Impulse Grant: ‘Volunteering’

Information and rules

What it’s all about

The United Nations has declared 2026 the International Year of Volunteers. That is why the **Join-in initiative** is supporting projects on the theme of volunteering this year.

Migros Culture Percentage provides **impulse grants** to organisations that promote volunteering.

What is the Join-in initiative?

The Join-in initiative is organised by Migros Culture Percentage. We use it to support projects on a range of topics. The Join-in initiative has a different theme every year. This year’s theme is ‘Volunteering’.

What is an impulse grant?

An impulse grant is funding for your organisation or project. The money will help you to carry out your plan or project.

What can you receive an impulse grant for?

Your organisation is committed to promoting volunteering:

- You make the work of volunteers easier and better.
- Volunteers are given more recognition.
- Your projects are carried out by volunteers.

How much money is there?

We pay grants between 1,000 and 2,000 Swiss Francs.

How to apply

- Please send us your application between **23 November 2026 and 30 June 2027.**
- We review the applications on an ongoing basis.
- Nine weeks after you submit your application, we will let you know whether you will receive any money.

Contact

Any questions?
Cyril Romann (Join-in initiative) would be happy to help you.
Email: cyril.romann@mgb.ch

A. Eligibility criteria

Eligibility criteria describe what your project or organisation needs to be like.

Formal criteria

Who can receive an impulse grant?

Your organisation must be like this:

- Your organisation is a non-profit organisation and does not aim to make a profit: it is, for example, an association or a foundation.
- Your organisation is active in a field in which volunteers are involved. For example: the environment, education, culture, leisure, sport, social issues or democracy.
- There are at least 5 volunteers working in your organisation. The volunteers work with you on a permanent basis. Or they might just help out for a short while, for example at an event.
- Your organisation is based in Switzerland. Your projects and services are based in Switzerland. They are for the people who live in Switzerland.

Who can't receive any money?

- Individuals
- Projects and organisations that aim to make a profit
- National umbrella organisations: Umbrella organisations are large organisations that operate throughout Switzerland.
- Groups or volunteers not part of any formal organisation
- State institutions that do not work with a non-profit organisation

Money for your project

- You can apply for between CHF 1,000 and CHF 2,000 from Migros Culture Percentage.
- Your budget must be clear and easy to understand. The costs must be in line with your project.

Timeframe for your project

- Are you receiving an impulse grant? You'll have to use the money within 6 months at the latest.
- Your project is already finished? In that case, you can't have an impulse grant.
- You must not spend the money until you have received our approval.

Documents

We need the following documents from you

- The online form: you must complete the form in full.
- The budget for your project, if you'd like the impulse grant for a project.

- The articles of association of your association or the rules and regulations of your organisation.
- The latest annual accounts.

You can send us these additional documents if you wish:

- Your own project description.
- Your own budget for your project.
- Your latest annual report.
- Further information about the project: for example, a presentation or photos.

Criteria for the content

What is the impulse grant for?

You must meet at least one of these criteria:

- You want to support projects and initiatives run by volunteers.
- You want to support volunteers.
  For example: Volunteers learn new things. Or they receive recognition.
- You want to organise your work with volunteers more effectively.

What we pay for

We pay for small purchases and external services.
For example:

- Equipment: This includes communication technology and devices such as laptops or mobile phones.
- Fees. For example: A specialist is running a training course for the volunteers.
- Room hire.
- Food and drink.
- Travel expenses.
- Course fees.
- Costs for interpreting and translation, including in simple language.

What we do not pay for

- General operating costs that are unrelated to your project.
- Labour costs, i.e. regular payments to staff.
- Money for individuals in need.
- Projects or organisations that are ideologically driven, undemocratic or racist.

B. Rules: number of grants per year

Only one application for the impulse grant

➔ Each organisation is eligible to receive only one ‘Volunteering’ impulse grant.

No more than two different projects per organisation per calendar year

You and your organisation are also welcome to apply to Migros Culture Percentage with another project:

- For ‘Projects and Initiatives’ impulse grants
- For ‘Organisational Development’ impulse grants
- For special calls for proposals from Migros Culture Percentage and the ‘ici. here together.’ programme
- For the Idea Competition.

➔ You may apply with no more than two different projects per calendar year.

You can also apply for the following funding schemes:

- Coaching for social initiatives
- Project room
- Thank-you dinner for associations
- Impulse grants
- Mini-grants from ‘ici. here together.’

➔ You may apply for each of these programmes once a year.

C. What happens next?

- Have you sent us your application? You will receive an email with our decision no later than after 9 weeks. The decision is final.
- Have we decided not to fund your project? In that case, we don’t need to give you a reason.

D. If we choose your project: what you need to do

Activities and Deliverables

You must deliver what you have promised

- In your application, you told us what you want to do with your project or organisation. You really have to do these things.
- Maybe there are problems or something is delayed. And you can’t keep your promise. In that case, you must let us know straight away. We will work with you to find a solution.
- You must not spend the impulse grant on other things. Otherwise, you must return the contribution to us in full or in part.

Please tell us about your project

- Have we asked you about your experiences with the project? Then tell us all about it. You also need to tell us what you’ve learnt from the project.
- At the end of the project, you will send us a short report. You’ll receive an email with a template.

Communication

You must show that Migros Culture Percentage supports you.

- Are you writing about your project? In that case, you must use the Migros Culture Percentage logo. The logo must be clearly visible. You need to include us on all your printed materials and publications; for example, flyers and brochures, social media and your website. There are precise rules about this that you must follow. You can find information about the rules on this website.
- You must show how much money you receive from Migros Culture Percentage and how much money you receive from other sources.

Migros Culture Percentage is allowed to write about your project

- We are allowed to report on your project. We are allowed to talk about what's going well and what you've learnt along the way. We are also allowed to report on any changes to the project.
- Is your project or proposal ready? Then we can still write about your project. And we can say that we have supported you. You will not receive any additional pay for this.
- We are allowed to decide whether to report on your project. We'll let you know.

Free images of your project or offer

- Sometimes we need photos of your project. If you have any photos, you need to send them to us free of charge.
- You must make sure that you have the image rights. Any people who appear in your photos must agree to their pictures being shown.
- We can use the images however we want. We'll let you know.

E. Our obligations if you receive an impulse grant

- We'll pay you the amount we promised. The amount does not include value added tax. Are you subject to value added tax? Please let us know.
- We will pay you the full amount in one go.

F. Insurance

- Do you have employees or do you give projects to external people? In that case, you'll have to take out insurance for these people yourselves. For example, you have to take out insurance against any risk (accident, illness, liability). You also have to pay for their social security benefits and other social security contributions.

Zurich, November 2026