

“Verbindungen fördern” Funding for transregional alliances in the independent performing arts (2024-2025)

Application deadline 28 February 2023

From 2021 to 2025, the Bundesverband Freie Darstellende Künste (BFDK) is supporting transregional alliances in the independent performing arts by providing financial means for professional coordination, transregional alliance work, and artistic co-productions and also by promoting networking, qualifications, and an exchange of knowledge through its special project “Verbindungen fördern”.

The project is financed by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM).

The call for proposals for the third and final funding phase of “Verbindungen fördern” is aimed at transregional initiatives or consortia of independent performing arts stakeholders who are already organized as an alliance.

During the two-year funding phase, up to nine alliances of at least eight partners from at least five federal states, which want to strengthen their cooperation as a network in the period from January 2024 to December 2025, will be funded.

About “Verbindungen fördern”

With its “Verbindungen fördern” funding program, the BFDK acknowledges that transregional collaboration is intrinsic to the independent performing arts. Although alliances have been active for years, there is often a lack of structural funding to make their work more permanent.

Structural funding for transregional alliances will facilitate ongoing content-related collaboration. The idea is to make existing regional initiatives more visible nationwide, to review and further develop regionally tried and tested work methods and aesthetics on a transregional level, to enable the transfer of knowledge to all regions of Germany, and to support transregional cooperation projects that might have both a regional and a transregional impact. Transregional alliances often achieve what individual institutions are unable to on their own. By acknowledging regional distinctions, nationwide impulses should emerge that will have an impact beyond the independent performing arts.

“Verbindungen fördern” makes it possible for institutions from structurally weaker regions to participate in nationwide developments through transregional alliances. In addition to the internal efforts of the alliances, the BFDK provides support through knowledge transfer in order to promote the exchange between all participating alliances – the “Verbindungen fördern” Network – in the form of needs-based qualification offers, monthly online working sessions, and annual topical conferences (in person), among other things.

Who can apply?

The funding program is aimed at transregional consortia of theater and dance houses, performance and production locations, festivals or stakeholder structures in the independent performing arts, which have an impulse beyond their own alliance work for the independent performing arts, support stakeholders regionally and transregionally, and are able to have a nationwide impact depending on the size of the alliance. In particular, alliances with venues, festivals, and other alliance partners in federal states that have been underrepresented thus far¹ should be able to participate in nationwide initiatives and be integrated into the transfer of knowledge.

The consortia should be prepared to participate in the cross-alliance networking efforts of "Verbindung fördern".

The applicant alliance partners must be based and primarily active in Germany.

The alliances' projects and their realization must be managed and sustained by an already existing legal entity, ideally as a non-profit organization based in Germany, and must take place primarily in Germany.

The alliances must be able to demonstrate at least two years of ongoing collaboration in the realm of professional, independently produced performing arts when funding begins on 1 January 2024.

Individual alliance partners must be able to document regional funding for their structure in the last few years.

What is being funded?

Applications can be made for personnel and material resources for transregional cooperation projects in Germany. This includes e.g.:

- a) events and offers that are developed and realized by the alliances for stakeholders in the scene, urban communities, and the public
- b) events that explicitly promote the transregional visibility of local stakeholders.
This includes, for example, guest performances, residencies, scholarships, and other performance opportunities
- c) cooperations with other institutions/organizations (e.g. science, networks in other genres, academies)
- d) internal events by transregional alliances for knowledge transfer and exchange
- e) personnel and material expenses for alliance collaboration and steering
- f) personnel and material expenses for dismantling barriers and diversity-oriented organizational development

Resources for participating in the "Verbindungen fördern" network – in the form of personnel and financial resources such as travel and accommodation costs and, if applicable, allowances for participating in the annual conference and the predominantly online working sessions – must also be included in the calculation.

A ratio of 40% administrative costs (coordination, management, and administration of the alliance) to 60% program costs must not be exceeded in the cost and financing plan.

¹ Specifically, these include Thuringia, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Schleswig-Holstein, Brandenburg, Saarland, and Rhineland-Palatinate.

Offers by single collaboration partners with an exclusively regional impact are not eligible for funding. Costs for artistic (new) productions are also not eligible.

How is funding provided?

Funds are transferred on a one-off basis in the form of project funding. Applications can be submitted for funds of between 200,000 and 300,000 euros per year. The funding is provided in the form of a grant.

If the financing requirement is higher than the maximum funding amount available, a separate, reasonably justified explanation and calculation of the requirement is requested.

Proof of ongoing collaboration over the past two years and preliminary funding for alliance activities conducted during this period must be provided.

The funding period begins on 1 January 2024 and ends on 31 December 2025. Expenses incurred to carry out the alliance's internal program measures are possible until 31 October 2025. The administrative and organizational aspects of the funding must be completed by 31 December 2025. Any personnel resources required for this purpose can be calculated up to December 2025. Complete proof of appropriate use of funds must be submitted by 31 March 2026.

Funding will be provided for consortia of eight alliance partners from at least five German states. Ideally, alliance partners from all federal states or partners from structurally weaker and structurally strong regions should join forces. An even distribution between eastern and western German states is desirable.

This application excludes co-financing of the proposed project (for the same purpose) by other funding institutions that allocate funds from the federal government.

How can I apply?

Applicants are required to submit a project description using the application form provided and in German.

The following attachments must be included with the **application** form:

- * timetable (see template)
- * cost and financing plan (see template)
- * proof of funding for alliance activities from federal, state, local, or other funding sources
- * proof of regional structural funding for individual alliance partners

The application must clearly indicate that the comprehensive management of the requested funding will be carried out by a person with the appropriate knowledge.

Applications that are not submitted using the form template, are incomplete, or are submitted later than 28 February 2023 will not be considered.

Selection criteria

The selection will be made by an independent selection committee made up of experts and stakeholders in the independent performing arts. In addition to examining the formal criteria set forth by the BFDK, the committee's decision will be based on the following qualitative criteria:

The alliance:

- * strengthens regional structures and individual partners
- * facilitates the development of joint initiatives and transregionally effective methods
- * increases transregional visibility of regional artists
- * creates job opportunities for artists with a nationwide impact
- * provides impulses that could not be regionally implemented by individual alliance partners, thus closing gaps
- * strengthens the ongoing and long-standing collaboration between alliance partners and artists
- * plans interdisciplinary initiatives and transregional cooperation of the consortium
- * outlines the artistic and socio-political imperatives behind the alliance's work
- * explains how it will handle material resources with regard to the sustainable or resource-efficient structuring of the alliance's work
- * demonstrates an awareness of diversity-oriented and accessible organizational development

Furthermore, the full picture of the applications, with regard to diversity and balance in terms of the distribution of alliance partners across regions and different target groups and genres of the performing arts, will be taken into account.

Submission and deadlines

The required documents should be sent by e-mail to verbindungen.foerdern@darstellende-kuenste.de by **28 February 2023**.

After all applications have been reviewed and a selection has been made by the selection committee (see above), all applicants will be informed of the decision, most likely by the end of March 2023.

Questions

The BFDK offers two virtual consultation appointments for any administrative and content-related questions about the application process:

- * Monday, 19 December 2022, 11:00-12:00
- * Tuesday, 7 February 2023, 11:00-12:00

We ask you to please register via verbindungen.foerdern@darstellende-kuenste.de.

You can find additional information on our [Website](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Project Manager Linda Vahldieck at the aforementioned email address.

Call for Proposals

“Verbindungen fördern” is funded by the Federal Commissioner for Culture and the Media and is subject to the pursuant funding guidelines.



Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung
für Kultur und Medien