



A project to empower Syrian art in exile

Frequently Asked Questions



International Alert.

1. Questions on the application procedure and basic criteria

- How do I apply for the project?

You can apply by filling in the application form, available on www.ettijahat.org and sending it with the other required documents to applications@ettijahat.org

- What is the deadline for submission of applications?

Applications will be open from the 6 of November 2015 until the 16th of December 2015, midnight time in Beirut. No applications received after the deadline will be accepted.

- Who is allowed to apply?

All Syrian artists (as well as Palestinian-Syrians), including emerging artists with no experience, who are aged between 22 and 40 years old and are residing in Lebanon are allowed to apply.

- How many projects will be selected in each artistic field?

The grants will not be divided into categories of artistic fields, instead, all applications will be evaluated at once, side by side. 15 applicants will be selected to participate in the training phase, after which 10 projects will be selected for grants.

- Do we have to attend the training?

Yes. Attending the training events is a prerequisite for grant eligibility.

- If case my project is not selected, does my involvement with Create Syria end at that stage?

One of Create Syria's primary aims is the development of networks and encouragement of collaboration between Syrian artists. As such, Ettijahat. Independent Culture may suggest fusing two similar and/or complementary projects and integrating them into a single project, where both participants will work together to implement the project. Of course, this would take place only if both participants whole-heartedly agreed. All applicants who participated in training would be involved in every stage of the project.

- Is it possible to fill in the application form in a language other than Arabic?

No, but all the other annexes and documents can be submitted in different languages.

- Is it possible to submit more than one application to the project?

No. If an applicant submits more than one application, only one will be read and evaluated by the Selection Committee.

- Is the call open for artists from all nationalities?

No. The project is open to artists of Syrian nationality (or Palestinian-Syrian) only. Ettijahat. Independent culture encourages collaboration between Syrian artists and their peers of other nationalities. Projects which include such collaborations have better chances of being supported; of course under the condition that the other criteria are met as well.

- Am I allowed to apply if I'm residing outside Lebanon?

No, the call is only for Syrians (and Palestinian –Syrians) residing in Lebanon

- Am I allowed to apply for a project that would be implemented outside of Lebanon?

No.

- I have already completed a project which has been implemented; can I apply to Create Syria and repeat the project?

Projects which have already been implemented will not be accepted unless the repeated edition takes place in a different location, and the applicant agrees to develop the project concept according to Create Syria criteria. Repeated projects will be considered under this circumstance only.

- Am I allowed to apply with a project that is currently in progress?

Yes, only if you clearly explain which activities have been implemented so far and which ones would be implemented under Create Syria. Please include a clear time frame and budget with documents showing the other donors' support.

- Am I allowed to apply to the Create Syria project if I have previously received a grant from a different program / project organised by Ettijahat. Independent Culture?

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Ettijahat. Independent Culture aims to support as many different applicants as possible. As such, priority will be given to other applicants unless the project is of a particularly high artistic and participatory calibre.

- Is it possible to apply for a project with a budget that exceeds \$10,000 USD?

Yes, on the condition that the applicant/Project Manager provides documents, when applying to the grant, which prove his/her ability to secure the additional funds for the budget.

- **What is the duration of the project?**

The project must be completed within 6 months of acceptance, by the end of July 2016.

- **Will I receive a confirmation that you have received my application form?**

Yes, and if you don't receive an automatic response of reception, please re-send your application.

- **How are the projects selected?**

In order to be eligible, projects must include:

- an Application Form
- the applicant's CV
- a Motivation Letter
- the Organisation Portfolio (if the application is submitted on behalf of an organisation)
- a Letter of Recommendation
- a copy of the applicant's valid ID or passport
- a copy of the applicant's valid Lebanese Residency Permit
- Samples / a portfolio of previously implemented projects

Applications will be evaluated and selected by an anonymous, independent Selection Committee. The names of the members of the Selection Committee will be kept secret until the results are announced.

- **What would increase my chances of getting the grant from Create Syria?**

The project Create Syria aims to support artistic projects that realise collaboration between Syrian Artists and their Lebanese peers. The Selection Committee will evaluate all the eligible applications. Applications that include the following principles are preferred, and will therefore have a higher chance of being selected:

- Creativity and innovation
- Realistic ambition; the budget reflects the action plan, the location, and the team
- Participation; this includes integration between both displaced Syrians and members of the Lebanese hosting community.
- Collaboration; preferably between Syrian artists and their peers of other nationalities.
- Sustainability; projects which have potential for self-sustainability and would yield results on which other future projects could be founded.
- Strong representation of the principles behind Create Syria; in particular, the presence of dialogue and resilience as a clear component or themes of the project.

- **Will all applicants be notified of the results?**

Only the selected applicants will be notified. The results will be published on our website: www.ettijahat.org and on our [Facebook page](#).

2. Questions on project content and conceptual basics

- What are the principles behind Create Syria which ought to be reflected in all submitted projects?

Create Syria has adopted the following principles:

- **Conflict sensitivity** – this project will operate in a conflict-sensitive way, will mitigate for the unintended impacts of actions which could further polarise refugees and their host communities, and support progress towards peace and mutual respect in the region.
 - **Cultural sensitivity** – Syrian cultural and artistic expression will be encouraged and will remain at the heart of all activities. The project intends to use Syrian culture as a vector in time of crisis and displacement.
 - **Gender sensitivity** – gender plays a key role in the power dynamics of communities; an understanding of gender is therefore vital to this project’s ability to reach a diverse set of individuals including men, women, and other gender minorities.
 - **Sustainability** – by using the arts as a medium for expression, citizens (including refugees) are able to shift from a state of victimhood to a state of proactive action where, through the arts, they are able to pave the way their own futures.
 - **Dialogue as resilience** – a strategic process whereby people use the creative arts to engage in dialogue processes that enhance individual and collective resilience, as well as their capacities and inclinations to work together to improve the quality of their lives.
 - **Aesthetic quality** – the project and accompanying support intend to foster high quality artistic products and innovative techniques in bringing those products to wide audiences.
- Are artistic institutions, initiatives, and collectives allowed to apply?

Yes, all Syrian parties (institutions, initiatives, collectives, etc.) working in the independent cultural sector are allowed to apply for the project. These groups must apply through one Project Manager who will be responsible for the application and implementation of the project.

- What types of artistic projects will be supported within this project?

The project is open to all artistic fields with no exceptions, and Create Syria welcomes all projects which are outside normal and traditional frameworks. The project must involve residents of the refugee camps / refugees / displaced persons *and* members of host communities, help them to develop their artistic skills, and support cooperation and dialogue between them.

- I’d like to create a theatrical or musical group / band; can I apply to Create Syria?

Yes, as long as the proposed project adheres to the above principles.

- I'd like to produce a concert or theatrical performance. Does this comply with the project's selection criteria?

Yes, on the condition that the project involves refugee camp residents or displaced Syrians within multiple stages of the project, and that the concert or theatrical performance is the result of a longer work process. The more unconventional the project and the more it focuses on building the artistic skills of its participants and communicating the value of the arts, the higher its chances of selection.

- Is it possible to work with women and children outside the camps' grounds?

Yes, please specify the targeted group(s) (location, age, etc.) very clearly and ensure that your proposed participants are willing to participate in your project.

- Are participants limited to women and children?

Not at all, you can work with target groups of any gender(s) and age(s). Create Syria welcomes projects which promote collaboration between diverse social and age groups and which target marginalised groups.

- Who retains artistic and intellectual rights of the supported projects?

Participants retain full rights to the projects' products on the condition that participants stipulate that the project is supported by Create Syria. Ettijahat. Independent Culture, the British Council, and International Alert all retain the right to publicise and use any material from the applicant's project during and after the implementation phase.