

Members. Team up!



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**An invitation for festivals to join
the European Festivals Association**



© Musik i Syd

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Collaborations, connections, synergies, coming around the same table together is the key of the future of our work at the European Festivals Association, maybe more than ever.

The European Festivals Association (EFA) is a community dedicated to the arts, the artists and the audiences. EFA's main role is to connect festival makers to inform, inspire and enrich the festival landscape in Europe and beyond. In this perspective, EFA is a festivals' service and a knowledge and training provider, developing a WE-story of people and organisations, bridging the distance between festivals and all kinds of stakeholders around festival making.

In order to fulfil its mandate, a collective organised civil society needs a certain volume, but also a certain authority. This comes with you, with people and festivals like yours. We would be very happy to welcome you in the European Festivals Association's family and proceed our joint mission.

MEMBERS. TEAM UP!

Why join EFA?

The European Festivals Association is a bastion of continuity and professional support. We help spread the word, reinforce the importance of festivals, keep them at the forefront of the political agenda and, perhaps most of all, we serve as a platform to broaden and deepen your artistic relationships.

We are living in a time when money for the arts is rationed, when every expense needs to be justified and new technology and globalisation are changing the way we live and work.

Europe's arts festivals, however acclaimed they may be on a local level, need **international connections**. By joining EFA, you acquire an international mandate. We offer the opportunity to establish networks that lead to dialogues with all sorts of colleagues and actors worldwide.

EFA offers festival makers a place to stay in touch with each other, share concerns and discover new partners. The events we organise are social as well as professional occasions that leave a lot of time for **networking**, allowing us all to form **friendships**. We strive to consolidate interaction between continents, countries and cultures so that there can be mutual inspiration, influence and confrontation.

EFA is your authoritative and permanent motor for exchange, a guardian for the arts and a driver of evolution and progress for festivals. We guide the discourse on the value of arts festivals. A sector that is so unique and that shares a myriad of concerns on the level of intellectual, artistic, material and organisational matters deserves a **strong umbrella organisation** that supports **local initiatives** and gives arts festivals a **unified voice**.

EFA also maintains a permanent and informed dialogue with decision-makers. We keep arts and festivals on the **political agenda**. We also offer festival organisers a front seat in European policy-making. We are a hub and at the same time, an advocate.

The value of the network increases thanks to a larger and more diverse community.

Join EFA now and be part of our wide festival community !

EFA's new membership policy: Share your membership fee

At its 68th General Assembly 2020, EFA launched an important new phase of its development: the new membership fee policy. It aims at increasing its diversity and its volume in order to increase its impact and access to more artistic diversity.

In short, this is our invitation to you:

- **Strategy:** A financial proposal: Share your membership fee with an EFA member.
- **Proposed policy at one sight:** A current EFA member co-opts a new festival (not a member of EFA) and “shares” its membership fee with this festival. A new member can enter for 2450 Euro instead of 4250 Euro.
- **Target:** New member festivals in all arts disciplines ready to take the lead for arts and arts festivals within a more authoritative festivals community that is in the position to develop more initiatives for arts in our societies and talk to the partners needed for this step.
- **The reasons** to be co-opted are various. It can cover financial reasons because your festival needs support and doesn't have the means but it can also be an act of solidarity towards a festival that has less financial resources. It can also be related to networking, co-opting a festival creates a special connection and involves interaction.

The shared membership formula is added to the existing procedure to become an EFA individual member that stays valid.

Open our [powerpoint presentation](#) to find out the conditions of our new membership fee policy.



Harbour Odyssey © Malta International Arts Festival

How to proceed?

There are various options for festivals to join EFA:

1. Apply along the 'former' rules and send us your application form
2. Be invited by a current member to join EFA and share the membership fee
3. Approach a current member as a co-opting partner to join EFA
4. Approach the EFA team or EFA Board members with your interest to join EFA as a co-opted festival

Documents to send to become a member of EFA:

- [Application form](#) duly completed
- [Recommendation letter](#) of the EFA member that will co-opt your festival



Arts Festivals Summit 2019 © European Festivals Association



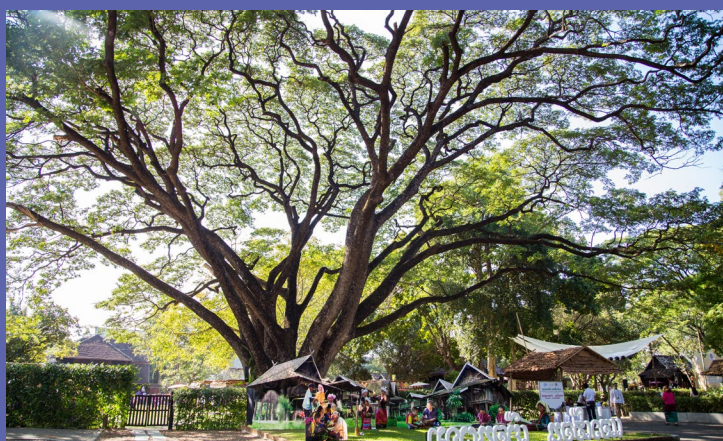
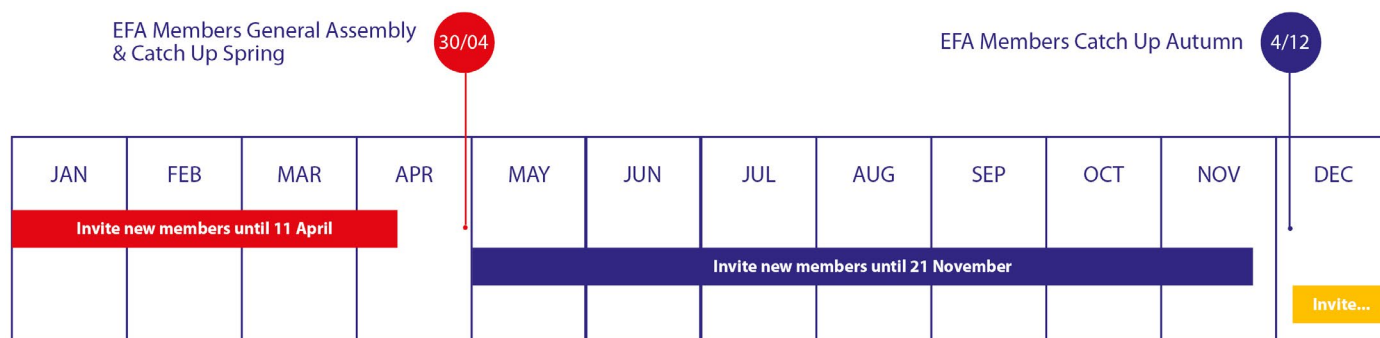
Timeline to invite festivals to join

The co-opting proposals (application form and recommendation letter) need to be submitted on these dates the latest:

- **11 April 2025**
- **21 November 2025**

Applying festivals will be accepted on:

- **30 April 2025** – General Assembly & EFA Members Spring Catch Up – Inviting new members
- **4 December 2025** – Intermezzo EFA Members Autumn Catch Up – Inviting new members5

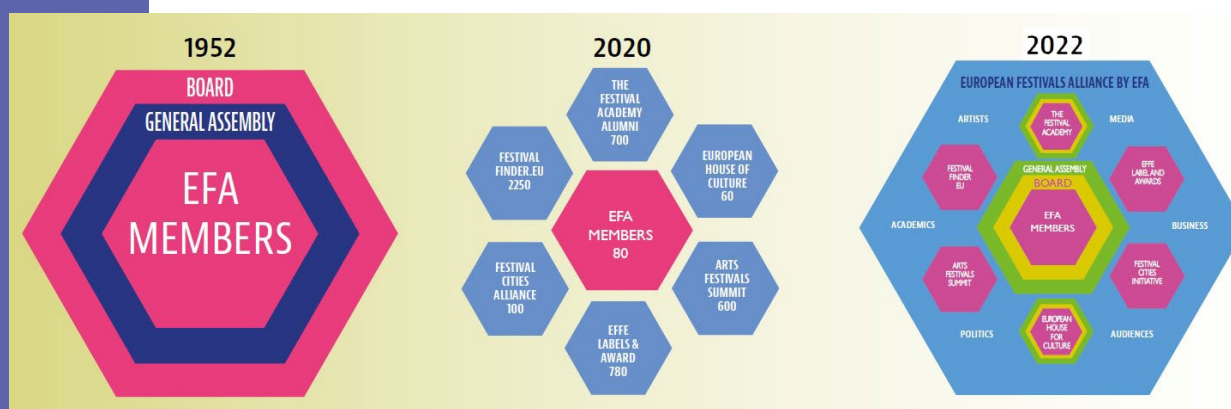


Longer term strategy: from Association to Alliance

There is a permanent growth and evolution in the cultural field in Europe happening constantly, now, with specific consequences and tasks for festivals and surrounding stakeholders. The perception and presentation of EFA as an alliance in this broader field is important as an inviting, connecting message. The core in the Alliance are arts festivals, and in the first place EFA's members. The extreme endings of this alliance are the artists on the one hand, and audiences on the other. The ultimate purpose of this Festivals Alliance is to establish, incentivise, inform and enable an interactive **platform of festivals and all sorts of surrounding stakeholders (cities, sponsors, foundations...)** that ambitions to empower those platforms that bring the arts and audiences together.

The step for EFA from a network towards an Alliance has to do with the increased scope of target groups established during the past years: young festival makers in The Festival Academy EFA established, EFFE labelled festivals on FestivalFinder.eu, cities, audiences. The necessity of stakeholders around festivals seems present for an interactive, pro-active, participatory WE-Story of people and organisations.

This evolution from a membership network to an alliance is done by and through EFA's members as initiators of this Alliance.





Festival Della Valle d'Itria 2018 © Fabrizio Sansoni

Contact EFA

For more information about the new membership fee policy, please contact:

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European Festivals Association (EFA)

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Application form [\(download it here\)](#)

EUROPEAN FESTIVALS ASSOCIATION



APPLICATION FORM for individual festivals (ordinary membership)

1. Name of the festival

in the original language, and in English:

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2. The institution organising the festival

name and legal status, e.g. foundation, private or public association:

.....

Permanent address:

.....

Phone:

Fax:

e-mail

Internet Website:

Address during the festival (if different):

.....

Phone:

Fax:

3. Management structure:

please enclose the 'organisational tree' of your institution

General Manager (with both responsibilities: artistic and administrative)

.....

OR

Artistic Director

Administrator

4. Which year was the festival founded?

also, the year of foundation of the organising institution, if it is different:

Festival:

Organising institution:

5. The period and frequency of the festival(s)

annual, biannual or...

period:

frequency:

6. Which fields of the arts make up your festival?

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.....
.....

☐ Special educational projects/programmes (specify also the target-groups):

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.....

☐ Other events (fringe programmes, programmes with amateur ensembles, etc):

.....

☐ Conferences, workshops or masterclasses as a regular feature:

.....
.....

7. Is your festival a member of a national festivals association, and if so, which:

.....
.....

8. Is your festival co-opted by a current member of the European Festivals Association, and if so, which? (please join the recommendation letter of the EFA member co-opting you to this application form):

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.....

9. What are your guidelines (or themes) in programme planning?

e.g. emphasis on specific composers, authors, interpreters; topics, historical periods or certain genres, local, regional or national heritage, etc

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.....

10. Publications and co-productions produced by the festival (video, audio, film, etc):

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11. Number of events in the most recent festival:

12. Total number of audience at the most recent festival:

13. Total budget (in local currency and in Euro):

Structure of income:

- Public sources (%):

- Corporate/Private sponsorship (%):

- Other income (%) (Box Office, merchandising, specific income):

14. Major regular venues with their capacity

concert halls, theatres, churches, open air, etc.

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15. Further relevant information on the festival or comments referring to any above points:

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Our institution does hereby formally apply to become a member of the European Festival Association (EFA), subject to the final decision of EFA's General Assembly.

We do confirm having knowledge of all the rights and duties related to EFA's membership and we do commit ourselves to comply with EFA's regulations (Statutes, Internal Rules and Board decisions), and to settle the fees along the regulations of your entry (annual membership fee of 2.450 Euro for a co-option entry or 4.250 Euro for a direct entry) within the deadlines set out to that effecting the Statutes or in the Internal rules of the EFA.

We do also acknowledge that any dispute that could arise in the future with respect to our membership, if not amicably settled, shall be subject to the sole jurisdiction of the ordinary courts of Brussels (Belgium), at the sole discretion of EFA. Moreover, EFA shall be entitled, but not under the duty to initiate legal proceedings at the courts of our registered seat.

Our relationship with EFA is exclusively subject to Belgian Law.

(date) (signature).....

Name and position of person completing the application

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Brussels, January 2021

EFA Secretariat
Sainctelettesquare 17
1000 Brussels
Belgium