

# **The Cultural Preservation Programme of the Federal Foreign Office**

## **Project promotion**

### **within the context of the Cultural Preservation Programme of the Federal Foreign Office**

Last updated in November 2025

Since 1981, the Federal Republic of Germany has supported the preservation of cultural heritage abroad via the Cultural Preservation Programme of the Federal Foreign Office.

#### **1. What can be promoted?**

##### **The Cultural Preservation Programme promotes projects**

- to preserve cultural heritage in countries eligible for public development cooperation (“ODA-conuntries”)
- to preserve German cultural heritage abroad, except in historic German settlement areas in eastern Europe (which is the responsibility of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Graurheindorfer Straße 198, 53117 Bonn, Mail: [HI9@bmi.bund.de](mailto:HI9@bmi.bund.de))

that meet one or more of the following goals:

- preserve and maintain cultural identity in partner countries,
- preserve outstanding tangible and intangible cultural heritage, not least where it is endangered by climate change, crises and conflicts,
- help to attain the global UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),
- promote knowledge and technology transfer in the field of cultural preservation,
- preserve German cultural heritage abroad.

##### **Measures might include**

- restoring and conserving historic objects,
- supporting the restoration and conservation of cultural and natural World Heritage sites,
- collecting and documenting oral traditions in music and literature,
- conserving and digitising historic manuscripts and film/audio archives, as well as data on cultural property,
- documenting endangered cultural heritage (through films, publications),
- providing basic and further training for restorers, archivists, museum experts and researchers,
- organising exhibitions and colloquia on cultural heritage.

Providing basic and further training (capacity building) as part of cultural preservation projects improves an application's chances of success.

## **No funding is provided for**

- excavations,
- purely academic research projects,
- projects which have already commenced or been completed.

## **2. Prerequisites for promotion**

### **2.1. Subsidiarity/securing of overall financing**

Grants from the Cultural Preservation Programme are to be applied for only after own resources and all other financing options by third parties (e.g. sponsors) have been exhausted. Overall financing has to be secured.

### **2.2. Project promotion**

Only projects, and not institutions, can receive funding.

### **2.3. Bilateral projects**

Priority is given to promoting projects that involve cooperation between partners from Germany and/or the host country, but not additional partners from third countries.

### **2.4. No double financing**

The cultural preservation project must not at the same time be receiving other sources of funding from the Federal Republic of Germany.

### **2.5. Limited projects**

As a rule, projects with a volume of between 20,000 and 100,000 euros are funded, which can be implemented within a calendar year if possible. Funding beyond one calendar year may exceptionally be applied for with appropriate and meaningful justification.

Depending on the adoption of the federal budget, a project is not expected to be approved before March of the following year. For this reason, the project duration per calendar year should not exceed 8-9 months.

It is also possible to apply for funding for a sub-project in the context of a larger project. Sub-projects should stand alone, be realisable separately and be clearly identifiable as a German contribution.

### **2.6. Agreement of the host country**

The host country must have agreed to the implementation of the project. This is particularly important if German applicants want to work in the host country concerned.

### **2.7. Applicant contributions**

Applicants should also, in principle, contribute to the project themselves, even if only in the form of equipment and services.

## **3. How to apply**

Applicants may be government agencies, non-governmental organisations or individuals abroad or in Germany.

You are advised to submit your application in good time so that any additional documents that may be required can be obtained before the deadline.

**a) For applicants abroad**

The application, including a project description, logframe and a detailed financing plan, if necessary broken down by calendar year, must have been submitted by applicants abroad

**at the latest by 31 August of the current year to be considered for the following year.**

Applications must be submitted to the competent German mission abroad (embassy or consulate general) in the host country.

Following examination, the competent mission abroad submits the application to the Federal Foreign Office, where a decision is taken in the course of a selection process.

If the project is approved, an agreement will be concluded with the German mission abroad.

**b) For applicants in Germany**

The application, including a project description, logframe and a detailed financing plan, if necessary broken down by calendar year, must have been submitted by applicants in Germany

**at the latest by 30 September of the current year to be considered for the following year.**

Applications must be submitted to the Federal Foreign Office (Division 613).

If the project is approved, a grant award document will be issued by the Federal Agency for Foreign Affairs (BfAA).