

Regulation for the selection session of cultural applications under the 2026 sponsorship programme and *Cantemir* cultural partnerships

Chapter I. General provisions

Art. 1. Under the *Cantemir Programme*, the Romanian Cultural Institute grants non-refundable sponsorships for cultural projects in the fields of visual arts and performing arts (plastic arts, decorative arts, science/research and architecture, design, new media, photography, performance, theatre, music, dance), within events organized exclusively abroad.

Art. 2. The granting of non-refundable sponsorships by *Cantemir* Programme is carried out based on selection of cultural offers, in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance no. 51 issued on August 11th 1998 regarding the improvement of the non-refundable sponsorship programme for cultural projects, as further amended and completed, and according to the provisions of the regulation set for this programme.

Art. 3. The non-refundable sponsorship is granted by the Romanian Cultural Institute through the *Cantemir* Programme within 90% of the total grant budget, but not exceeding 100.000 lei. The applicant undertakes to co-finance the eligible costs of the project, out of available and/or drawn funds, other than those provided from the state budget, covering a minimum of 10% of the project value.

Chapter II. *Cantemir* Programme Objectives

Art. 4. By funding the projects, the Romanian Cultural Institute, in accordance with the multiannual strategy of the Institute, aims:

- a) artistic excellence and/or originality, encouraging the fusion of innovative and experimental artistic forms;
- b) the European dimension, the international cooperation /coproductions;
- c) the contribution to an improved visibility of Romanian culture and of the interest for the same on the international cultural markets, by facilitating the access to representative Romanian works;
- d) attracting the audience by the project artistic/cultural value and relevance;
- e) supporting the partnerships of Romanian and foreign cultural operators, on one side, and on the other side the International cultural organizations;
- f) encouraging artists from the Republic of Moldova to take part in projects supported by the program, within the European Union;
- g) preserving and enhancing the cultural heritage of national minorities.

h) highlighting current cultural themes, emphasizing the essential role of culture in social cohesion, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue. The specific theme of the Cantemir 2026 Programme is "Culture Matters".

Chapter III. Eligibility conditions for the selection session

Art. 5. Any Romanian or EU-based natural person, individual entity, family enterprise or private or public legal entity can participate to project selection process, provided that:

- a) is a cultural operator;
- b) has no debts to the state central or local budget;
- c) and has complied with its obligations under the previous non-refundable sponsorship contracts.

Art. 6. The employees of the Romanian Cultural Institute or the employed or appointed personnel working within the Romanian cultural institutes abroad, or their next of kin, cannot take part in the selection session, neither as natural persons or certified individual entities, nor as legal representatives of a legal entity from Romania or abroad.

Art. 7. In order for a cultural program to be eligible it must comply with the following conditions:

- a) to be implemented in the interval 01.07.2026 – 01.10.2026 after concluding the funding contracts;
- b) the implementation phase of the project will not exceed 01.10.2026;
- c) to be implemented in partnership with (at least) one cultural organization from the country where the project will be implemented;
- d) not to benefit from other funding sources granted by the Romanian Cultural Institute (including its representative offices abroad);
- e) not to benefit from co-fundings from other Romanian public funds applying minimis aids/state-aids;
- f) its target must be the audience living abroad.

Art. 8 The projects implemented in partnership with RCI are not eligible, as they are covered by other programmes of RCI.

Art. 9. For a cultural operator to be considered partner of the sponsorship beneficiary, it must have its registered office in the country where the project is to be implemented, to participate to the described activities and to sign the partnership declaration. The fee-based products supply or service rendering required by the project cannot be deemed a partnership.

Chapter IV. The selection session

Art. 10. For participating to the selection session, the applicant must submit a documentation including the following:

- a) the grant application for non-refundable sponsorship, according to the form provided under **Annex 1** to this Regulation;
- b) the original budget for the project, according to the form provided under **Annex 2** to this Regulation;
- c) the partnership declaration, according to the form provided under **Annex 3** to this Regulation;
- d) the affidavit, according to the form provided under **Annex 4** to this Regulation;
- e) documents certifying the organizational capacity and the expertise of the applicant in organizing projects specific to the visual arts field (plastic arts, decorative arts, science/research and architecture, design, new media, photography, performance) and performing arts (theatre, music, dance): resumes, portfolios, media articles regarding previously organized events, as well as other documents considered relevant (max. 10 pages);
- f) Resumes of the project team members considered relevant, signed, dated and bearing the written agreement of the persons participating in the project submitted for sponsorship. The dated correspondence is also accepted. The resumes that are not assumed by the person participating to the project shall not be considered.
- g) The resumes of the artists and/or experts involved in the project, signed and dated and bearing the written agreement of the persons participating in the project submitted for sponsorship (the dated correspondence is also accepted). The resumes that are not assumed by the person participating to the project shall not be considered;
- h) The true copy of the original court decision for establishing the legal status, where the case may be;
- i) The true copy of the original articles of incorporation, articles of association and deeds attesting the registered office and initial patrimony of the applicant, as well as any addendums, if the case;
- j) The copy of the registration certificate in the Register of partnerships and foundations (where the case, in accordance with the applicable laws) or other documents proving the acquisition of legal status (in true copy of the original); for certified individual entities, it is mandatory to submit the registration certificate, as well as the authorization certificate (in true copy of the original);
- k) Fiscal certificate (in true copy of the original) issued by the Romanian National Fiscal Authority within the validity period (max. 30 days since the date of issuance) and from the Local Authority for Taxes (Direcția de Taxe și Impozite locale) or the corresponding documents issued by the equivalent authorities from the applicants country of fiscal residence.

The documents specified under points: a) – k) will be mandatory presented in electronic format and thus sent to the email address programulcantemir@icr.ro Only one pdf file (max. 10 MB) will be submitted for each project containing all required documents. Multiple files will not be submitted for one project.

The organizers will not be held responsible for the failure to view documents sent in a different format.

Art. 11. An applicant can submit only one project in the 2026 funding session of the *Cantemir* Programme.

The deadline for submitting documentation is **07 May 2026, ora 13:00 (1 p.m.), (GMT+2)**. Documents sent by e-mail on a later date than the one mentioned will not be taken into consideration at the selection session. **The documents specified under points: a) - k) will be mandatory presented and sent in the Romanian language.**

Art. 12. In order to fulfil the purpose of the financing session, selection and dispute settlement commissions will be established.

Art. 13. Selection of projects submitted under the *Cantemir* Programme for the funding session 2025 will be carried out in two stages:

- (1) **1st Stage:** The administrative selection will be carried out by the secretariat of the *Cantemir* Programme, which will verify the compliance of the documentation with the provisions of art. 7-10 of this regulation. Only complete documentation files that comply with the terms and conditions established by the Romanian Cultural Institute through the public announcement of the funding competition and by these regulations will be subject to the evaluation of the selection committee.
- (2) After 1st stage, an appeals session is being organized. The appeals can be filled in a maximum of 3 working days after the preliminary results of the administrative results are posted. The appeals will be analyzed and resolved in maximum 3 working days.
- (3) The files that have been declared admitted at the administrative selection and after Stage I of appeals, participate in the 2nd Stage which is the evaluation stage.
- (4) **The 2nd Stage:** The projects declared admitted in the 1st stage of the selection session will be evaluated by the selection committee, which will further draw up an evaluation report according to the evaluation grid provided in **Annex 6** to this regulation.
- (5) The commission will consist in 3 members, appointed by the Romanian Cultural Institute: 2 independent evaluators, with a minimum of 3 years of practical experience in the field of reference or at least 2 years in the management or evaluation of cultural projects, and a representative of the funding institution.
- (6) The maximum score that can be awarded to a project in the 2nd stage is 100 points. Following the evaluation, the list of projects declared winners will be drawn up, in descending order of the total scores obtained, until the program budget is exhausted. In order to be declared winner, a project must score at least 60 points. A project that has not scored at least 60 points will not be declared a winning project. The final score is the result of the arithmetic average of the scores awarded by each member of the commission. The list will be published on the website of the Romanian Cultural Institute, according to the announced calendar.

- (7) Applicants have the right to file appeals against the results of the 2nd stage of selection. Appeals will exclusively concern the compliance with the procedure regarding the organization and conduct of the selection and will be sent to the e-mail address programulcantemir@icr.ro within 3 working days as of the date of making the selection results public on the RCI site.
- (8) These appeals will be settled within maximum 3 working days as of the date of expiry of the term for submitting appeals, by the appeals resolution committee.
- (9) After completing the appeals resolution procedure, the Romanian Cultural Institute will publish the final list of projects that will benefit from funding under the *Cantemir* Programme, selection session 2025.

Chapter V. The financing method

Art. 14. The budget granted to the selection session of cultural offers within the *Cantemir* Programme is 1,000,000 lei. The maximum amount that can be granted to a cultural project is 100,000 lei.

Art. 15. The following categories of expenses can be covered from the granted non- refundable sponsorship:

- a) Expenses for implementing the cultural project, material costs and services, production costs, space and equipment rentals, fees, services, prizes;
- b) Expenses incurred for the accommodation and domestic and international transportation of the participants/guests;
- c) Other specific expenses, such as carrying out studies and research, specialized consultancy, printing, seminars, conferences, workshops, promotional and advertising actions;
- d) Per diem, granted under the law, related to an individual employment contract;
- e) Personnel expenses and administrative expenses related to the implementation term of the cultural project. Personnel expenses are covered, cumulatively, within a percentage of 20% of the total granted non-refundable sponsorship.
- f) Expenses for the purchase of fixed assets used exclusively for the purpose of implementing the project, in a percentage of no more than 25% of the total non- refundable sponsorship granted.
- g) If the purchased fixed assets are not used exclusively for the purpose of project implementation, only their depreciation will be covered for the project implementation period, without exceeding 25% of the total non-refundable sponsorship granted.
- h) A maximum of 5% of the total non-refundable sponsorship can be granted as a lump sum for eligible indirect expenses such as: rent for the premises where the beneficiary operates, consumables associated with project management, costs for telephone communications or internet, electricity expenses.

Art. 16. The following categories of expenses cannot be covered from the granted non-refundable sponsorship:

- a) expenses incurred by the applicant prior to signing the financing contract;
- b) expenses for contracting loans related to complementary financing sources, bank expenses, commissions, exchange rate differences;
- c) value added tax in the case of VAT paying beneficiaries, as well as any other taxes;
- d) interest and other commissions related to loans;
- e) purchase of second-hand equipment;
- f) fines, penalties and court costs;
- g) costs for operating the investment;
- h) amounts resulting from exchange rate differences;
- i) depreciation costs, except for the situation provided for in Art. 16, paragraph g);
- j) contribution in-kind;
- k) leasing expenses.

(1) The granted non-refundable sponsorship cannot be used to cover the debts of the beneficiaries.

(2) The applicant has the obligation to specify in the content of the grant application and to justify in the final activity report all the information regarding the non-economic or, as the case may be, economic nature of the activities within the cultural project, the final classification constituting a distinct clause in the funding contract, opposed to it in the event of the finding of any fraudulent intent by the financing authority, which leads to the legal termination of the financing contract.

(3) Non-reimbursable financing cannot be used for profit-generating activities.

Art. 17. The non-refundable sponsorship of the projects declared winners is granted in lei, by bank transfer, based on financing contracts concluded between the Romanian Cultural Institute and the beneficiaries, in two instalments, based on the invoices issued by the beneficiary for each instalment.

(1) The first instalment, in a percentage of up to 80% of the financing value, is granted after signing the financing contract, based on a payment request letter issued by the beneficiary and represents an advance for the total expenses estimated by the beneficiary.

(2) The second instalment cannot be less than 20% of the financing value and will be granted after the completion of the project and after the submission and approval of the final report, accompanied by supporting documents, but only after justifying the previous instalment expenditures.

(3) **The deadline for submitting** the supporting documents is maximum 30 calendar days as of the completion of the project (Point 5 of the Funding Application – Annex 1) and for the projects that have the implementation date up to October 1st 2025 no later than November 1st, 2025. Otherwise, the amounts paid, but not justified by this date, will have to be returned to the sponsor.

Art. 18. The documents submitted in order to obtain financing will not be returned to the applicant.