

# Call for Applications for the programme “Engage in dialogues” by the Agency for International Museum Cooperation

Version: April 2026

## Programme description

Engaging in international dialogue, broadening perspectives, learning together – these are the goals of our “Engage in dialogues” programme. We support exchange formats that connect museum professionals from Germany with colleagues around the world. In doing so, we open spaces for critical reflection and diverse viewpoints helping museums develop their practice through dialogue and strengthen the work of German museums internationally.

Museums reflect global questions through their collections and exhibitions. Equally important are the overarching practical challenges of international museum cooperation. Addressing these issues in a forward-looking way requires a perspective that extends beyond borders – as well as partnerships that have the potential to develop into joint exhibition projects.

Through your collaboration, you can provide impetus and demonstrate how museums can work internationally, collaboratively, and with social relevance. We fund workshops, working meetings, and training sessions that serve as a starting point for long-term partnerships and may lead prospectively to joint exhibition and presentation formats. At the heart of this lies shared dialogue: it creates the basis for future exhibitions, promotes knowledge exchange, and lays the foundation for partnerships that are internationally visible and effective.

This call is open to museums of all disciplines, exhibition venues with or without collections, and memorial sites in Germany, as well as their partner institutions worldwide that seek to advance international cooperation. We particularly welcome projects that bring together diverse perspectives, explore new forms of collaboration, and strengthen the visibility of German museums in international discourse.

## Who is the programme “Engage in dialogues” for?

The programme is directed at museums, exhibition venues, and memorial sites in Germany and abroad that wish to work with partner institutions worldwide to deepen their international engagement.

At least one partner institution based in Germany and one partner institution abroad must be actively involved in the cooperation. Both new initiatives and the continuation of existing partnerships are welcome. Either partner may submit the application.

## What is the goal of the programme?

We aim to create new opportunities for German museums to connect internationally. The programme funds exchange formats for museum professionals to discuss current issues in museum practice, reflect on existing approaches, develop and test new ones, and build or strengthen partnerships. The supported formats can serve as a starting point for further collaborations and may lead to joint exhibition projects and international presentations.

## What do we fund?

- Workshops, working meetings, and training sessions on current issues in museum work that promote the exchange of knowledge and lay the groundwork for joint presentation and exhibition formats, as well as the international positioning of German museums
- On-site events in partner countries as well as digital or hybrid formats

Do you already have an initial idea and are still in the exploration phase? Then please contact us before submitting your application – we are happy to support you!

# Funding guidelines

## 1. Purpose and objectives

Through the “Engage in dialogues” programme, the Agency for International Museum Cooperation (museum agency) supports dialogue-based formats enabling museum professionals in Germany and abroad to exchange ideas on current issues in museum practice, learn together, and initiate or deepen specific collaborations, that have the potential to develop into joint exhibition and presentation formats.

We fund workshops, working meetings, and training sessions that may take place on site or as digital or hybrid events. These focus on open and critical discussion, reflect on existing practices, and bring together diverse perspectives – with the goal of advancing museum practice through international dialogue, integrating the work of German museums into the discourse, and fostering specific partnerships.

Cooperation between more than two institutions is possible. At least one partner institution based in Germany and one partner institution abroad must be actively involved. Existing partnerships may be advantageous but are not required. The programme is also open to initiatives in very early stages, provided a clear shared working interest is evident.

## 2. Legal basis

Funding is provided in accordance with our funding guidelines, § 44 of the Bundeshaushaltsordnung (BHO, German Federal Budget Code), and the related administrative regulations (VV). The funding is provided by the German Federal Foreign Office on an expenditure basis and is subject to the supplementary provisions ANBest-P and ANBest-AA in their currently valid versions.

## 3. Purpose of funding

We fund workshops, working meetings, and training sessions on current issues in museum work that promote the exchange of knowledge and lay the groundwork for collaborative presentation and exhibition formats, as well as the international positioning of German museums. These can be on-site events in partner countries as well as digital or hybrid formats.

The following expenses incurred in the planning and implementation of workshops, working meetings, and training sessions are eligible for funding:

- Travel and accommodation expenses for participants in accordance with the Bundesreisekostengesetz (German Federal Travel Expenses Act)
- Fees and remuneration for external experts and moderators
- Publicity and documentation activities
- Venue rental and catering expenses during events
- External interpreting and translation services
- Visa, vaccination, and insurance expenses, if necessary and appropriate for project implementation

Not eligible for funding are:

- Personnel expenses
- Expenses for investments, construction measures, or acquisitions
- Expenses in connection with exhibition construction and exhibition openings

Project partners should use resources in an environmentally conscious and resource-efficient manner. If air travel is unavoidable, carbon offset expenses may be included in the budget and financing plan.

#### 4. Funding eligibility

Who can apply?

- Museums of all disciplines
- Exhibition venues with or without collections
- Memorial sites

Applications may be submitted by any eligible participating institution, whether in Germany or abroad, provided that at least one eligible partner institution based in Germany and one abroad are actively involved. Partnerships involving multiple institutions are expressly welcome.

Institutions with various legal forms (e.g. foundations, associations, public or private entities) are eligible to apply, provided that the institution is publicly accessible and contributes to society in a way that is not primarily profit-oriented. Applications from individuals cannot be considered under this programme.

#### 5. Type, scope, and amount of funding

- Funding is provided as project funding in the form of deficit-financing.

- In general, we support projects with funding amounts between 5,000 EUR and 25,000 EUR. We encourage applications for lower funding amounts.
- Applicants must contribute at least 10% of the total budget as own funds. This contribution can be made from institutional funds as well as third-party funds. Non-cash, in-kind contributions cannot be used to fulfil this share.
- Projects that receive other funding from the German Federal Foreign Office or its grantees are not eligible for support.
- Projects may not have already commenced at the time of application. However, new projects between already collaborating institutions are eligible.
- Funding is available for projects that begin no earlier than 1 January 2027 and are completed no later than 30 September 2027. Expenses can only be incurred after the funding period begins.
- Only stand-alone projects are eligible for funding. The budget and financing plan must show all expenditure related to the project. Individual measures are not eligible for funding.

## 6. Application process

Applications must be submitted via our application platform. After your registration, you have the opportunity to fill out, save, and submit the project proposal and budget and financing plan. The following documents must also be uploaded:

- Letter of Intent from the partner institutions who are not submitting the application
- Copy of your institution's official registration document (e.g. excerpt from the association, commercial, or foundation register, or excerpt from the relevant legislation or similar etc., depending on the legal form of the institution)
- If applicable, written confirmation of additional funding sources

Publication of the call:

15 April 2026

Application deadline:

31 August 2026 (18:00 CEST)

Notification of funding decision:

November 2026

Possible funding period:

1 January 2027 – 30 September 2027

## 7. Selection process and funding criteria

The selection process takes place in two stages. In the first stage, applications are formally reviewed. In the second stage, an independent, international jury evaluates the applications qualitatively according to defined funding criteria. Only complete applications submitted by the deadline can be considered.

Overview of funding criteria:

- **Relevance of the project in the context of international museum work**  
The project addresses current issues in international museum practice and develops new perspectives that connect to professional discourses.
- **Long-term impact and potential for future collaboration**  
The project establishes lasting connections between German and international partners, enhances mutual visibility in international discourse, and lays the groundwork for continued collaboration and the presentation of German museum work abroad.
- **New perspectives on collections, exhibitions, and museum practice**  
The project offers new perspectives on museum content and collections, engages diverse target groups, and reflects varied approaches to cultural heritage.
- **Feasibility**  
The project idea and concept, timeline, budget, and implementation expertise of those involved are coherent, transparent, and appropriate.
- **Quality of exchange and cooperation approach**  
The collaboration is equal, dialogue-based, and contributes to the development and strengthening of cross-border partnerships.

## 8. Use of funds and documentation

- Funds must be used for the approved purpose and in a resource-efficient, economical, and prudent manner.
- Recipients are required to submit a final report within six weeks after the end of the funding period.
- 10% of the funding amount will be paid only after successful review of the final report.

- The final report must include a factual summary, a financial statement including a list of receipts as well as a list of participants and photographic documentation.
- All publications must visibly display the note "Supported by the Agency for International Museum Cooperation with funds from the German Federal Foreign Office" along with the logo of the Agency for International Museum Cooperation.

To ensure transparency, all selected projects will be published on our website [www.museumsagentur.de](http://www.museumsagentur.de)

## 9. Validity of funding guidelines

These funding guidelines are valid from 15 April 2026. Revisions and updates may occur.

## 10. Processing and transfer of personal data

To process and evaluate applications and make funding decisions, the museum agency and the jury appointed by it must process and store personal data of the persons involved in the project. Furthermore, the museum agency is required, as part of its reporting obligations, to forward this data to its funding authority or to third parties commissioned by that authority for external auditing, if necessary. The legal basis for this data processing is Article 6 (1)(e) GDPR in conjunction with § 3 BDSG, as such processing is necessary for contract fulfilment.

## Contact

Do you have questions or would like to find out whether the  
“Engage in dialogues” programme suits your project?  
Get in touch – we look forward to speaking with you!

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