

## Call for Projects 2020:

# Encouraging culture for an open society

## The situation

### Shrinking scope for culture and social engagement in society

People demonstrate courage all over the world. Artists and cultural creatives are defending freedom of opinion and expression in the face of increasing pressure. They often feel compelled to go into exile for their views. Courageous alliances are fighting for a just society free of discrimination, for social acknowledgement and for inclusiveness, although they are under virulent attack from populist and nationalist movements. Day after day, social minorities, LGBTQI individuals, migrants and their supporters in Europe and further afield are advocating an open and just society free of discrimination, while a large number of opponents are demanding that these people should be excluded.

However, spaces and forums for this kind of courage are becoming increasingly restricted – even in what are ostensibly the open societies of Europe. Social commitment is being increasingly subjected to restrictive legal and political framework conditions. In many countries, the promotion of translocal artistic and cultural projects is being subjected to swingeing cuts and the objectives are increasingly being subsumed under national interests. The intellectual climate and the tone of public debates are characterised by defamation, rabble-rousing and lack of mutual understanding.

## Our vision

### Creating spaces for resilience and solidarity

We believe that the open society depends on people who have the courage to engage in controversy and express their own opinions. They need spaces for this in order to implement their ideas. Resonance spaces are necessary so that they can present their projects and engage in discussion beyond their own filter bubble and disseminate their knowledge in the public domain. And they need networks in order to establish themselves beyond national borders and across social strata. These networks are necessary to mobilise their ideas. We believe that societies need to be continually shaken up and challenged so that they remain open and continue to develop. Culture and society are in a permanent state of flux. This generates tensions and conflicts while also creating opportunities for change and new beginnings.

## Our goal

### Promoting projects that challenge and surprise

Our call addresses actors who use the tools of art and culture to create spaces, facilitate a critical debate, promote an exchange of ideas and encourage networking across borders. We are looking for projects that reflect the fractures in our societies, integrate different positions, adopt a translocal approach, demonstrate the courage to shake people up, and surprise and challenge them as a result.

Our central concerns relate to the process (who is involved?) and audience (who is being addressed?) without defining ground rules for the genre, discipline or aesthetic approach. We are open to all fields of artistic endeavour and we are particularly interested in interdisciplinary experimental work. The submitted projects do not have to address all the aspects highlighted in the call for projects. Since the amount of funding provided by the Allianz Kulturstiftung will generally not exceed 50 % of the total costs of a project, we recommend applying for sums of between € 30,000 and a maximum of € 80,000.

## Our mission

### Culture needs open space – and a partner that creates it

The Allianz Kulturstiftung is a not-for-profit cultural foundation for Europe. The aim of the Foundation is to strengthen cohesion in Europe using the tools of art and culture. As a promoter of social change, the Foundation is geared towards achieving impact and it operates independently. The head office is located in Berlin and the organisation plays an operational role as well as providing funding.

The Foundation is committed to translocal art and culture projects in Europe and the Mediterranean region. Over the coming years, it will focus its strategic work on the following thematic areas. It will promote an open society while adopting a decentralised approach to Europe and driving forward digitalisation for the common good.