



PRESS RELEASE

Launch of a new regional facility in support of ACP cultural and creative industries

The ACP-EU Culture Programme, a joint initiative of the European Union (EU) and the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), is launching a new regional mechanism to strengthen the competitiveness of cultural and creative industries in ACP countries. With a budget of € 26 million, this decentralized mechanism contributes to the multiplication of funding opportunities and a more balanced distribution of financial aid between the regions concerned.

The OACPS and the EU wish to promote the socio-economic development of the 79 ACP countries by boosting their cultural and creative sectors. This is why the ACP-EU Culture Programme published in December 2020 a call for proposals - "Support to the cultural and creative sectors in ACP countries" for an amount of € 26 million.

This action inaugurates the establishment of regional "desks" - one per ACP region - which will be responsible for facilitating the increase of economic revenues from the cultural and creative sectors, the generation of employment as well as better accessibility, recognition and valorization of ACP artists and their works at the national, regional and international levels.

Managed by consortia of international, regional and national organisations promoting cultural and creative industries, the regional windows will respond to the needs of ACP operators in a targeted manner, publishing calls for projects at least once a year in the different sectors of culture and creation. An important support and assistance mechanism for cultural operators will be put in place to ensure the success of their projects.

This decentralised mechanism will also promote a better distribution of financial support between the six ACP regions, the multiplication of funding opportunities for cultural operators, a better structuring of cultural sectors at regional level and greater proximity with operators in the field. It is presented as follows:

ACP Region	Partner consortia	Budget
West Africa	Institut français and Centre culturel Kôrè , Mali	€ 6,2 M
East Africa	The British Council and the HEVA Fund , Kenya	€ 6 M
Central Africa	Interarts Foundation, Institut National des arts de la RDC and the	€ 4,2 M



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	<u>Economic Community of Central African States</u> (ECCAS), Gabon	
Southern Africa	<u>Music in Africa Foundation</u> and the <u>Goethe Institut</u> , South Africa	€ 3,8 M
The Caribbean	<u>Unesco Jamaica</u> , <u>University of West Indies</u> and <u>CARICOM</u>	€ 3 M
The Pacific	La <u>The South Pacific Community</u> , New Caledonia and <u>Queensland University of Technology</u> , Australia	€ 2,8 M

A first technical meeting between the different stakeholders of the ACP-EU Culture Programme as well as the consortia in charge of the regional desks will take place on 18 December in order to formalise the implementation of the scheme in the different regions and discuss the modalities of their implementation.

Notes to the editor

ACP-UE Culture Programme: The ACP-EU Culture Programme is an initiative implemented by the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) with the financial support of the European Union (EU). This programme illustrates the desire to stimulate the potential of the cultural and creative sector and its contribution to the socio-economic development of ACP countries.

With a budget of € 40 million covering the period 2019-2026, the programme focuses on: (i) encouraging entrepreneurship and cultural and technological innovation, as well as youth participation; (ii) creating new jobs and increasing the income of artists and cultural professionals; (iii) improving the quality of ACP cultural productions; and (iv) enhancing the value of ACP cultural productions and artists on international markets.

For more information, please visit www.acp-ue-culture.eu et Cultureexchange.eu

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The Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS): Formerly known as the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP Group), the OACPS is an organisation created in 1975 by the Georgetown Agreement. Its 79 members, with the exception of Cuba, are signatories to the Cotonou Agreement which governs the framework of their cooperation with the European Union. The OACPS



supports (i) the sustainable development of its Member States and their progressive integration into the world economy; (ii) the consolidation of unity and solidarity among ACP States, as well as understanding among peoples; (iii) the establishment and consolidation of peace and stability in a free and democratic society. For more information, visit www.acp.int

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