



Norwegian partner search in Cultural Cooperation projects in the EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021

In order to get the best results from your search for partners for the EEA and Norway Grants, the Arts Council Norway recommends completing the following form. The text boxes that make up the form are based on feedback that we have received from Norwegian cultural players. Tailoring the information to the potential partner/potential partner type as opposed to sending a generic request, always yields the best results. The form can be used for partnership requests sent directly to identified, potential partners, as well as those sent to the Arts Council Norway eeagrants@kulturradet.no and Programme Operators. It can also be used for Norwegian entities seeking partners in the Beneficiary States.

This form will be published on our website.

Name of organisation	Center for Jewish-Bulgarian Cooperation "Alef"
Country	Bulgaria
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<p>Your organisation</p> <p>Describe the type of organisation and include a good description of your own areas of activity/fields (Visual arts, Performing arts, Interdisciplinary art, Music, Architecture, Library activities, Ethnic culture, Literature, Culture and art education, Museum and gallery activities).</p>	<p>Center for Jewish-Bulgarian Cooperation "Alef" is a non-governmental organization established in 2012 to help strengthen cultural ties between Bulgarians, Jews and other ethnic groups in Bulgaria. Through a purposeful acquaintance with cultural identities, "Alef" strives to achieve intercultural interaction and to oppose any form of xenophobia. The activity of "Alef" is diverse, aimed mainly at promoting the history, culture and traditions of the various ethnic groups inhabiting our country. The transfer of knowledge is aimed primarily at young people in an interesting interactive way, through a series of educational meetings, discussions, performances, concerts and film screenings.</p> <p>Among the most significant Alef's initiatives is the annual International Literary Youth Competition "Whoever saves one human life, saves the whole universe." So far, more than 1,500 young people from all over Europe and Israel have taken part in the eight editions of the competition.</p>
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The competition is supported by the Municipality of Burgas, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Embassy of the State of Israel in Sofia and other organizations. The awarded literary works from each competition are collected and published in a literary collection of short stories - printed edition, published on the website of the Association.

“Alef” carries out in-depth collecting and research work related to the life and manners of the ethnic minorities in our lands. Its efforts are also aimed at preserving the cultural and historical heritage, including material monuments. One of the main tasks of the Association is to keep the memory alive and thus to join the common efforts to build a modern tolerant multiethnic society. CJBC "Alef" has extensive experience in organizing and conducting public events and initiatives with the presence of many people of different ages and social status. In recent years, the Association has successfully implemented several projects with European and national funding.

In 2017, the project "Path of Legends" was successfully completed, ref. №CB005.1.23.107, under the Cross-border Cooperation Program INTERREG IPA CBC Bulgaria - Turkey 2014 - 2020. Within the project legends from the Bulgarian and Turkish part of Strandzha Mountain were collected, described and published in a specialized edition, a number of events were held, including the Festival of Legends, educational and promotional events to promote the cultural heritage of Strandzha Mountain. In 2020 - 2021 the achievement in this project was the upgrade through the project "Legends without borders", ref. №CB005.2.23.007, also funded by the Cross-border Cooperation Program INTERREG IPA CBC Bulgaria - Turkey 2014 - 2020. The aim of the project was to lay the foundations for the development of a new type of cultural and historical tourism in the region - the legendary tourism. The collected legends were connected with geographical places, three pilot cross-border legendary routes were developed, a tourist guide was published, a documentary film and an interactive organizer with a mobile application were made, performances in Bulgaria and Turkey were presented - recreations of Strandzha legends, tours, information days, etc.

“Alef” was implementing both projects in partnership with a Turkish NGO. In 2018, the “Sea of Words” project was implemented, funded by the Ministry of Culture within the Communication Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria for the European Union. 7 Hungarian writers and 14 Bulgarian ones gathered in Burgas and worked for several days. As a result, a total of 55 publications of literary works were realized. The creative exchange between them continues to this day.

In 2019, under a project of the District Administration in Burgas, “Alef” organized and conducted Themed evening "United in diversity". The purpose of the event, funded by the Communication Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria for the EU, was to acquaint the audience with the culture of different ethnic groups - the most direct path to understanding.

In 2021, an Erasmus + project was completed, implemented jointly with partners from Belgium, Austria, Greece and Cyprus. The project was focused on the integration of migrants and refugees in Europe by creating skills for intercultural interaction based on knowledge of the culture and different arts of different ethnic groups.



	<p>In all projects, Center "Alef" had a leading role as a beneficiary and coordinator.</p>
<p>Project idea</p> <p>Provide a brief description of the project idea, what you want to achieve and how you plan to achieve it. Ideally the idea should give an idea of what is planned, but be open enough for the partner to influence.</p>	<p>"Get to know to accept"</p> <p>The project "Get to know to accept" is based on the need for mutual knowledge and cultural dialogue between different ethnic groups as a step towards social cohesion. The activities are concentrated in the Burgas region, which due to its geographical location on the Black Sea coast is particularly attractive to the various ethnic groups that create its cultural diversity. All activities of the project are aimed at presenting the different cultures of their bearers, thus the process of getting to know is becoming bilateral - the different ethnic groups are both audience and performers. The focus will be on the Romani people, as the most vulnerable ethnic minority, but the Turks, Armenians, Jews, Greeks, as well as the recently settled Ukrainians, Russians and Chinese, will not be ignored.</p> <p>Within the project, a multi-genre performance "This is us" will be organized, in which representatives of ethnic groups - professionals and amateurs, will present the most characteristic performing arts for their ethnicity. Apart from Burgas, the concert is planned to take place in the smaller towns of Sredets and Straldzha.</p> <p>The "Ethno Detective" podcast will offer new tools for dialogue and exchange between different ethnic groups through the meaning of art, culture and the people who create them. It will give an interesting and more modern look at the various intercultural interactions. Ethno detectives will search for talented artists and talk to them, will look for cultural symbiosis, including in the life of interethnic families. The podcast will have 12 episodes and will be broadcast through a specially purchased YouTube channel and other platforms.</p> <p>The "Ethno Wikipedia Edit-a-thon" workshop will aim to update and publish Wikipedia articles within a week, which will enrich the content and promote the culture of the ethnic and cultural minorities in the country. The workshop will be conducted online and will introduce representatives of different ethnic groups or the people working with them with the system for uploading and modifying articles, as well as with the basic strategies for structuring and preparing texts and images.</p> <p>The printed brochure "Know about me" will be prepared in 8 different versions - 1 for each ethnic group. The brochure will present the culture, traditions, way of life, holidays and prominent personalities of each of the ethnic groups. The youngest will be included in the celebration of the International Mother Language Day - February 21. Children of all ethnicities will perform a favorite poem or song in their mother language, and the audience will follow the text translated into Bulgarian on paper.</p> <p>Two information events will promote the main objectives of the project: Seminar on the theme "Romani - a real cultural entity. The Norwegian integration experience" and a press conference with journalists.</p>



<p>Relevance of potential partner:</p> <p>Based on your research show why you have identified this particular potential partner is relevant, for example does the organisational type match, similar or complementary experiences, etc.</p> <p>If you have not identified a specific potential partner, try to describe the type of organisation you are looking for. Try to be specific and to link it to your areas of activity, project idea and the role of the partner.</p>	<p>Public or private organization, commercial or non-commercial organization, as well as non-governmental organization established as a legal entity in Norway, whose main activity is carried out in the cultural and creative sector.</p>
<p>Partner role:</p> <p>What role do you foresee the partner as having in the project? What value do you feel the partner can contribute to the project?</p>	<p>The partner will take part in all project activities and will implement at least one activity completely independently. It will help to achieve the set goals and the sustainability of the results. It will share the experience it has in Norway with the integration of minority groups.</p>
<p>Any other comments/ relevant information</p>	

