Call & application form for support and/or funding to participate in the FEST project activities.

The FEST network received a CREATIVE EUROPE NETWORK grant to set up a series of storytelling activities in Europe.

The general aim of our project is to increase the number and improve the quality of storytelling events and activities in Europe, to develop the professional competences of the actors and stakeholders involved, to broaden the application field of storytelling and to establish a European structure for sharing and cooperation.

In order to achieve this we created a working plan for 4 years. This plan is approved by the European Commission and we are offered a grant of 80% of all costs to realise all plans. This grant comes on a yearly basis.

We are looking for organisations willing to cooperate with us and willing to organise storytelling events and activities that fit into the priorities and work plan of year 1 of our project (1 June 2017 – 31 May 2018).

Please send us your ideas and plans and budget by using this form by the 10th of September at the latest. The project team will evaluate the applications and select the most appropriate ones. These initiatives will be then supported by the project. This support will come in the form of e.g. storytellers, speakers or workshop leaders that will be made available for your event (travel, accommodation and fee covered by the project up to 80% max.)

The following selection criteria will be applied:

* The initiative is in line with the priorities of year 1 (see the different strands below) e.g. targeting the right target group, taking place in a priority country, tackling the right topic (heritage …)
* The organisation is able to cover a part of the costs (max. 10 – 30%)
* Reasonable budget
* The initiative must be new and be an addition to your regular activities
* The initiative should have more than a local exposure
* The initiative should promote the creation of a sustainable storytelling structure in the area
* The initiative should have regional or even national visibility (communication plan is attached)
* The initiative is a collaboration between at least two organisations (not necessarily FEST members). Initiatives with more partners are preferred.
* The initiative should support the objectives of the FEST network.

All applications will be dealt with during the project meeting (second half of September – beginning October). Result will be communicated as soon as possible after that meeting.  
This process will be repeated for year 2, 3 and 4.

**The FEST project is divided into different ‘strands’ covering different objectives.**

**Strand 1: Structural development of the Storytelling sector**

Aim for this strand: FEST wants to grow as a network by adding more countries and more and diverse organisations to the net. It also wants to improve the cooperation within the network and provide more services targeted to the needs of the sector and it wants to connect with related sectors.

*Open action: FEST can send (and pay for) up to 5 ‘ambassadors/storytellers’ as tellers and/or speakers to support the organization of a new storytelling initiative (conference, workshop, meeting …) in ‘underrepresented countries’ like RO, EE, LT, LV, BG, HR ….  
So: we are looking for candidates to organize such an event in one of these countries.*

**Strand 2: Enhancing the visibility of Storytelling as a performing art**

Aim for this strand: FEST wants to enhance the visibility and the recognition of Storytelling as a performing art, by developing marketing tools, by appointing storytelling curators, by linking up with other performing arts networks and initiatives, and by promoting and further develop the World Storytelling Day.

*Open action: FEST can send (and pay for) up to 8 storytellers to perform in ‘new venues’ or at other events (e.g. like existing folk festival).  
So: we are looking for candidates exploring contacts with other artistic sectors or new venues where a storyteller can be added to the programme.*

*Open action: FEST wants to offer visibility to World Storytelling Day initiatives by creating a dedicated WSD web page. This does not involve financial support of your WSD initiative.  
So: please send us your WSD plans. We would like to learn about your WSD initiatives and, in a later stage, collect the necessary information and publish them.*

**Strand 3: Professional development of storytellers**

Aim for this strand: FEST wants to contribute to the professional development of storytellers through the analysis of training needs, the development of a curriculum for training, residencies and performance opportunities for young storytellers and continued professional development (CPD) for established storytelling artists.

*Open action: FEST will pay (travel & accommodation) for 6 young storytellers attending an existing festival.  
So: we are looking for candidate festivals and candidate young storytellers.*

**Strand 4: Linking up with other art forms and digital media (NOT in year 1)**

Aim for this strand: FEST wants to promote and support the synergy between oral Storytelling and new media artists, in a co-creation process, as a new production and distribution method. This involves the provision of training for storytellers to use new technologies and opportunities for testing their innovative work with audiences. This may as well result in attracting new (young) audiences.

**Strand 5: Storytelling in other sectors in society**

Aim for this strand: FEST wants to promote and support the use of stories and storytelling techniques in different sectors of society: community work, work with immigrants, new comers and refugees, the socio-cultural sector, education and training, tourism and heritage, and raise the quality of the storytelling activities in these sectors by introducing professional storytellers and their competences. This will allow the storytellers to enhance their chances on the labour market and help them find new and/or sustainable sources of revenue.

Through the application of storytelling in other sectors, the FEST activities will have impact on fields and target groups beyond the network: and contribute to social inclusion. The use of storytelling with various social groups will lower the threshold and enhance access for these groups to culture.

*Open action: FEST can send (and pay for) up to 5 experts/storytellers specialized in the use of storytelling techniques with other target groups (e.g. refugees, immigrants, …) to give workshops to storytellers at national level.  
So: we are looking for candidates to organize a conference or workshop on one of these topics.   
We are also looking for storytellers/experts in this topic.*

**Strand 6: Raise the European dimension of Storytelling events and transnational cooperation in the sector**

Aim for this strand: FEST wants to increase transnational cooperation in the sector for artists and organizations. First of all FEST wants to increase international cooperation between the actors of the sector in order to find common solutions to the sector’s needs through European surveys, international conferences and training events. Secondly FEST wants to increase the number of international Storytelling performances. A third way to promote the European dimension is to link up with existing international and national Storytelling festivals and events and existing EU initiatives such as the European year of Cultural Heritage in 2018.

*Open action: FEST can send (and pay for) up to 5 storytellers for performances in the ‘non-FEST member countries’ like RO, EE, LT, BG, HR ….  
So: we are looking for candidates to organize a storytelling event in one of these countries.*

*Open action: promotion and support of storytelling initiatives related to heritage (storytelling training of tourists guides, narrative approaches to heritage interpretation …) and/or the European Year of Cultural Heritage.  
So: we are looking for candidates to take initiatives linking storytelling and heritage.*

**APPLICATION FORM**

This initiative concerns strand 1 2 3 5 6 (please circle)

**Your initiative/event:**

What are you planning?

How can FEST help you?

In case you would like to invite a storyteller, do you have some suggestions (names) or do you let the FEST committee decide on this? What kind of storyteller do you have in mind?

What budget do you envisage for this event?

What part of the budget can you cover yourself?

What will you do on communication and making the event visible (regional, national and/or international

How will the initiative support the objectives of the FEST network?

**Your expertise:**

In case you have useful expertise or knowledge in the context of the priorities and activities of year 1 please let us know.