

## **Belgium – Mapping of National and Brussels-Capital Regional Funding**

This section maps national funding routes available in Belgium together with regional funding instruments specific to the Brussels-Capital Region that are relevant to digital cultural heritage, tourism innovation and related digital transformation activities.

The schemes presented may include permanent instruments, periodic programmes, previous calls or measures that may be renewed or replaced by successor initiatives. Their inclusion does not imply that funding is currently available or that future editions will apply the same conditions. Users should always verify the current status, eligibility criteria, budgets, deadlines and application procedures through the official sources before taking action.

### **National**

#### **Belgian National Lottery (Loterie Nationale / Nationale Loterij) | Subsidies and Heritage-Focused Initiatives**

**Level:** National

**Managing authority:** Belgian National Lottery (Loterie Nationale / Nationale Loterij), the public lottery operator in Belgium.

**Type of support:** Subsidies, public-interest support and thematic initiatives. In the heritage field, support is currently visible through targeted mechanisms such as the Tombola du Patrimoine / Erfgoedtombola, rather than as a single permanent heritage grant scheme.

**Objective: The National Lottery redistributes 100% of its profits to projects of public interest.** In the heritage field, recent official initiatives focus on the preservation, restoration and public valorisation of Belgian movable heritage.

**Target beneficiaries:** Depending on the specific scheme, support may be available to recognised organisations and public-interest initiatives. The lottery regularly funds restoration of monuments and historical buildings, preservation of intangible heritage traditions, museum exhibitions and cultural collections

**Geographical scope / Eligibility:** Belgium-wide. Eligibility depends on the specific support mechanism, initiative or call. The general National Lottery support portal allows organisations to request support, while heritage support currently appears through dedicated thematic mechanisms.

**Access and funding conditions:** Support is financed through National Lottery revenues and distributed through public-interest subsidies, direct support requests and specific thematic initiatives. Applications are submitted through the National Lottery support portal or through dedicated heritage schemes when available. Eligible applicants, funding amounts and selection conditions depend on the relevant initiative.

**When to use it:**

- ✓ For heritage or culture projects with strong public value and visibility
- ✓ For restoration, valorisation and public engagement around heritage
- ✓ For complementary funding rather than core institutional digitisation pipelines
- ✓ When the project matches a specific Lottery initiative or thematic call

**Link to official source:**

Subsidy request portal: [Bien plus que jouer - Loterie Nationale](#)

Heritage support info: <https://www.loterie-nationale.be/bien-plus-que-jouer/culture/soutien-au-patrimoine-belge>

## King Baudouin Foundation (KBF) | Heritage and Culture Project Support

**Level:** National (Belgium-wide foundation)

**Managing authority:** King Baudouin Foundation (KBF), an independent Belgian philanthropic foundation.

**Type of support:** Grants through calls for projects, thematic funds, managed funds and partnerships. KBF also operates a dedicated heritage platform and publishes current heritage-related calls.

**Objective:** KBF **supports projects of general interest in Belgium, including heritage and culture.** Through its heritage work, the foundation focuses on conserving and protecting Belgian heritage, promoting it and making it accessible to the general public.

**Target beneficiaries:** Depending on the specific call or fund, beneficiaries may include non-profit organisations, museums, cultural institutions, foundations, heritage organisations, researchers and other civil-society actors. The foundation's heritage site also shows calls addressed to museums and cultural institutions.

**Geographical scope / Eligibility:** Belgium-wide, subject to the scope and rules of the individual call or fund. It should be treated as a flexible co-funding source rather than a fixed public heritage programme.

**Access and funding conditions:** Grants are awarded through calls for projects, thematic funds, donor-supported funds and partnership mechanisms managed by the King Baudouin Foundation. Applicants must apply to the funding opportunity most closely aligned with their project. Eligible organisations, grant amounts, co-funding requirements and application procedures vary by call or fund.

**When to use it:**

- ✓ For projects with strong public-benefit and heritage value
- ✓ For complementary or flexible co-funding
- ✓ For outreach, participation, accessibility and heritage mediation components
- ✓ When the project fits a specific thematic fund or call rather than a standard public subsidy scheme

**Link to official source:**

Apply for support: <https://kbs-frb.be/en/apply-support>

Heritage focus: <https://kbs-frb.be/en/heritage-and-culture>

## **Regional - Brussels-Capital**

### **Innoviris | Research, Innovation and Digital Innovation Funding**

**Level:** Regional (Brussels-Capital Region)

**Managing authority:** Innoviris, the public organisation that funds and supports research and innovation in the Brussels-Capital Region.

**Type of support:** Grants and innovation support instruments for research, development and innovation. Depending on the programme, support may cover feasibility studies, innovation vouchers, R&D projects, AI-related experimentation and other innovation pathways.

**Objective:** Innoviris **supports research and innovation in the Brussels-Capital Region**, including projects linked to **digital innovation**. Its “Innovation Journey” framework explicitly covers ideation, validation and development, and identifies digital innovation, especially AI-related transformation, as one of the relevant innovation tracks.

**Target beneficiaries:** Depending on the programme, beneficiaries may include start-ups, SMEs, larger companies, universities, research centres and innovation consortia active in the Brussels-Capital Region. For example, the “Start AI” Innovation Vouchers target Brussels-based SMEs, while other Innoviris programmes address companies more broadly.

**Geographical scope / Eligibility:** Brussels-Capital Region. Eligibility depends on the specific programme and applicant category. Innoviris’ current programme calendar shows multiple 2026 instruments, including Feasibility Studies, Innovation Vouchers and other R&I lines.

**Access and funding conditions:** Support is awarded through regional research and innovation programmes administered by Innoviris. Applicants select the instrument corresponding to the project’s maturity and objectives, such as feasibility studies, innovation vouchers or R&D funding. Funding rates, eligible costs, applicant requirements and submission procedures are defined by each programme.

**When to use it:**

- ✓ When the project includes real technological innovation
- ✓ For AI, immersive heritage, digital platforms or experimental digital solutions
- ✓ For feasibility studies, validation, prototype work or experimental development
- ✓ When heritage or tourism is the application field, but innovation is a core project component

**Link to official source:** <https://www.innoviris.brussels/programs>

(also: <https://www.innoviris.brussels/digital-innovation> )

### **Brussels Economy and Employment (Bruxelles Économie et Emploi) | Digitalisation Grant**

**Level:** Regional (Brussels-Capital Region)

**Managing authority:** Brussels Economy and Employment, a Brussels Regional Public Service authority. [Hub.brussels](https://www.hub.brussels) provides guidance and explanatory information, but the official grant authority is Brussels Economy and Employment.

**Type of support:** Grant / subsidy for external digitalisation consultancy.

**Objective:** The **Digitalisation Grant supports companies that want to improve their online visibility, digitalise internal processes or strengthen IT security**. Eligible consultancy missions may concern internal process digitalisation, digitalisation of products or services, IT security, or the technical development/improvement of a company website.

**Target beneficiaries:** SMEs with at least one operating site in the Brussels-Capital Region

and active in eligible sectors. The business must also meet other regional aid conditions. Hub's English guide frames this mainly around Brussels-based very small enterprises, while the official regional page refers more broadly to SMEs.

**Geographical scope / Eligibility:** Brussels-Capital Region. Applicants must have at least one operating base in the region, belong to an eligible sector, apply before the mission starts, and comply with the applicable economic aid rules.

**Access and funding conditions:** SMEs apply through the regional MonBEE platform before the consultancy assignment begins. The subsidy covers a proportion of eligible external consultancy costs, subject to the funding rate, annual ceiling, number of supported assignments and other conditions established by the regional aid rules. Previous or current conditions have provided support covering between 25% and 70% of eligible costs, up to €10,000 per beneficiary per calendar year. Conditions should be verified before applying.

**When to use it:**

- ✓ For SME digital deployment projects
- ✓ For websites, digital customer services, internal process digitalisation or IT security
- ✓ For booking systems, CRM, visitor services or digital customer journeys
- ✓ When external expertise is needed for a defined digitalisation mission rather than open-ended subcontracting

**Link to official source:** [Prime Digitalisation | Bruxelles Économie et Emploi](#)

### **ERDF (FEDER) Brussels-Capital Region 2021–2027 | Programme and Calls**

**Level:** Regional (EU Cohesion Policy implemented in Brussels-Capital Region)

**Managing authority:** Brussels-Capital Region, as managing authority for the regional ERDF programme within Belgium's cohesion policy framework.

**Type of support:** Grants through programme-based project selection and calls.

**Objective:** The [2021–2027 ERDF programme in Brussels](#) supports innovation, digitisation, competitiveness and broader regional development investments. The official programme description explicitly links the programme to the green and digital transition and states that the Brussels programme invests in innovation, digitisation and business competitiveness for regional development.

**Target beneficiaries:** Depends on the call and operation type, but may include public bodies, universities, research organisations, enterprises and consortia. The programme is primarily geared toward strategic regional projects rather than small standalone business upgrades.

**Geographical scope / Eligibility:** Brussels-Capital Region. Calls and selected operations are embedded in the regional ERDF programme for 2021–2027.

**Access and funding conditions:** Support is awarded through programme-based calls and project-selection procedures under the Brussels-Capital Region ERDF Programme. Funding combines ERDF resources with regional or national public co-financing. Eligible applicants, project categories, funding rates, eligible expenditure and submission procedures are defined in each call. The 2021–2027 programme includes more than €121 million in ERDF resources and over €303 million including co-financing.

**When to use it:**

- ✓ For large-scale regional innovation or infrastructure projects
- ✓ For digital ecosystems, urban innovation and cluster-type initiatives
- ✓ For place-based investment projects with strong regional development logic
- ✓ When the project needs ERDF-style co-financing rather than a small direct grant

**Link to official source:** <https://erdf.brussels/programmation-2021-2027-2/>

(Calls status page: <https://erdf.brussels/programmation-2021-2027-2/call-for-projects/>)

## COCOF (Commission communautaire française) | Culture Grants

**Level:** Community / institutional Brussels level (Francophone Brussels layer)

**Managing authority:** Commission communautaire française (COCOF), the French Community Commission in Brussels.

**Type of support:** Grants / subsidies for cultural activities and organisations, including line-specific support in culture and related subsectors.

**Objective:** COCOF supports cultural initiatives serving the Francophone community in Brussels. Relevant lines include broader cultural subsidies, cultural dissemination, and support for history, intangible heritage and popular traditions.

**Target beneficiaries: Cultural organisations, associations, foundations and other operators active in Brussels whose activities are carried out in French.** In the “history, intangible heritage and popular traditions” line, the official page specifically refers to associations or foundations active in the defence and promotion of history, tangible and intangible heritage or folklore in the Brussels-Capital Region.

**Geographical scope / Eligibility:** Brussels-Capital Region, with a Francophone community focus. Applicants generally need to be based in Brussels and operate in French. Availability and eligible applicant categories depend on the annual budget, institutional framework and conditions applicable to each funding line.

**Access and funding conditions:** Grants are awarded through line-specific cultural funding procedures financed with the COCOF budget. Applications are submitted digitally through [IRISbox](#) in accordance with the rules of the relevant cultural line. Eligible applicants, expenditure, funding amounts, deadlines and availability depend on annual budget allocations and the applicable institutional framework.

### **When to use it:**

- ✓ For cultural mediation and dissemination in Francophone Brussels
- ✓ For heritage engagement, local history, intangible heritage and public-facing cultural activities
- ✓ For small cultural or heritage programmes with a clear Francophone Brussels audience
- ✓ When the lead is an association, foundation or cultural operator rather than a technology company

**Link to official source:** <https://ccf.brussels/nos-services/culture/subsides-culture/>

**Horizon Europe National Contact Points (NCPs)** National Contact Points are support structures established at country level to provide guidance, practical information and assistance on participation in Horizon Europe. While NCPs are generally organised nationally rather than regionally, applicants can also use the European Commission’s central NCP directory and the Horizon Europe NCP Portal to identify the relevant contact by country and thematic area.

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp>