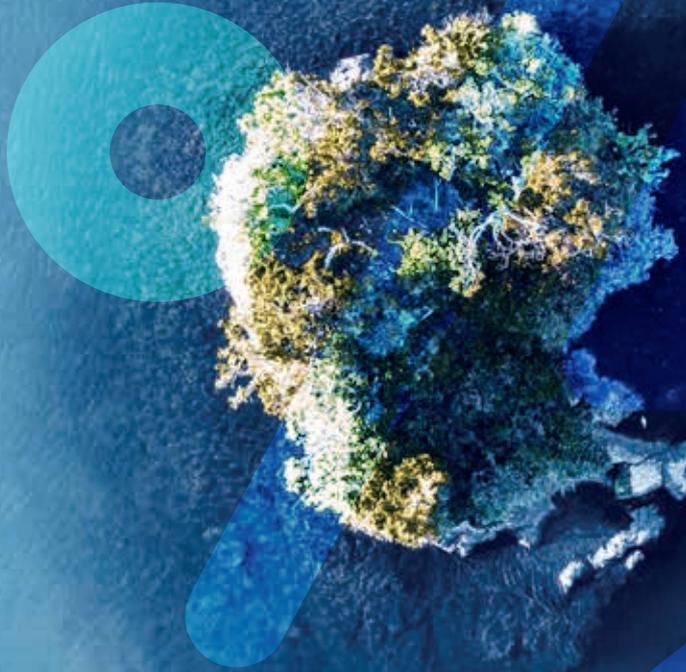


ARCHIPEL.EU

PILOT PROJECT FOR CULTURE IN THE OUTERMOST REGIONS AND THE OVERSEAS COUNTRIES & TERRITORIES



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Archipel.eu is a pilot project funded by a €1M contribution from the European Union to provide funding opportunities for artists and cultural organisations from the Outermost Regions (ORs) and the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs)¹. The project was implemented by the Institut français in partnership with OCTA (Overseas Countries and Territories Association) and APCA (Agência de Promoção da Cultura Atlântica).

The Outermost Regions (ORs) and the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) showcase very diverse environments and cultural living heritage. Promoting and safeguarding the intrinsic culture of all these regions is a recognition for the communities and individuals who bear this heritage, in addition to enabling its dissemination and transmission to future generations.

Culture is a central pillar for the social cohesion of multicultural societies - key for the ORs and the OCTs, regions that have strong ties with the natural and cultural heritage.

Archipel.eu aimed to address the challenges of the cultural and creative sector of the Outermost Regions and the Overseas Countries and Territories.

Objectives:

- Contribute to safeguarding, promoting and supporting intangible cultural heritage.
- Improve cultural dialogue and exchanges between ORs, OCTs and continental Europe.
- Disseminate cultural and creative works from the ORs and OCTs at an international level.

Beneficiaries:

- **The 9 Outermost Regions:** the Azores and Madeira (Portugal); the Canary Islands (Spain), Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique, Mayotte, Réunion, Saint Martin (France).
- **The 13 Overseas Countries and Territories :** Greenland (Denmark), French Polynesia, French Southern and Antarctic Territories, New Caledonia, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Wallis and Futuna (France), Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Eustatius, Sint Maarten (Netherlands).

The project counted with 11 Associated partners: Direction des affaires culturelles de la Guadeloupe, Direction des affaires culturelles de la Martinique, EUNIC, Viceconsejería de Cultura y Patrimonio Cultural, Gobierno de Canarias, Région Réunion, Centre Culturel Tjibaou (New Caledonia), Relais Culture Europe, Artistic Network On The Move, University of Madeira, and Direção Regional dos Assuntos Culturais dos Açores.

- **Duration:** 2 years (24/06/2021 to 23/06/2023)
- **Total budget:** €1 179 283 - €1 000 000 financed by the EU.

Archipel.eu launched four calls for proposals, offering grants up to €20 000 with a 90% co-financing rate, which addressed the key objectives of the project:



Fund for the Safeguarding and Promotion of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Outermost Regions and the Overseas Countries and Territories - aimed to safeguard and promote the intangible cultural heritage, folk arts and practices, and ancestral cultures of the ORs and OCTs.



The Collection - Archipel.eu Special Edition - aimed to support the dissemination of exhibitions, shows and artistic proposals across the ORs and the OCTs, as well as in continental Europe.



Cultural Networking and Cooperation - aimed to support the creation and development of networks, events, exchanges of good practices and establishment of partnerships.



Archipel.eu Mobility Fund - aimed to improve communication between the ORs, the OCTs and the EU to encourage mobility, exchange and cooperation between culture professionals.

⁽¹⁾ Call for proposals "Pilot project for the safeguard and promotion of culture in the Outermost Regions and the Overseas Countries and Territories", launched in September 2020 by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO).

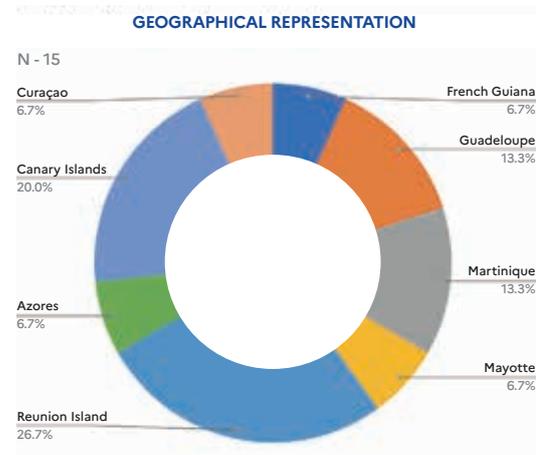
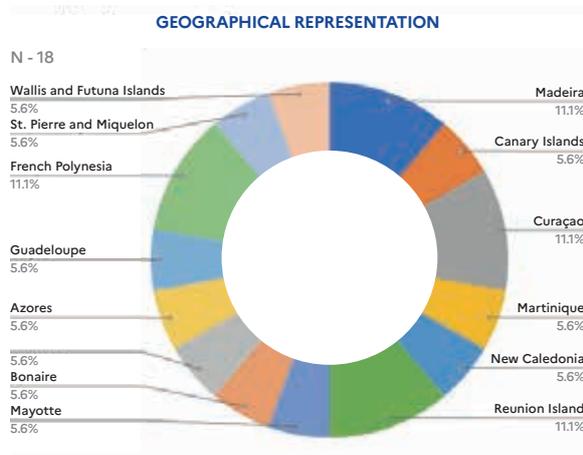
The four calls achieved a very good level of response from the cultural and creative sector: a total of 250 applications were received and 51 projects selected for funding. The average success rate was around 23%, which shows the attractiveness of the schemes launched.

FUND FOR THE SAFEGUARDING AND THE PROMOTION OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Application period:
13/10/2021 - 13/02/2022
Proposals received: 99
Eligible: 76
Selected: 18

THE COLLECTION – ARCHIPEL.EU SPECIAL EDITION

Application period:
13/10/2021 - 16/01/2022
Proposals received: 42
Eligible: 41
Selected: 15

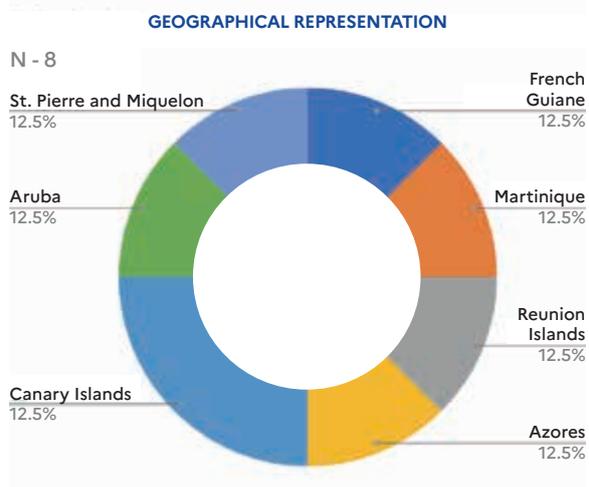
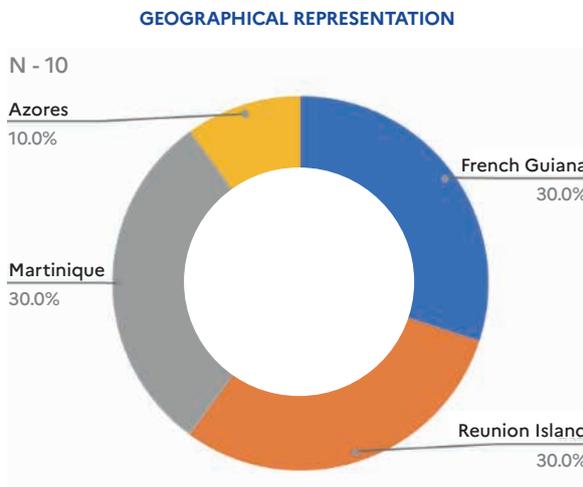


CULTURAL NETWORKING AND COOPERATION CALL

Application period:
01/03/2022 - 01/07/2022
Proposals received: 38
Eligible: 33
Selected: 10

MOBILITY FUND

Application period:
13/10/2021 - 01/12/2022
Proposals received: 71
Mainly non-eligible
Selected: 8

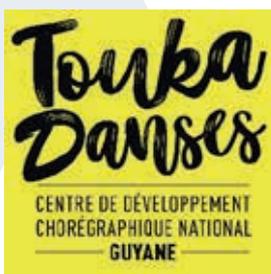
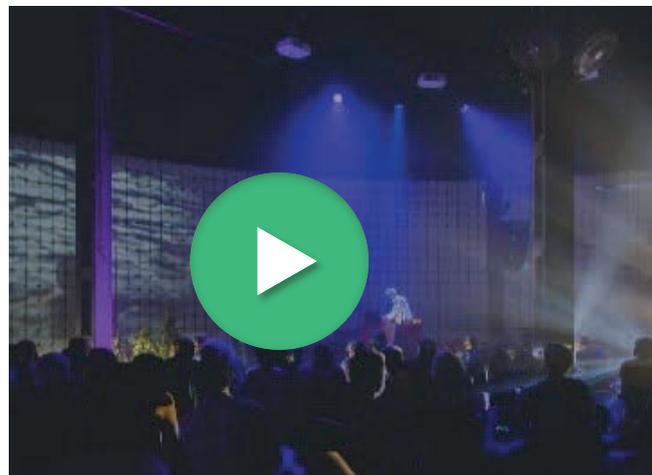


ARCHIPEL.EU IN ACTION

The high quality and relevance has been the norm among the selected projects of Archipel.eu. Find here some examples of the cultural works:



Radar Keroxen (The Collection) is a collection of non-mainstream and experimental music from Outermost Regions, part of the Keroxen multidisciplinary cultural festival (Tenerife). The project acts as a catalyst to further integrate the Canary Islands into the innovative creative flow that develops both within and outside its borders, bringing together consolidated artists and emerging talent in all fields of scenic, musical and audiovisual production.



Selected for the Cultural Networking and Cooperation Fund, **Dances et croisements culturels** brings together Europe, the Amazon, the Indian Ocean and the West Indies, by connecting French Guiana, Réunion, Mayotte, mainland France and Belgium. An original project that prioritises cultural openness for young people in the French Outermost regions and the French Overseas countries and territories and encourages the circulation of ideas, strengthens cultural partnerships and develops the artistic creativity of young emerging artists.



Selected for the Fund for the Safeguarding and the Promotion of Intangible Cultural Heritage, **RARA'A: weaving in French Polynesia, restoring and passing on knowledge and know-how**, follows the study carried out by Céline Kerfant, Magali Mélandri and Christophe Moulherat "Restitution of a (re) emerging heritage: methods of analysis and prospects for 3D digital imaging on a corpus of fans from the Marqueses Islands". This project combines traditional skills with scientific research, in line with the various initiatives undertaken by Polynesian artisans over the last ten years to rediscover vernacular weaving techniques.



Selected for the Fund for the Safeguarding and Promotion of Intangible Cultural Heritage, **Cine-Teatro Açor, Past/Present/Future**, is a project to recover the memory of the Cine-Teatro Açor, in Capelas (São Miguel, Azores). Using conversations with children as the guiding thread (future), the documentary shares testimonies of people who had experienced the Açor when it was opened (past), building a bridge between generations - those who have memories and those who will continue to create them. At present, the four theatres that existed in Capelas in the 1940s are abandoned. The aim of the Cooperative Kairós is to restore the Cine-Teatro Açor as a Cultural Centre for the community.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A FUTURE CULTURAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ORS AND OCTS

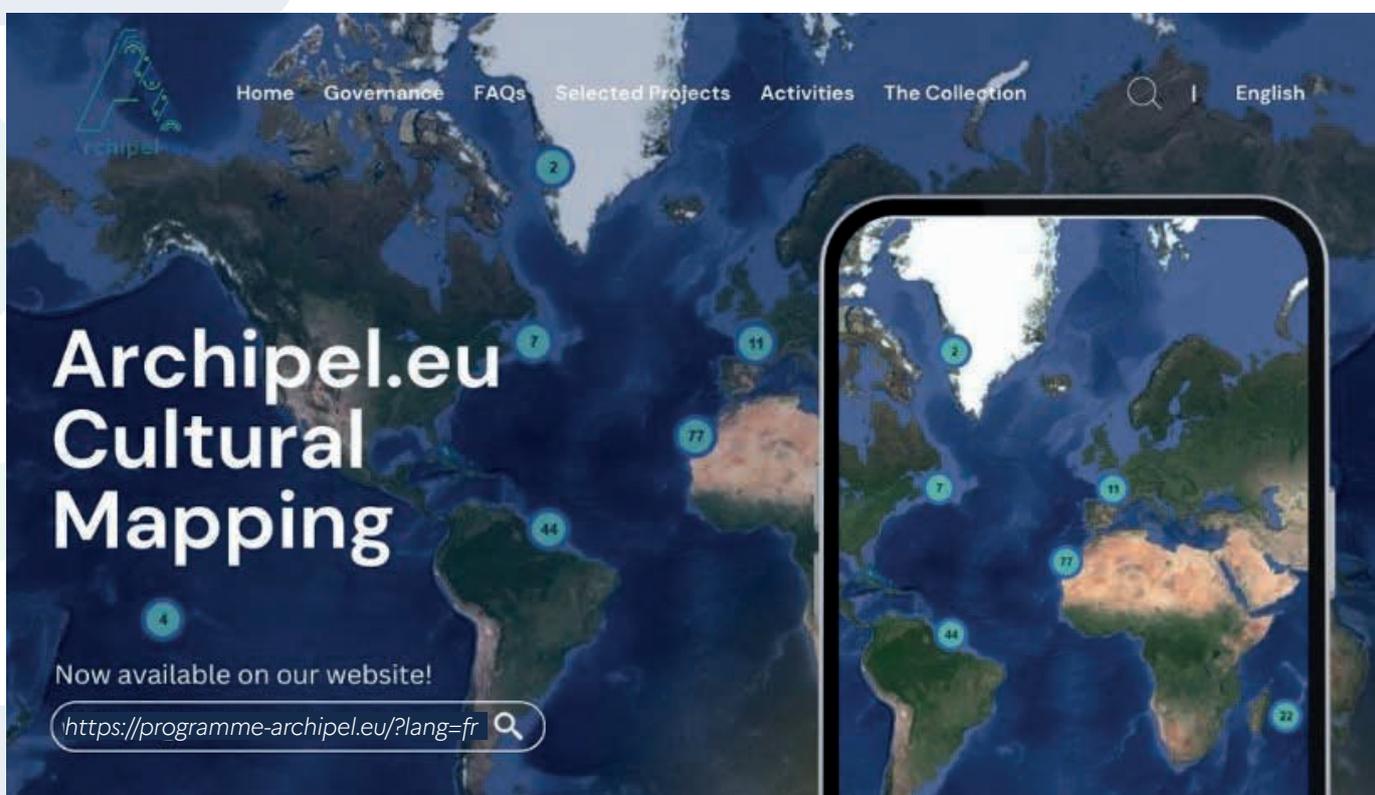
On the basis of the lessons learned in this pilot project, Archipel.eu provides a set of recommendations and suggestions to target future funding opportunities for the ORs and the OCTs in this policy area.

Feedback has been collected through a multilevel process involving all the stakeholders involved: Associated partners, beneficiaries, government officials, as well as key actors of the cultural sector. This process has included an in-depth evaluation of the supported projects, via interviews and project reporting, as well as a series of three webinars organised in collaboration with Relais Culture Europe,² on the topics of (1) Added value, (2) Inclusion and accessibility and (3), Governance.

- **Archipel.eu is a successful response to the European Commission's intention to support the cultural sector** with a pilot project on culture targeting the outermost regions and the overseas countries and territories, and other initiatives, in complement to the Creative Europe programme. The total of 250 proposals submitted to the four calls of Archipel.eu is a significant indicator of its importance for cultural sectors of the ORs and OCTs.
- **Funding stability to facilitate accessibility via annual calls for proposals:** Archipel.eu needs to be stable and ongoing in order to be identified as an available, predictable and reliable funding option by the professionals over a long-term perspective, in order to be able to plan and design projects in advance. This would help to move from funding singular projects to a more structured instrument, fostering innovation and creativity. A future edition of the programme should be implemented for 4 years with at least 3 annual calls for proposals.
- **The flexible framework has been very well received:** The project reflected a broad understanding of culture, in line with the cultural and artistic life of the regions involved. Archipel.eu's crosscutting approach has created a "Laboratory of experiences", where cultural projects have been developed in synergy with sectors such as the environment, education, research and medicine.
- **Strengthen capacity building actions:** This has been the main request from applicants and beneficiaries throughout the implementation of the project. However, due to a limited budget, the pilot project had to focus on online sessions to reach participants. The feedback received has underlined the importance of adopting a transversal and global approach to accessibility and inclusion. This should start by working on developing the specific skills of potential applicants, to help them break out of their geographical and professional isolation, and thus achieve equitable and sustainable participation by a wide range of professionals across the 9 ORs and 13 OCTs. The "capacity building" component should be formally and financially included in the project strategy to encompass a wide range of activities.
- **Continue promoting the visibility of ORs and OCTs artists and cultural actors:** The Collection and Portraits Catalogue as well as the Cultural mapping were effective digital tools, used to highlight the unique cultural aspects of each OR and OCT. Enhancements could include improving the user interface and accessibility.

(2) The French association *Relais Culture Europe* is an innovation platform for Europe and culture. In France, it acts as the Creative Europe Desk. Its mission is to support European cultural innovation practices and the development of projects, cooperation networks and European exchange and research communities between players involved or wishing to become involved in European cultural issues.

- **Simplified and adapted funding model:** The design of the four Funds to implement the different objectives of Archipel.eu has been instrumental in reaching the objectives required by the European Commission. However, the lack of geographical representation in certain Funds is noticeable. Beneficiaries also expressed concerns regarding the implementation period, which often was too short to fully develop the projects. In addition to the €20 000 grants, a large-scale initiative with grants from €50 000 to €100 000 over longer periods would allow organisations to work on dissemination and networking actions over a number of years.
- **Foster the involvement of local stakeholders and policy makers:** The lack of funding for onsite activities had an important impact on the perception and ownership of the pilot project among the ORs and OCTs. Feedback from beneficiaries and local cultural stakeholders points to the fact that the project needs to be firmly rooted in the territories themselves, in order to foster the active involvement of all stakeholders and cultural professionals, from both small and large organisations.
- **Increase synergies with other EU and national programmes:** Archipel.eu was designed as an accelerator programme, to work in complementarity with existing schemes. The aim is to help cultural players in these territories break out of their isolation and foster their regional, European and international development. One tangible result of this action would be greater representation of operators from the ORs and OCTs in projects supported by the Creative Europe programme: the calls for proposals launched by Archipel.eu could focus on tailored actions responding to the specific needs of the local cultural sector.



Mapping the cultural actors in order to enhance visibility, networking and collaborations

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