Impulse Grant: ‘Volunteering’

Guidelines

Introduction

The Department of Social Commitment Migros Group of the Federation of Migros Cooperatives (hereinafter referred to as ‘Migros Culture Percentage’) offers funding to projects and programmes as part of its Join-in Initiative. Its themes vary annually. The United Nations has declared 2026 the International Year of Volunteers. In line with this, Migros Culture Percentage’s Join-in Initiative has also put voluntary work centre stage.

Through its ‘Volunteering’ Impulse Grant, the Migros Culture Percentage supports organisations whose projects aim to facilitate, improve, raise the profile of, or recognise the value of volunteering, and it enables the implementation of projects driven by volunteers.

Migros Culture Percentage supports organisations with grants between CHF 1,000 and CHF 2,000 each.

The ‘Volunteering’ Impulse Grant scheme runs from 23 November 2026 to 30 June 2027. Applications may be submitted throughout the duration of the call for applications. Migros Culture Percentage reviews applications on an ongoing basis and decides whether to award funding based on the information submitted. The decision will be communicated within nine weeks of the application being submitted.

Contact

The contact person for all questions relating to this call is Cyril Romann, cyril.romann@mgb.ch (Join-in initiative).

Federation of Migros Cooperatives
Social Commitment Migros Group
Loewenbraeukunst-Areal
Limmatstrasse 270 | PO Box 1766
CH-8031 Zurich

Terms and conditions

A) Eligibility criteria

Formal criteria

Requirements for the applying organisation

The following types of applicants are eligible for funding:

- The application comes from a charitable, non-profit organisation (e.g. association, foundation, etc).
- Support is available to organisations in all areas of voluntary work (environment, education, culture, leisure, sport, social issues, democracy, etc.)
- The organisation must be based in Switzerland and its activities offered to the population of Switzerland.

The following types of applicants are not eligible for funding:

- Individuals
- Profit-oriented projects and organisations
- Umbrella organisations at the national level
- Informal groups, informal volunteering
- State institutions which are not working with a non-profit organisation

Requirements regarding voluntary work by the organisations

- The charitable organisation comprises at least five volunteers.
- Volunteers can be involved on a long-term basis or only for short-term assignments, such as at events.

Funding

- A contribution of CHF 1,000 to CHF 2,000 can be requested from Migros Culture Percentage.
- The budget must be realistic and transparent.

Timeframes

- The grant must be used within 6 months.
- Projects that have already been completed cannot be supported.
- The expenditure may only be incurred once a positive funding decision has been received.

Completeness of documents

- The online application form must be completed in full. All required documents must be submitted on time.
  - Online application form, including the project budget, when submitting a project
  - Articles of Association (for associations) or regulations

- Latest annual accounts

- Supplementary documents that may be submitted voluntarily:
  - Own project description
  - Own budget
  - Latest annual report
  - Presentation, photos or other documents relating to the project

Content criteria

The following types of projects are eligible for funding:
The project should address at least one of the following categories:
- Supporting projects and initiatives run by volunteers.
- Empowering volunteers (e.g. skills and competences; appreciation and recognition)
- Strengthening the coordination of volunteers

Within these categories, the funds may be used for minor purchases, to cover material costs or to finance external services. Examples include:
- Costs of materials (e.g. communication tools, technical equipment)
- Fees (e.g. for speakers in the context of further training)
- Room hire
- Food
- Travel expenses
- Course fees
- Costs for interpreting and translation, including plain language
- etc.

The following types of projects are not eligible for funding:
- General operating costs without project relevance
- Labour costs during normal operations
- Individual financial assistance
- Projects or organisations which pursue ideological, undemocratic or unethical goals

B) Provisions for multiple entries

Each organisation may receive funding for a maximum of two different projects per calendar year through these funding schemes run by Migros Culture Percentage (Social and Join-in Initiative) of the Federation of Migros Cooperatives and the ‘ici. here together.’ programme:
- Projects and initiatives
- Organisational development
- Thematic calls for proposals
- Ideas competition

The offers listed below are excluded. For each of these schemes, one additional grant per organisation is available:

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

C) Communication of the funding decision

- A definitive written response to the application will be provided no later than nine weeks after the application is submitted.
- All decisions are communicated in writing. They are final, and no further explanation will be provided. There is no entitlement to funding and no right of appeal.

D) If the application is successful: primary obligations of the funded organisation

Activities and deliverables

- If your project is selected and funded, you undertake to carry out the measures detailed in the application and to implement the activities described. If any problems or delays prevent you from implementing the project as intended, you must inform Migros Culture Percentage. We will work with you to find a 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.
- You agree to share your feedback and findings with Migros Culture Percentage as part of the funding programme.
- At the end of your project, you will submit a short final report. You will be informed by email and will receive a template for this.

Communication

- You undertake to include the Migros Culture Percentage logo prominently in your online and offline communication. Details on branding, wording and editorial integration can be found at https://engagement.migros.ch/en/media-contacts-logos. The funding recipient commits to complying with these.
- 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.
- You grant 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.
- If necessary, you undertake to provide image material from your project free of charge for communication purposes. You must 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.

- You grant Migros Culture Percentage the right to communicate about the grant and the services provided by Migros Culture Percentage within the scope of the grant at its own discretion, even after the end of the project (without any additional compensation).

D) Primary obligations of Migros Culture Percentage in the event of acceptance

- Payment of the awarded grant. The amount is inclusive of any value added tax due. Please inform Migros Culture Percentage if you are liable for VAT.
- Payment is made in one instalment.

E) Insurance

- Insurance against any risk (accident, illness, liability) and payment of social security benefits and other social security contributions for any employees and/or external agents remain the sole responsibility of the funded organisation.

Zurich, November 2026

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