

EFFEA

EUROPEAN FESTIVALS FUND
FOR EMERGING ARTISTS

EFFEA Call #4

CALL FOR FESTIVALS
TO SUPPORT EMERGING ARTISTS

Launch of the call

1 September 2025

Application deadline

3 November 2025 at 23.59 CET

**Implementation period
of EFFEA residencies**

1 January 2026 > 31 December 2026



EUROPEAN
FESTIVALS
ASSOCIATION



Co-funded by
the European Union

1. What is 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 fourth call for festivals to support emerging artists is open from **1 September to 3 November 2025**. Approximately **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.

The activities that are supported by EFFEA are centred around the *EFFEA Residencies* that offer time and space for artists to develop specific ideas and, eventually, present them to the audience.

2. What is the EFFEA Residency?

The EFFEA Residency is an artist-in-residence programme aimed at fostering the international career of emerging artists in the seat of minimum 3 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 establish lasting and 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. **Approximately 40 grants of 8.000€ will be attributed to this category.**

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

The Discovery residency must include:

- 1 Presentation of work-in-progress (or production result) at the leading festival.
- 1 Workshop (live or online) between the artist and partner festivals. **Hosted by the leading festival**, the workshop aims to connect the artists with partner festivals for exposure and collaboration. It can take place live or online and seeks to provide artists with constructive feedback on their work presentation and strategies for engaging with festival makers. Artists will receive professional guidance on creating portfolios, along with mentoring and coaching from industry experts. Additionally, the workshop seeks to explore options for the artist to showcase their work at various festivals, support outreach to local communities,

and address specific needs identified through a needs assessment. The workshop should enhance networking, visibility, and future opportunities. A list of attendees must be included in the final report.

- 1 EFFEA film provided by the leading festival: high-quality up to 2 min max film about the residency. The film must be uploaded in the final report.
- Participation in the EFFEA Intake and Outtake Seminars.

The Springboard residency must include:

- Artist's work (finished work) presented at the leading festival and each partner festival.
- A **masterclass led by the artist** in at least three countries, taking place at the leading festival and at least two partner festivals. The masterclasses should focus on the creation and production process, inviting active participation and collaboration with local artistic communities (in three countries). Sessions may also be open to a broader audience. A list of attendees must be included in the final report.
- 1 EFFEA film provided by the leading festival: high-quality up to 2 min max film about the residency. The film must be uploaded in the final report.
- Participation in the EFFEA Intake and Outtake Seminars

3. Who are the emerging artists?

Emerging artists 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.

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.

While their talent deserves attention from international festivals, these emerging artists often struggle to develop their skills and careers globally. EFFEA extends its support to emerging artists at different stages of their careers, recognising the diverse trajectories within the artistic landscape.

The Leading Festival is the leader and the main contact - responsible for the project.

The leading festival

- Will apply for the EFFEA Fund and provide an official report at the end of the residency.
- Will receive the grant payment.
- Will sign the Residency contract which is between the leading festival and EFA.
- Is in charge of addressing the project's needs, handles overall co-ordination and financial planning for the project, and managing all aspects of implementation.

Partner Festivals participate in the project depending on their specific roles defined and agreed upon with the leading festival within the project. Partner festivals are expected to

- Support the EFFEA Residency by actively promoting the artists through social media and/or other channels, featuring their work in festival programmes and offering tailored mentoring sessions with industry professionals to help the artist build their international career (e.g.

offering feedback, reflection sessions, supporting artistic development- building their artistic identity etc.)

- Attend the artists' presentations, workshops, and masterclasses – whenever possible.
- Meet with leading festivals to explore collaboration and touring opportunities for the artist, such as co-presenting performances to reach wider audiences.
- Participate in the online EFFEA Intake and Outtake seminars and 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 EFFEA Call#4 is open to **all festivals** (and their proposed artists) that fulfil the following criteria and conditions:

- 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 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.

For the selected projects in both categories, EFFEA will organise and offer Intake and Outtake Seminars — online meetings held at the beginning and end of the residency implementation period, respectively — for the artists and participating festivals.

6.1. Eligible Countries

The 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, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, and Ukraine.

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

6.2. Eligible disciplines

The 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

- A discovery grant has a value of 8.000€.
- A springboard grant has a value of 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 made by the artist(s) (*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 successful implementation and 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 successful implementation and 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 2026, and the end date must be no later than 31 December 2026.
The applicants are free to start earlier or end later as long as the costs related to the extension are not included in the budget submitted to EFFEA.
- Submitted proposals will be assessed for eligibility by the EFA co-ordination team. All eligible proposals will be evaluated by the EFFEA Jury. The [EFFEA Jury](#) is composed of members of diverse profiles in terms of disciplines, geographies, artistic backgrounds, gender, age, and, above all, knowledge of the arts field.

Selection criteria include:

Relevance

- What is the relevance of the proposed residency in relation to the needs of the artists at this point in their careers?
- What is the relevance of the proposed residency to the artistic field of the artists?
- What are the objectives of the residency?

Quality

The description of the planned activities must refer to the:

- Relevance for the artists, festivals, and artistic field.
- Quality of the partnership/the role of the partners (additional partners beyond the mandatory two can be considered an added asset to the partnership).
- Sustainability of residency within new production parameters (digital, duration, co-creation locally).
- Details on how residency is innovative.

Potential

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

Impact and sustainability

- Applicants will be asked to outline the expected results/impact (including the local impact) and the legacy of the residency.

Budget

- Is the budget adequate in all aspects for supporting/benefiting 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.
- It will have an impact on the artists' careers.
- It offers a market to artists even beyond the residency period (longer term).
- The budget is built on the principle of fair remuneration towards the artists at all stages (stay, rehearsal time and payment, fees, etc.).
- The topics of today focus on 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 prior EFFEA Calls are not eligible for another Discovery residency. *Note: they are eligible to be supported by a Springboard residency.*
- Artists selected for a Springboard residency in past EFFEA Calls are not eligible for consideration in future EFFEA calls.
- Festivals that are holding their very first edition at the time of application are not eligible to apply.
- All festivals that do not fulfil the eligibility criteria and conditions.

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

Festivals must apply online via the [EFFEA Platform](#). Applications cannot be submitted in any other way. The leading festival will be asked to fill in:

- General information about leading festivals festival/organisation.
- Information about the proposed artists, including short biographies and links (text and/ or audiovisual).
- General information about the partner festivals.
- Motivation to engage the artists and establish partnership in the residency programme.
- 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)

Applying festivals should

- Upload and sign all required documents (including budget and letters of intent with the artists and the partner festivals).
- Specify that residency dates fall within the grant period.
- Ensure that the artists have not previously received an EFFEA grant
*If an artist has received a **Discovery grant** in a prior EFFEA Call (EFFEA Call#1, #2 or #3), they remain eligible for a **Springboard residency** in Call#4.*

11. Reapply

- Selected and non-selected festivals in prior EFFEA Calls can reapply.
- Partnerships formed in previous EFFEA Calls may also reapply.
- Notice the exclusion criteria for the proposed artists under point 9.

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

The applications received will be evaluated in November 2025. Applicants will be notified of the results via email in December 2025 (see the timeline below).

- All selected EFFEA residencies will be announced on the EFFEA website and social media. A detailed description of each EFFEA residency will be published on the EFFEA website.
- The leading festival of the selected partnerships will sign a contract with EFA.
- The applicant will have 8 days to accept and confirm the agreement. If there is no response, the EFA team will consider the offer rejected and offer the opportunity to another project.
- The residency can be implemented as soon as the applicant confirms the agreement.

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 that are not selected will be notified by email; however, no jury feedback will be provided.

- If one of the selected projects does not accept and confirm the agreement within 8 days, the EFA team will offer the opportunity to another project. The non-selected projects will be placed on a waiting list.

13. Reporting

Within 30 days after the end of implementation period dates, the leading festival must submit the narrative report directly on the platform, an online straightforward questionnaire, similar to the application form and a signed financial statement.

- The narrative report consists of the following chapters: overview, feedback (by festivals and artists), results, activities, including information about the workshop/ masterclass, audience involvement, collaboration experiences, visibility – promotion materials and links, and EFFEA film. More information about it will be shared during the residency period.
- A signed financial statement by using the template (available on the EFFEA website for download), to be uploaded on the online EFFEA website.

The report must be submitted no later than **31 January 2027**.

14. Timeline

- Publication of the EFFEA Call#4: 1 September 2025
- Application deadline: 3 November 2025
- Jury Evaluations: November 2025
- Results announcement to applicants: December 2025
- Public results announcement: December 2025
- Implementation period of residencies*: 1 January 2026 - 31 December 2026
- EFFEA Intake Seminar: 20 January 2026
- EFFEA Outtake Seminar: 22 September 2026
- EFFEA Sessions:
 - EFFEA Info session: 9 September 2025 - [Register here](#)
 - EFFEA Networking Session: 30 September 2025 - [Register here](#)
 - EFFEA Networking Session: 7 October 2025 - [Register here](#)
 - EFFEA Q&A: 21 October 2025 - [Register here](#)

**The residencies can take place any time between the dates of the implementation period, after 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](#)

EFFEA is an initiative of the European Festivals Association, co-funded by the European Union, implemented in partnership with the EFFEA Platform Members: Croatian Composers Society (Croatia), Culture Matters (Czechia), PLMF Arts Management (Estonia), France Festivals (France), Festival Friends (Germany), Stichting Caucasus Foundation (Georgia), Summa Artium Kultúra Támogató Nonprofit Kft. (Hungary), Association of Irish Festival Events (Ireland), ItaliaFestival (Italy), ARC Research and Consultancy Ltd. (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 Nonprofit Kft.*

