion (the grant application is awarded 100% of the maximum score for the criterion).

The total score sums all scores awarded for individual criteria. The maximum total score is 100 points.

## 14. Information on Consultations on the Call

Any queries concerning the call (e.g. submitting the grant application, conditions of the call, the method of appraisal and award of grant) can be:

- sent by e-mail to [fondyehp@mkcr.cz](mailto:fondyehp@mkcr.cz).
- asked personally at:

Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic  
EEA/Norway Grants Unit

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The queries may be raised no later than 5 working days before the final date for submitting the grant applications. The reply will be sent to the applicant within 5 working days, at the latest on the last day of the call. Only replies given in writing are binding.

Frequently asked questions and answers will be published in the section Questions and Answers [www.eeagrants.cz](http://www.eeagrants.cz).

Potential donor project partners can use [EEA and Norway Grants Partnership Guide](#) and following contact information:

**Iceland:**

Icelandic Centre for Research (Rannis)

Email: [eeagrants@rannis.is](mailto:eeagrants@rannis.is), [ragnhildur.zoega@rannis.is](mailto:ragnhildur.zoega@rannis.is)

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**Liechtenstein**

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**Norway:**

The Norwegian Directorate for cultural Heritage

Email: [eeagrants@riksantikvaren.no](mailto:eeagrants@riksantikvaren.no)

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## Annexes

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Annex 1 - Clarification of State Aid Rules applicable to Open Calls for Proposals Funded by EEA Grants 2014–2021