



Engaging Eastern Europe and Central Asia into XXII International AIDS Conference in Amsterdam in 2018 (AIDS2018)

CULTURE FUND

Background

AFEW International with the support of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs implements a range of activities to empower CBOs, NGOs, activists, policy makers, stakeholders, researchers and clinicians from Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) region to take part in the XXII International AIDS Conference 2018 in Amsterdam (AIDS2018).

<http://www.aids2018.org/>

One of the strategies to engage the EECA region into AIDS2018 is organizing a Culture Fund for providing support to all sorts of cultural materials and exhibitions to address stigma and discrimination related to HIV, diversity and other related issues in general, and particularly in the EECA region.

Objectives of the Culture Fund

The objectives of the Culture Fund are through the means of arts and culture to attract attention of the Dutch people and international community of policy makers, donors, stakeholders, researchers and clinicians who will visit AIDS2018, to the issues, challenges and achievement of the EECA region in response to AIDS Epidemic.

Why?

International AIDS Conference is the largest conference on any global health or development issue. First convened during the peak of the AIDS epidemic in 1985, this conference continues to provide a unique forum for the intersection of science and advocacy, and an opportunity to strengthen policies and programmes to ensure an evidence-based response to the epidemic. The conference also serves as a focal point to intensify political and financial commitments to AIDS. It gathers thousands of delegates from all over the world. Unfortunately delegates from EECA region were always disproportionately underrepresented at the AIDS conferences since its start. And this should be changed especially since EECA region is the only region in the world where AIDS epidemic is still on the rise. The AIDS2018 is going to bring this region to the spotlight.

There are several barriers for the delegates from EECA region to participation in the AIDS conferences: lack of skills on scientific writing and abstract development, costs of participation, language barrier, and quite low interest of the region to the Conference in general.

With our project, we address these barriers, and the Culture Fund can become a specific means to motivate arts and culture communities in the EECA region to attend the conference and thus attract attention of diverse groups of conference visitors including Dutch public to the EECA region and the current state of the AIDS epidemic and response to it.

What do we need

We will form a Think Tank of talented and motivated people who will help us to:

- develop Culture Fund Concept;
- create detailed planning which will identify number of potential recipients of the funds for developing arts and culture pieces;
- determine criteria for selection of the ideas and initiatives submitted; develop management structure; describe activities and climax event(s);
- plan for evaluation;
- join coordination group to make it work.

We invite Dutch students to join our Task Force. For that we issue a call for crazy ideas for "Culture Fund for Eastern Europe and Central Asia at AIDS2018."

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We expect to receive a A4 Letter with your vision of the Culture Fund by the **18th of April**. Send your submissions to: info@afew.nl

Please include the following:

- What is your vision on the Culture Fund (whom to invite for participation, what type of arts to be submitted, already existed pieces or to be newly created; and how many?)
- What is your vision of the final Climax event (when, where, who to involve, who to perform & present both the participants of the Culture Fund and (possibly) interesting public figures.)
- suggestions for the catchy name for the Culture Fund.

What you can gain:

If your vision and ideas for the Culture Fund wins, you will be suggested to join a Coordination team (part time paid work to organise and coordinate a Culture Fund activities) and if so, you'll

- *get a chance to implement your own ideas*
- *work with a team of passionate and committed members of AFEW International*
- *get experience of supervised project and grant management*
- *be able to explore the region of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, its beauty, culture, issues, and challenges*
- *connect and meet a lot of new people from difference countries*
- *be able to become a delegate of the AIDS2018*

What you need to know

1. The total Culture Fund is Euro 120.000 excluding administration and management.
2. The time frame is:
 - Announcement of the Culture Fund - Mid June 2017
 - Administration of the grants July – September 2017
 - Supervision and support to grantees September 2017 – May 2018
 - Planning of the Art & Culture Climax event(s) at AIDS2018 April – July 2018
3. You can develop ideas in a team of two and more people.
4. The selection of the ideas will be done by Experts of the AFEW International (three people) and an expert from the Art&Culture field.

Key principles and values

When creating your crazy ideas for Culture Fund concept please, keep in mind that we at *AFEW International* believe that:

- In many instances quality is more important than quantity.
- Innovations is our future.
- Diversity is beautiful.
- Human rights are for all people including for key populations.
- Without any prejudice, every single person is entitled for an access to prevention, treatment and care for major public health concerns such as HIV, TB, viral hepatitis, and sexual and reproductive health.
- Decreasing the stigma of HIV, AIDS, hepatitis and TB is key to reversing epidemics.
- Engaging communities from EECA and the Netherlands is crucial.
- Participatory approaches work.