

General Support Scheme Europe + Heritage Programme 2025-2028

Introduction

Would you like to collaborate with a heritage partner in Europe to exchange knowledge and share the results with other heritage professionals? For example, in the form of an exhibition, publication, or event? If so, you may be eligible to apply for the General Support Scheme of the Europe + Heritage Programme 2025-2028. This scheme is designed to strengthen the ties between heritage professionals and heritage institutions in the Kingdom of the Netherlands and their European colleagues.

The scheme is supported by the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science.

Objectives

Applications will be assessed based on the objectives of the General Support Scheme:

- A. Knowledge exchange: promoting the exchange of knowledge between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Europe.
- B. Knowledge sharing: sharing knowledge about heritage with heritage professionals and a broader audience within the Kingdom of the Netherlands and/or beyond.
- C. Promoting European connectedness through heritage.
- D. Linking heritage to current European challenges such as climate change and polarisation.
- E. Introducing European elements to existing heritage-related events or meetings, for example, by inviting European speakers or delegations.
- F. Impact: there must be a clear vision or idea explaining why this project is being undertaken and what the expected outcomes are. Long-term projects with significant impact are preferred (with sustainability in mind).

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Who is eligible to apply?

The scheme is open to applicants based in the Kingdom of the Netherlands (the Netherlands, Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Eustatius, and Sint Maarten) and be either:

- heritage professionals: individuals working in or with heritage at a professional level or receiving payment for such work;

- or heritage institutions: organisations primarily engaged in heritage-related activities.

The scheme is specifically intended for heritage professionals and heritage institutions.

Civil servants at local, regional, and national government levels are not eligible to apply.

DutchCulture encourages heritage professionals, organisations and municipalities outside the Netherlands' western conurbation (the 'Randstad') and those established in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom to apply to the scheme.

Who can you collaborate with?

You can collaborate with a heritage professional or heritage institution in Europe. 'Europe' refers to: the member states of the European Union (EU) or the European Economic Area (EEA), EU candidate countries, the United Kingdom, and Switzerland.

Eligible countries for collaboration are:

- Albania
- Austria
- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- Belgium
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Cyprus
- Denmark (including the Faroe Islands and Greenland)
- Estonia
- Finland
- France (including French Guiana, French Polynesia, the French Southern and Antarctic Lands, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, New Caledonia, Réunion, and Saint-Barthélemy, Saint-Martin, Saint-Pierre and Miquelon, Wallis and Futuna)
- Germany
- Georgia
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Liechtenstein
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Moldova
- Montenegro
- North Macedonia
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal (including the Azores and Madeira)

- Ukraine
- Romania
- Serbia
- Slovenia
- Slovakia
- Spain (including the Balearic Islands and the Canary Islands)
- Turkey
- United Kingdom
- Sweden
- Switzerland

What expenses are covered?

You can apply for a maximum of €5.000. No more than 25% of the requested amount may be spent on administrative costs and personal hours.

The applicant determines how the funds will be used, but the expenditure must align with the objectives of the General Support Scheme.

Sustainability and means of transport

Sustainability is an important aspect of the General Support Scheme.

Journeys under 600 km one-way must be made using a means of transport other than airplane, except in the following cases:

- the applicant has a disability that affects their ability to travel by alternative means;
- the applicant is travelling from or to an island that can only be reached by air.

The grant amount depends on the travel distance, which is calculated as the straight-line distance (in kilometres) from the traveller's place of residence to the destination, based on a one-way trip. A free online [Distance Calculator](#) can be used for this.

Additionally, we encourage applicants to use alternative transport methods for longer journeys where possible, avoid unnecessary travel, conduct activities online when feasible, and use sustainable (communication) materials.

What is the scheme not intended for?

The scheme is not open to disciplines other than heritage.

Collaboration between the Netherlands and the Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands does not qualify as international collaboration and is not eligible for the scheme.

The scheme does not cover:

- visits or activities without a clear objective or expected outcome;

- loans of objects from abroad;
- academic research that is not shared with a broader audience.

Application

Applicants must complete [the General Support Scheme application form](#) on the DutchCulture website.

Applications can be submitted on an ongoing basis until the available funds are exhausted.

Applications must be submitted no later than six weeks before the project starts.

An organisation or individual can submit only one application per calendar year for the Europe + Heritage General Support Scheme.

Procedure

Applications are assessed internally by DutchCulture. Applicants will be notified of the outcome in writing within three weeks (15 working days).

If the application is approved, 80% of the awarded amount will be paid upfront. The remaining 20% will be paid upon successful completion of the project and approval of the final report.

DutchCulture reserves the right to reject an application. The decision is final and cannot be appealed.