

Project subsidy

1 WHAT?

A project subsidy provides support to all kinds of initiatives that are **restricted in terms of time and objective**. This can be both the creation and spreading of a performance and a two-yearly start of the operation, for instance of a management office.

Projects may include both **short-term and long-term projects**, with a maximum of 3 years.

The work visits, creation tasks, non-periodical publications, international projects and the translation of non-periodical publications that were labelled as a separate group in the old Art Flemish Parliament Act of 2004, shall all come under the heading 'project subsidies'.

2 WHO WHO CAN SUBMIT AN APPLICATION?

Projects can be applied for both by **individual beneficiaries** and **legal persons**. So this may imply artists, designers (planners, architects ...), arts organisations, galleries, mediators, management offices, etc.

Artists must not necessarily have the Belgian nationality; however, there must be some involvement in the art scene within the Flemish Community.

Foreign organisations shall also have the possibility to submit a project application if there is a link with the Flemish Community. Moreover, the project shall always be linked to a presentation. Example: a foreign festival which programs an organisation located in Flanders thus has a link with Flanders and shall assume the function 'presentation'.

The Flemish Parliament Act supports **professional** arts. 'Being active at a professional level' shall be evaluated per dossier.

Organisations receiving operating grants which equal or are higher than **300,000 EUR** shall no longer be eligible for additional project subsidies. They are supposed to provide budgetary room in their planning for unexpected opportunities and risks.

3 WHICH FUNCTIONS ARE ELIGIBLE?

Project subsidies can be applied for for all functions, i.e. '**development**', '**production**', '**presentation**', '**participation**' or '**reflection**', or for every combination of these functions. In other words, project subsidies cover a broad range of functions.

4 SUBMISSION DEADLINES

There are **three submission deadlines** per year for projects, namely:

- 15 September
- 15 January
- 15 May

5 WHICH ARE THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR MY APPLICATION?

A dossier must satisfy **five criteria**, namely:

1. quality of the concept in terms of content and practical implementation

This criterion is specified per function. (go to item 6) The aim of this function-specific implementation is to guarantee, among other things, a tailor-made evaluation.

2. quality of business management

- compliance of artistic planning with business planning
- a feasible and realistic budget
- focus on a correct allowance for artists

3. positioning and collaboration

4. national and/or international significance

5. if applicable, further specification of the criteria by the Government of Flanders.

The Government of Flanders can lay down further criteria. This will not be the case during this legislation.

6 KWALITEITSCRITERIA PROJECTSUBSIDIES - PER FUNCTIE

The criterion '**quality of the concept in terms of content and practical implementation**' is specified per function.

1° for the function 'development' :

- quality of the artistic research and experiment
- contribution to the development of the artist's pathway

On the basis of this criterion, an assessment is made of the quality of an artistic research and experiment and of the contribution of the project to the development of the artist's or the organisation's pathway. Research and experiment lead to new content or a deepening of content and breathes life into the artist's or organisation's pathway.

2° for the function 'production' :

- quality of the creation and production process

- quality of the artistic result
- vision on distribution and public outreach activities.

The produced artistic result must be opened up to an audience. That is why it is essential to examine the presentation possibilities and to develop a vision on distribution and public outreach. You need not take up a presentation function yourself.

3° for the function ‘presentation’:

- quality of the presented artistic result
- quality of the presentation context
- vision on and content of public outreach activities.

Not only the quality of the programme or the presented artistic result (what), but also the quality of the context of the presentation shall be assessed. For instance, is there an appropriate presentation space, a specific way of presenting, an appropriate format, framework, scenography, etc.?

The vision on the relationship with the audience is also assessed. In order to bring the programme into contact with an audience, focus shall be on attracting visitors and on public outreach activities. Attracting visitors refers to the target group policy, the communication plan of the project. Public outreach activities refer for instance to the support of the programme through lectures, guided tours, introductions, etc.

4° for the function ‘participation’:

- quality of the participatory concepts and methods
- quality of the process guidance
- involvement of participants.

An important precondition for a qualitative participative concept is the coaching by one or more professional artists. This coaching can possibly be provided in cooperation with educational, cultural or social workers. Central focus shall be on active participation of the target group or the participants. They shall (possibly) be involved in the elaboration or realisation and evaluation of projects or activities. The quality of this participation process can be checked, for instance, against the innovative character or the added value for the field.

5° for the function ‘reflection’:

- quality of the reflection on the art(istic) (practice) and/or the arts field, insofar as there is an involvement with the arts field in the Dutch language area and/or in the bilingual area of Brussels-Capital;
- quality of the way in which the reflection is made accessible.

The reflection must always have content regarding arts, culture and/or arts criticism as its object. Reflection shall contribute to the knowledge on (the developments of) art or the arts field and can feed and reinforce the discussion about the subject. The results shall always be made accessible to an interested audience in a qualitative manner. This can be realised in many ways, such as through (online) publications, workshops, lectures, debates etc.