

Guidelines for social grants

The guidelines for social grants set out the funding requirements for the following funding areas:

- Grants for projects and initiatives
- Grants for organisational growth
- Calls for tenders

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1. General provisions

- 1.1 The Social Affairs Team in the 'Society' division of the Social Affairs and Culture Department, Federation of Migros Cooperatives (hereinafter "Migros Culture Percentage"), funds national, regional and local projects and organisations that strengthen social cohesion.
- 1.2 Grants are available for projects and organisations which address current issues in the areas of 'living together', 'climate and resources' and 'technology and ethics'.
- 1.3 All projects, initiatives and organisations strive to make a contribution to the [social sustainability](#) of our society and develop content and topics in a participatory manner.
- 1.4 Applications are only accepted via Migros Culture Percentage application portal.
- 1.5 Fulfilling the formal criteria alone does not automatically qualify an applicant for funding. Project quality is decisive.
- 1.6 The decision to grant or deny funding lies solely with a committee of experts, who review the applications received every two months.
- 1.7 Applicants receive a written response no later than 10 weeks after receipt of their application.
- 1.8 All decisions are communicated in writing. They are final, and no further explanation will be provided. Recipients are not entitled to annually recurring grants.

2. Funding areas

A. Grants for projects and initiatives

The "Projects and initiatives" funding area supports projects that strengthen social cohesion in the long term. There is a focus on national, regional and local projects and initiatives that strengthen civic engagement, i.e., they offer the general public opportunities to get involved on a one-off or longer-term basis. This funding area also covers projects, initiatives and organisations that aim to facilitate physical or digital encounters between people. Such encounters ought to promote understanding between different ways of life and lead to a mutual dialogue. A grant for projects and initiatives is between CHF 2,000 and CHF 10,000.

Requirements

- 2.1 The eligibility criteria listed under point 3 apply.
- 2.2 We fund projects and initiatives across Switzerland. They may be local (e.g., an initiative in your city/community), regional (e.g., a project in your canton) or national (e.g., a project for the whole of Switzerland).
- 2.3 The submitted project must not be completed at the time of application and must be submitted at least three months before the start of the project. Ongoing, year-round projects are exempt from the deadline.

B. Grants for organisational growth

By funding organisational growth, the Migros Culture Percentage supports applicants who are already implementing an effective and established offer that strengthens social cohesion and are planning to develop their organisation further. This is strategically justified and strengthens the organisation's quality and impact in the long term. Pure product developments, product enhancements or scaling of offers are not funded.

We consider organisational development to be a planned, systematic and long-term process of change and further development of an organisation with the greatest possible involvement of all those affected. It takes a holistic approach and includes changes to the organisational structure, the organisational culture and the individual behaviour of managers and employees.

Organisational growth may include new internal structures, succession planning, evaluations or strategic realignment. A grant for organisational growth purposes is between CHF 5,000 and CHF 30,000.

Requirements

- 2.4 The “organisational growth” offer is aimed exclusively at non-profit organisations in the social sector.
- 2.5 The eligibility criteria listed under point 3 apply.
- 2.6 The organisation achieves a supra-regional, cantonal or urban reach with its impact.
- 2.7 The proposed organisational growth measures focus on developing the process in a participatory manner, involving both the target group and other stakeholders.
- 2.8 The organisation agrees to share insights from its organisational growth project (report or exchange).
- 2.9 Upon receiving approval, the organisational growth project will be implemented within 18 months.

C. Calls for tenders

Migros Culture Percentage funds pioneering, high-quality projects involving calls for tenders in specific funding areas (e.g. 'ici. here together'). Applicants may only submit one application per call. The eligibility and exclusion criteria will be communicated separately at the time of the call for tenders.

3. General eligibility criteria

Formal eligibility criteria

Each project or organisation must meet the formal eligibility criteria to qualify for assessment:

3.1 Sponsorship structure

- The funding partner operates under a non-profit legal form (association, foundation, cooperative). No individuals or profit-oriented organisations are being funded.
- The organisation is based in Switzerland and its activities are aimed at the population of Switzerland.
- The organisation is managed according to the principles of [good governance](#)¹(transparency, balance of power, effectiveness).

3.2 Grants and funding plan

- The requested sum is in lines with the communicated grant amount.
- The financial plan shows granted and requested funding, resources and infrastructure from other sources as Migros Culture Percentage provides subsidiary funding (grants for organisational development are excluded).
- The total budget of the project is a maximum of 20 times higher than the amount requested from Migros Culture Percentage. This means that if you ask us for a grant of CHF 4,000, the total budget of your project must not exceed CHF 80,000.
- The assets of the sponsoring body do not exceed the sum of the annual salaries.

Quality criteria

The expert commission uses the following criteria to assess quality:

3.3 Social relevance

The funding partner focuses on current issues relating to social developments that are relevant to a larger section of the population.

3.4 Quality and implementation potential

The funding partner aims to achieve a social impact with their project that is both ambitious and realistically planned.

¹The 'Vitamin B' specialist office for associations can provide further information: <https://www.vitaminb.ch/vereinsglossar/good-governance/>

3.5 Networking and co-determination

The funding partner operates in a networked manner and involves the target group at least selectively in the development of the project.

3.6 Social sustainability

As far as possible, the funding partner considers aspects of social sustainability not only in the objective but also in the concrete implementation of their project (e.g. diversity of teams, barrier-free access, use of gender-sensitive language).

3.7 Ecological sustainability

As far as possible, the funding partner takes measures to reduce their consumption of resources and negative impact on the environment (e.g. train travel to events, sustainable materials, food waste measures).

Exclusion criteria

The following are excluded from funding:

- Individuals
- Profit-oriented projects or organisations
- Completed projects
- Projects or organisations abroad
- Projects or organisations which pursue ideological, undemocratic or unethical goals
- Projects that only pursue internal institutional goals without social relevance
- General operating costs

Projects and organisations with the following thematic focus are not eligible for funding by Migros Culture Percentage:

- Physical health
- Medical services, research or congresses
- Sport and leisure
- Formal education (also: school camps)
- Labour market integration

Projects with the following objectives or formats are also excluded:

- Donations in kind
- Campaigns
- Charity events
- Fundraising campaigns
- Structural measures or infrastructure
- Production cost contributions for publications, audio, films and apps without a diffusion concept
- Author fees
- Technical design of IT projects
- Third-party project funding

4. Guidelines for approved grants

Main obligations of the funding recipient

- 4.1 The funding recipient undertakes to provide the services listed in their application and implement the activities described. If any problems or delays arise in the implementation of the project that render the agreed implementation schedule impossible, Migros Culture Percentage will be informed in order to seek a joint solution. In the event of any improper use of the grant, Migros Culture Percentage has the right to reclaim its contributions in whole or in part.
- 4.2 The funding recipient undertakes to include Migros Culture Percentage (including its logo) proactively and prominently in project communication and project-related communication media (online and offline). Details on branding, wording and editorial integration can be found [on our website](#). The funding partner undertakes to comply with these.
- 4.3 On all communication materials, a clear visual and textual distinction must be made between the funding provided by Migros Culture Percentage and any other partners and sponsors.
- 4.4 The funding recipient agrees to document their feedback and any insights gained during the funding period for the attention of Migros Culture Percentage upon completion of the project and remain available for any follow-up questions.
- 4.5 The funding recipient grants Migros Culture Percentage the right to communicate about the funded project and, in the spirit of an open learning culture, publicly discuss project successes, findings and changes in the direction of the project. The funding recipient agrees to provide content support and image material as needed. The funding partner shall ensure that all rights required for use by Migros Culture Percentage have been obtained (in particular, the consent of any persons depicted) and that no third-party rights are infringed. Any naming or editorial integration requires prior consultation with the funding recipient; the editorial sovereignty of Migros Culture Percentage remains unaffected. Migros Culture Percentage is not obliged to include the sponsored project in its own communication.
- 4.6 The funding recipient grants Migros Culture Percentage the right to communicate at its own discretion about the funding and the services provided within the scope of the funding, even after the end of the project (without any additional compensation owed).

Main services provided by Migros Culture Percentage

Migros Culture Percentage pays out the awarded grant approximately 3 weeks after the decision is announced. The amount is exclusive of any value added tax due.

5. Guidelines for multiple funding applications

- 5.1 An organisation receives a maximum of two grants for two different projects per year from the Federation of Migros Cooperatives/Society. In addition, it is always possible to use the support services (coaching and project space), receive mini-grants from “ici. here together.” and contributions from the cooperatives.
- 5.2 Substantial further development is required to receive multi-year funding of the same project over successive years.

6. Overview of the funding procedure

