



Funded by
the European Union
Avrupa Birliđi tarafından
finanse edilmektedir



ORTAKLAřA
KÜLTÜR, DİYALOG VE DESTEK PROGRAMI



For further information: ortaklasa.iksv.org
For images: www.iksvphoto.com/album/cgsghr8s

The Ortaklařa EU-Türkiye Cultural Partnership Call for Proposals is now open.

ORTAKLAřA GRANT SUPPORT FOR CULTURAL COOPERATION BETWEEN CITIES IN TÜRKİYE AND EUROPE

The EU-Türkiye Cultural Partnership Call for Proposals under the Ortaklařa: Culture, Dialogue and Support Programme opened on 17 September 2026. The call will help foster arts and culture-based cooperation networks among cities in Türkiye and Europe.

The Ortaklařa EU-Türkiye Cultural Partnership Call for Proposals will provide a total of **890,000 euros** in grant support for projects that aim to rethink cultural policies through an approach extending from local level to international cooperation, and support cultural and artistic production by developing fair cooperation between municipalities and civil society organisations (CSOs). Ortaklařa: Culture, Dialogue and Support Programme is carried out by the Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (İKSİV) with the support of the European Union (EU), in partnership with Culture Action Europe (CAE) and in association with the Marmara Municipalities Union (MMU).

Under the call, culture-oriented organisations from Türkiye will serve as lead applicants, with equivalent organisations from **EU member states** and the eligible countries of **Albania, Iceland, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Kosovo and Serbia** participating as project partners. Projects are required to be developed through the cooperation of four institutions including one municipality from Türkiye and one from the above-mentioned countries as associates, as well as two CSOs, one operating in each of the collaborating countries. Aiming to encourage cross-border exchange of knowledge and sustainable cooperation, the call will support projects with budgets ranging from 60,000 euros to 120,000 euros. **The submission deadline is 18 December 2026.**

Online information sessions will be held on 28 September and 15 October 2026 to introduce the call's objectives, partnership structure, eligibility conditions and application process. Details and registration forms will be announced through Ortaklařa's website and social media accounts.

Ortaklařa's local cooperation model expands to Europe

The participatory and fair cooperation model developed between arts and culture organisations and municipalities in Türkiye during Ortaklařa's first phase is being extended to European level in the new phase in partnership with **Culture Action Europe (CAE)**. As one of Europe's largest cultural networks, CAE contributes not only its international reach but also its experience in cultural rights, participatory governance and fair cultural cooperation.

The Ortaklařa EU-Türkiye Cultural Partnership Call for Proposals will bring together the local knowledge and experience of arts and culture organisations and municipalities in Türkiye and Europe through equal partnerships. The aim is for these collaborations to move beyond one-off projects and develop into lasting relationships grounded in mutual learning, co-production and shared responsibility. Supported projects will broaden their impact through Ortaklařa's mentorship and advocacy activities and CAE's connections to cultural networks across Europe.

EU-Türkiye Partnership Structure

Within the scope of this call, applications are expected to be submitted through a four-institution cooperation structure consisting of:

- A culture-oriented CSO based in Türkiye as the lead applicant,
- A culture-oriented CSO based in an EU member state or eligible country (Albania, Iceland, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Kosovo or Serbia) as the partner,
- One municipality from Türkiye and one municipality from an EU member state or eligible country (Albania, Iceland, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Kosovo or Serbia) as associates.

Grant support may cover between 70% and 95% of the projects' total eligible costs. Details on application requirements, eligibility criteria and the evaluation process are provided in the [Guideline for Grant Applications](#).

About Ortaklaşa

Developing fair cooperation models between civil society organisations (CSOs) and municipalities, Ortaklaşa enters its second phase by combining sub-grant support with mentorship, community building and advocacy. The 2026–2029 period aims to support projects while translating its accumulated experience into sustainable cultural policies.

With the partnership of Culture Action Europe (CAE), the new phase gains an international dimension and is expected to provide up to 1.9 million euros in sub-grant support to CSOs.

[The first Ortaklaşa Call for Proposals](#), which was carried out between 17 March and 18 May 2026, focused on cultural cooperation between CSOs and municipalities in Türkiye. The call received 147 applications from 43 cities across the country. Following the evaluation process, four projects seeking to strengthen cultural life locally in Ayvalık (Balıkesir), Diyarbakır, Gürpınar (Van), and Osmangazi (Bursa) were awarded sub-grants. The current EU-Türkiye Cultural Partnership Call, launched on 17 September 2026, will support partnerships developed by CSOs and municipalities in Türkiye with arts and culture organisations and municipalities in Europe. The final Ortaklaşa Call for Proposals will open in spring 2027.

The supported projects will also receive mentorship. The experiences garnered from these local practices and the resulting Ortaklaşa Community will form the basis for advocacies in cultural policy.

A new meeting point: The Ortaklaşa Community

One of the key innovations of the second phase, the Ortaklaşa Community brings together cultural professionals, municipalities and civil society representatives from Türkiye and Europe in a lasting network. It is designed as a space for learning, exchange, co-production and cooperation shaped by local needs.

Cooperation strengthened through mentorship

In this phase, Ortaklaşa is deepening cooperation between civil society and local governments through mentorship. Designed to accompany grant recipients throughout project implementation and help their projects achieve their intended impact, the programme will provide project teams with a minimum of 15 mentorship sessions. Led by experienced professionals from different fields of arts and culture, the mentorship will support CSO and municipal representatives in making concrete progress in cultural policy and cultural management in line with the specific needs of each project, while gaining a broader perspective and access to new networks.

From the local to decision-making centres: Advocacy

Data generated through local practices and community activities will guide Ortaklaşa's advocacy work. Needs identified through direct experience will be brought to the attention of policymakers in capital cities such as Ankara and Brussels. Through the partnership with CAE, local cooperation will connect with European networks and contribute to international exchange and learning.

Sustainable dialogue and a rights-based approach

The new phase, which began in January 2026, aims to establish lasting channels of dialogue between municipalities and CSOs and promote rights-based local cultural policies. Learning from practice and continually evolving, Ortaklaşa continues to strengthen cultural ties between Türkiye and Europe.

Ortaklaşa 2023–2026

During its first phase, Ortaklaşa: Culture, Dialogue and Support Programme offered a model for how the cultural ecosystem can be transformed through fair cooperation. Drawing on this experience, the programme established a lasting body of knowledge for the development of local cultural policies in Türkiye.

The first phase in numbers

- **Broad participation:** A total of 252 project applications were received from 44 cities, with metropolitan, provincial and district municipalities participating as partners.
- **Sub-grant support:** A total of EUR 1.3 million in sub-grant support was provided to 13 projects implemented through partnerships between 13 CSOs and 18 municipalities.
- **Publications:** The projects organised 16 workshops and shared 18 publications and documents, including research reports and guidelines.
- **Cultural impact:** Six venues were transformed and reopened for use, while biennials, festivals and exhibitions brought approximately 50,000 people together through arts and cultural activities.
- **Dialogue:** A total of 6,000 kilometres were travelled for research conducted in 12 cities. Local cultural policies were discussed for more than 130 hours through regional meetings and learning programmes.

For more information: ortaklasa.iksv.org

Follow Ortaklaşa's social media accounts for the latest updates:

Instagram: www.instagram.com/ortaklasa_iksv/

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/ortaklasa

For enquiries: medya@iksv.org, ortaklasa@iksv.org