



wales arts international
celfyddydau rhyngwladol cymru

Connect – European Networks Fund

October 2019



Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru
Arts Council of Wales



Noddir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
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Wales Arts International is launching a new fund to support individual creative practitioners and arts organisations based in Wales to engage with European networks.

Purpose of the fund:

The purpose of **Connect** is to support the arts sector in Wales to develop, maintain and strengthen their long-term links with key strategic networks in Europe.

As an individual or as an organisation, membership of an international network can bring multiple benefits. Most European networks are open to members from outside the EU. They are a place to meet and share ideas with peers; to collaborate, learn, exchange and many lead to future international collaborations and partnerships.

Networks can also be informal, with artists and organisations developing their own personal networks of collaborators and peers across Europe and the world, either through participation in residencies, in festivals and international projects.

One of the five main ambitions of our international strategy, [Wales Arts: a bridge to the world](#), is to redefine our relationship with Europe. It's a crucial time to renew our relationships with key networks; as well as develop new ones with partners across the continent. This is what the **Connect** fund will support.

Connect is part of a wider Welsh Government initiative, whose focus is looking at future relations with European regions, nations and networks beyond Brexit.

Fund priorities

Connect funding will prioritise **attendance at and participation in an event organised by one of the established European networks** (typically an annual meeting/conference). This can be a network you are a member of, or one you are looking to join. [See Creative Europe Desk UK for a list of key European networks](#) (not exhaustive).

We will also consider supporting applications for attendance at a meeting or event organised by an informal European network of collaborating individuals or organisations that you are an active member of or are looking to work with. In this case you will need to demonstrate the value of the network and its long-term commitments or ambitions.

Applications can be submitted to more than one event if there is clear rationale and accumulative benefits.

What are we looking for?

- Evidence of your track record, your willingness to engage internationally, your approach and readiness to develop existing and new networks for your work, as well as the need for our support.
- Clear objectives, rationale and plan for attending the chosen event(s), noting how your attendance will help to develop your European networks and future professional opportunities.
- Evidence that the network and event has a significant European and international content, profile and reputation.
- If you are already a member of a network, show how this funding will enhance or strengthen your membership
- If you are not yet a member of the network, show your plans or commitment to join the network
- If you are applying to take a delegation, how you will select delegates
- Your ability to act as an ambassador for the sector you represent in Wales.
- Your willingness to use the experience and knowledge gained to help develop international networks for the sector you represent back in Wales.

We are looking to support a balance between creative professionals and arts organisations; and across events taking place up until **31 October 2020**. We are unlikely to offer more than 5 awards for the same event.

We are unable to support:

- Events which have already taken place
- Events which will take place after 31 October 2020.
- Events that do not have a significant international focus, either in its programme or through its delegates
- Events that take place within the UK or outside of Europe.
- The full costs of attendance.

- Marketing materials.
- Presentation of artistic work, other than short pitch sessions.
- Participation in or attendance at competitive events.

Who can apply:

Arts organisations and individual creative professionals based in Wales. See our help notes for more detailed information on eligibility criteria and required bank information.

Applicants can also apply to lead a small delegation of up to 5 individuals from their sector. If you are planning to take a delegation, it should be to attend an event linked to a network you are already a member of or that you can demonstrate strong links with.

This is an additional funding opportunity, so applicants with live Wales Arts International or Arts Council of Wales lottery awards will be eligible to apply to this fund.

How much can you apply for?

1. Delegate costs

You can apply for a maximum of £1,000 per delegate for up to 75% of the costs of **travel, accommodation, per diems and registration costs or entrance tickets** to attend a single European network event.

2. Coordination costs

If you are submitting an application to lead a delegation visit, you can apply for a **contribution to coordination costs**. This is in addition to the delegate costs.

3. Membership costs

You can apply for **up to 50% of the annual membership costs** for the first 2 years if you wish to join a European network. This is in addition to the delegate costs.

4. Access costs

You can also apply for access support costs for you, or anyone directly involved in developing and delivering your project.

When to apply:

The Connect fund will be open for applications until **15 March 2020** or whilst funds are available. You can make an application at any time. You must submit your application at

least 5 weeks before your date of travel. *Exceptions may be made for events or visits taking place during November 2019. Get in touch to see if we can fast track an application.*

Making an application

Before starting an online application, you must contact the Wales Arts International team to check that you and your proposal are eligible.

If you have any access needs and are considering submitting an application, we can help to make sure that you're supported during the application process. Please get in touch with the Wales Arts International team to discuss how we can help.

Please refer to the notes below when filling in the application form:

Fill in the fields in the 'About Your Project' tab with the following information:

Which Scheme: WAI Strategic Grant

Project Title: Connect [+ name of event/network]

In the 'Attachments' section, attach a **project proposal** of not more than 1000 words which includes the following information:

- Name, dates and web link to the network event(s), including any relevant information about the international content of the event or visit.
- Why participating in the network is relevant to your artistic and strategic ambitions, specifically your mid and long-term international plans?
- What are your objectives for attending the event(s) / for the visit(s) and what do you expect to gain?
 - If you are existing members of a network, describe how you will build on your previous engagement or visit.
 - If you are looking to become a member of a network, describe why this particular network is significant for you or the organisation you represent
- If you are applying to lead a delegation, you must clearly explain how you will select the delegates you take and offer new international experiences for emerging creative professionals
- If you are proposing to attend a series of events, please describe your rationale and the potential accumulative benefits.

- How will you evaluate the impact of the funding?

You will also be required to attach the following documents:

- A budget detailing:
 - delegate costs (travel, accommodation, per diems, registration costs). You should show how you will cover the remaining 25% of the costs.
 - Coordination costs (if applicable)
 - Membership costs (if applicable)
 - Access costs (if applicable)
- A CV for each delegate

What happens next?

Applicants will be notified of a decision within 4 working weeks of submission of the application. If your application is successful, you will be required to fill in a completion report and return it to us within 30 days of the end date of your visit.

Please contact the WAI team should you have any enquiries on:
029 2044 1300 or info@wai.org.uk

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