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CALL FOR PROPOSALS: GRANTS FOR HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS

DEADLINE: 10 SEPTEMBER 2025

AFRICA-EUROPE PARTNERSHIPS FOR CULTURE

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Implemented by:





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1. INTRODUCTION

The Goethe-Institut invites non-profit, non-governmental heritage organisations in **Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe** to apply for grants under the "Africa-Europe Partnerships for Culture: Southern Africa" project. This initiative, funded by the European Union (EU), aims to strengthen cultural cooperation within Southern Africa as well as between Southern Africa and Europe, to enhance regional cultural production capacities, and promote intercultural dialogue through the co-creation of new narratives around tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

This Call for Proposals seeks to select more than 16 heritage organisations to lead "**Narrative Clusters**", collaborating with interdisciplinary groups of artists/creatives to develop innovative stories that increase the visibility and contemporary relevance of their heritage. Selected organisations will receive grants of up to €55,000 to manage these clusters, fund co-productions, and present narratives to local audiences over an 18-month period.

2. OBJECTIVES

Overall Objective:

To increase public visibility and understanding of the selected heritage narratives (tangible or intangible) and its contemporary relevance in southern Africa and beyond.

Specific Objectives:

- To support heritage organisations in co-creating new, interdisciplinary narratives that communicate the meaning and significance of their heritage to diverse audiences.
- To foster collaboration between heritage organisations and artists/creatives from at least three southern African countries, with potential inclusion of European perspectives where relevant.
- To enhance the capacity of heritage organisations for cultural production, audience engagement, and regional/international cooperation.

Expected Results:

- Multiple artistic co-productions (e.g., performances, exhibitions, installations, films), highlighting the heritage narrative's broader themes and relevance.
- Presentations of co-productions to local and regional audiences through high-profile, multi-day public events.
- Increased visibility of the heritage organisation and its narrative/practice, contributing to intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity.

3. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Selected heritage organisations will lead a Narrative Cluster, managing and coordinating activities with approximately nine artists/creatives over an 18-month period. Eligible activities include:

- **Call Development:** Collaborate with the Goethe-Institut to develop a tailored call for proposals to recruit artists/creatives for the Narrative Cluster.
- **Cluster Management:** Coordinate and oversee the activities of the Narrative Cluster (6 months), including organising retreats, joint working sessions, and ongoing collaboration among artists/creatives.
- **Event Organisation:** Host a Narrative Development Retreat (2 weeks) and two joint working sessions within a six-month period to refine heritage narratives, as well as a multi-day local presentation event to showcase co-productions to communities.
- **Co-Production Support:** Fund the development and production of interdisciplinary artistic works (e.g., literature, film, performing arts, visual arts, crafts, digital/VR/AR productions) that convey heritage narratives.
- **Outreach and Engagement:** Implement local outreach activities to engage communities, including youth and source communities, in the presentation of narratives.
- **Cross-Cutting Issues:** Incorporate measures to promote gender equality (aiming for 50% participation of women and/or women's narratives/perspectives), inclusion of persons with disabilities, and environmentally sustainable practices in all activities.



4. ELIGIBLE CRITERIA

To be eligible, applicants must meet the following criteria:

LEGAL STATUS

The applicant must be a non-profit, non-governmental legal entity registered in one of the six project countries (Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe). UNESCO heritage sites are excluded from applications.

HERITAGE CONNECTION

The applicant must manage a tangible heritage (e.g., archaeological site, historical building) or be closely connected to an intangible heritage practice (e.g., folklore, music, traditional crafts) of one of the six project countries (Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe).

LOCAL OPERATION

The applicant must be legally registered and operational in one of the project countries for at least two years, with a demonstrated track record of heritage-related activities.

NON-URBAN FOCUS

Preference will be given to organisations representing lesser-known heritage sites or practices, particularly those outside major urban centres.

5. AWARD CRITERIA



Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Thematic Approach:** Relevance and clarity of the proposed heritage topics, themes, or stories, and their potential to resonate with contemporary audiences in southern Africa and beyond. (30%)
- **Organisational Capacity:** Ability to manage a Narrative Cluster, including administrative, financial, and logistical capacity to coordinate artists/creatives and events. (25%)
- **Working Facilities:** Access to adequate facilities (e.g., spaces for retreats, workshops, or presentations) to support artists/creatives in developing co-productions. (Heritage organisations do not necessarily need to own the facilities). (20%)
- **Motivation and Collaboration:** Clarity of motivation and commitment to work collaboratively with interdisciplinary, international artists/creatives, including openness to potential European involvement. (15%)
- **Outreach Commitment:** Quality and feasibility of proposed local outreach activities to engage communities, alongside a commitment to broader dissemination of co-productions/audience development (e.g., regional or international presentations). (10%)

Selection Considerations:

- The selection process will aim for geographical diversity across the six countries, a mix of tangible and intangible heritage practices, and representation of a variety of themes, lesser-known sites, and narratives.
- Gender equality and inclusion will be prioritised, ensuring women and women's narratives are well-represented in project teams and beneficiaries, and persons with disabilities have access to activities.
- Environmental sustainability will be assessed, favouring proposals that incorporate eco-friendly practices.



6. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- **Grant Amount:** Up to €55,000 per selected heritage organisation, based on a detailed budget submitted with the application.
- **Number of Grants:** More than 16 grants will be awarded across the six project countries.
- **Payment Structure:** Grants will be disbursed in instalments, subject to milestone-based progress and financial reviews to ensure compliance with project objectives.
- **Budget Assessment:** The indicative grant amount will be calculated based on the submitted budget, assessed for cost-effectiveness and plausibility. Final payments will reflect eligible costs incurred.
- **Additional Support**
 1. Selected organisations will participate in capacity-building workshops on gender equality, environmental sustainability, and project management.
 2. The Goethe-Institut will provide logistical and technical support, including access to experts and networks to enhance project implementation.

ELIGIBLE COSTS	INELIGIBLE COSTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project staff costs• Event organisation (retreats, presentations)• Co-production funding travel• Accommodation• Outreach activities• Costs related to accessibility (eg. adaptation for persons with disabilities)• Environmental sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Debt repayments: Costs for paying off existing debts• Purchase of land or building• Currency exchange losses• Seed funding or initial capital used to launch a new business• Costs of related to raising additional funds and other fundraising activities• Organisation operational costs and activities not directly linked to the projects• Salary top-ups• Costs not incurred during the project implementation period• Purchase of alcohol

7. APPLICATION PROCESS

Submission Platform: Applications must be submitted via the Goethe-Application Portal (GAP) at [Goethe Application Portal](#).

The GAP ensures a transparent, user-friendly process compliant with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) data security standards.

Application Requirements:

- **Organisational Profile:** Legal registration details, proof of non-profit status, and a brief overview of the organisation's heritage-related activities (max. 500 words).
- **Heritage Description:** Description of the tangible or intangible heritage site/practice managed or represented, including its cultural significance and contemporary relevance (max. 1,000 words).
- **Proposed Themes:** Preliminary ideas for heritage topics, themes, or stories to be developed into narratives, and their potential for interdisciplinary artistic expression (max. 1,000 words).
- **Collaboration Plan:** Motivation and strategy for working with artists/creatives, including any interest in involving European perspectives (max. 500 words).
- **Outreach Strategy:** Plan for local presentation events and community engagement, including measures for gender equality, inclusion, and environmental sustainability (max. 500 words).
- **Budget:** Detailed budget outlining costs for cluster management, events, co-productions, and outreach activities, ensuring cost-effectiveness (template provided in GAP).
- **Website and/or social media:** Links to- website and/or social media.

Supporting documents

- I. Proof of legal registration of Heritage Organisation
- II. Copy of official National ID document of primary representative
- III. Copy of official National ID document of secondary representative
- IV. Financial statements last 2 years (Unaudited financial statements accepted)
- V. Proof of heritage work (portfolio or document showcasing past and current heritage-related activities)
- VI. Proof of capacity (document detailing infrastructure, workspaces, etc., including photos of facilities, equipment and accommodation)
- VII. Proof of Bank Account (Bank confirmation letter or bank statement in the name of the heritage organisation)
- VIII. Tax compliance certificate
- IX. Self-Declaration (provided in GAP)
- X. Two Reference Letters (from project partners your organisation has previously worked with).



Timeline:

- **Call Publication:** 30 July 2025
- **Application Deadline:** 10 September 2025
- **Evaluation and Selection:** 11 - 24 September 2025
- **Notification and Contracting:** October 2025
- **Project Activities Start:** November 2025
- **Project Activities End:** 31 May 2027

Evaluation Process:

- Applications will be reviewed by an independent jury of cultural and heritage experts, ensuring transparency, non-discrimination, and equal treatment
- Applicants will be notified of outcomes via GAP.
- Organisations can only submit one application. In the case that two applications are submitted, only the first one submitted will be evaluated.

8. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Applicants are required to integrate the following principles into their proposals, aligning with the project's human rights-based approach:

- **Gender Equality:** Aim for 50% participation of women and women's narratives in project teams and activities. Include measures to support female applicants (e.g., family-friendly retreats)
- **Inclusion:** Ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities through budget allocations for adaptations and support for mobility needs.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** Ensure environmental sustainability and address environmental themes in narratives where relevant.
- **Human Rights:** Adhere to principles of transparency, non-discrimination, and meaningful community participation, ensuring local voices shape the narratives.



9. SUPPORT AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Application Support:

- FAQs are available on the [Goethe-Institut Johannesburg website](#).
- A capacity-building workshop will be provided post-selection to clarify contractual obligations, including standards on integrity, non-discrimination, sustainability, narrative reporting, and financial administration.

Contact:

Goethe-Institut Johannesburg:

eup-ssa@goethe.de

GAP Platform Support - (for technical problems):

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Website: [Goethe-Institut Südafrika](#)



10. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Project Context:** The project is part of a broader EU initiative to foster EU-Africa and intra-Africa cultural cooperation, with a focus on lesser-known heritage to promote diversity and dialogue. It complements the UNESCO sub-component of the Southern Africa programme, enhancing synergies in heritage promotion.
- **Next Steps:** Selected organisations will participate in Entanglement Workshops to explore heritage narratives and inform the artists/creatives call for proposals.
- **Future Opportunities:** Grantees may apply for additional audience development grants (e.g., for traveling festivals or international mobilities) in later project phases.

11. EXCLUSION

The following organisations are excluded from this call for proposals:

- Organisations in formal operation (formally registered) for less than two years.
- Organisations on the European Union sanctions list.



