



Norwegian partner search in Cultural Cooperation projects in the EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021

In order to get the best results from your search for partners for the EEA and Norway Grants, the Arts Council Norway recommends completing the following form. The text boxes that make up the form are based on feedback that we have received from Norwegian cultural players. Tailoring the information to the potential partner/potential partner type as opposed to sending a generic request, always yields the best results. The form can be used for partnership requests sent directly to identified, potential partners, as well as those sent to the Arts Council Norway eeagrants@kulturradet.no and Programme Operators. It can also be used for Norwegian entities seeking partners in the Beneficiary States.

This form will be published on our website.

Name of organisation	Municipality of Smolyan
Country	Bulgaria
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Your organisation Describe the type of organisation and include a good description of your own areas of activity/fields (Visual arts, Performing arts, Interdisciplinary art, Music, Architecture, Library activities, Ethnic culture, Literature, Culture and art education, Museum and gallery activities).	Smolyan Municipality is a local authority responsible for all spheres of local development including culture and cultural activities. The buildings of the regional cultural institutes – museum, library, art gallery on its territory are municipal property. Location: Smolyan Municipality is situated in the most southern parts of the country, in the heart of the Rhodope Mountains. It occupies a peripheral geographical position with respect to the borders of the country and has the potential to develop and deepen cross-border relations with the Hellenic Republic. Smolyan is 250 km away from the capital Sofia and 100 km from the second largest city in the country - Plovdiv. Only 55 km. from
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Smolyan is situated the cross-border check point with Greece (Zlatograd-Thermes). Smolyan Municipality is experiencing serious challenges in terms of economic development, because of the impact of factors such as border mountainous geography. In the same time Smolyan Municipality is an important commercial and tourist center and occupies a leading position in the economy of the area.

The interaction of nature and human intervention has formed numerous cultural landscapes in the municipality. Here are many cultural values - tangible and intangible evidence of human presence and activity of high scientific and cultural value. The cultural heritage in the municipality of Smolyan is represented by archaeological, historical, architectural-construction, artistic and ethnographic sites and complexes, as well as by natural values, folk traditions and customs. The intangible cultural heritage in the municipality is represented by folk traditions, folklore and customs.

The Regional History Museum "Stoyo Shishkov" in Smolyan keeps the substantial memory of the inhabitants of the highest parts of the mountain during different historical periods. The museum is among The Hundred National Tourist Sites. www.museumsmolyan.eu.

The fund of the Art Gallery in Smolyan consists of about 2,000 works by Bulgarian and foreign authors, presented in different genres of painting, graphics and sculptures. www.artgallery-smolyan.com.

The Regional Library "Nikolai Vranchev" is the largest modern informational, educational, cultural center in the Middle Rhodopes, librarian center directing national and local documentary flow towards the users from the town and the region. The book-stock numbers 232 000-library units. www.librarysm.com.

Smolyan Municipality has extensive experience in project implementation and management (over 30 completed projects), financed by Structural and Cohesion Funds, EEA FM and other programs.

One of the main activities of the municipal administration is the implementation of the Cultural Calendar of the municipality of Smolyan. The various cultural activities organized by the



	Municipality of Smolyan are carried out individually or in cooperation with the cultural institutes and community centers in the city and the municipality, aiming at creating a high quality cultural product and spreading cultural values among a wide range of consumer groups.
<p>Project idea</p> <p>Provide a brief description of the project idea, what you want to achieve and how you plan to achieve it. Ideally the idea should give an idea of what is planned, but be open enough for the partner to influence.</p>	The project proposal of Smolyan Municipality envisages digitalization services of cultural heritage value items for the first time performed by the Regional History Museum, the Regional Library and the Art Gallery in Smolyan, and also implementation of activities providing different forms of public access to the digitized objects. For the realization of the project, we plan the supply of necessary devices and equipment, software and software products, organization of training of the experts involved in the digitalization process, publicity and information activities.
<p>Relevance of potential partner:</p> <p>Based on your research show why you have identified this particular potential partner is relevant, for example does the organisational type match, similar or complementary experiences, etc.</p> <p>If you have not identified a specific potential partner, try to describe the type of organisation you are looking for. Try to be specific and to link it to your areas of activity, project idea and the role of the partner.</p>	The potential partners for this project proposal could be cultural institutes and organisation with an experience in the digitalisation of cultural heritage and the popularisation of it with the digital exhibitions, on-line platforms or other.
<p>Partner role:</p> <p>What role do you foresee the partner as having in the project? What value do you feel the partner can contribute to the project?</p>	Exchange of good practise and experience in the sphere of the digitalisation of cultural heritage and the popularisation of it with the digital exhibitions, on-line platforms or other.
<p>Any other comments/ relevant information</p>	<p>The deadline for submission of project proposals is 16 June 2021.</p> <p>We would like to invite potential partners to contact us as soon as possible.</p>

