



SÓKNARÁÆTLUN
SUÐURLANDS

CRITERIA AND RULES

UPPBYGGINGARSJÓÐS SUÐURLANDS 2020 – 2024



SASS
SAMTÖK
SUNNLENSKRA
SVEITARFÉLAGA

SASS, Samtök sunnlenskra sveitarfélaga
Association of Municipalities in South Iceland
15 August 2023

ABOUT THE FUND

The South Iceland Development Fund, known as "Uppbyggingarsjóður Suðurlands" in Icelandic, is a competitive fund that supports projects in the fields of culture, innovation, and business development. Additionally, it provides funding to projects aligned with the goals of South Iceland's development strategy, known as "Sóknaráætlun Suðurlands," which aim to promote positive community development, cultural activities, environmental sustainability, or other initiatives that enhance South Iceland's competitiveness. The fund is divided into two categories: **Culture** and **Innovation and Business Development**. The Association of Municipalities in South Iceland (SASS) oversees and manages the Development Fund. The SASS board acts as the allocation committee in accordance with the South Iceland's development strategy agreement. When evaluating applications, the board appoints two expert councils—one for culture and another for innovation and business development—to review applications and make recommendations to the board.

GENERAL RULES AND CRITERIA

1. During the evaluation process, a committee will review the application and accompanying documents. Applications must be completed and submitted electronically following the guidelines on the website sass.is. SASS reserves the right to reject incomplete or non-compliant applications, which will not undergo further evaluation. SASS will determine whether an application falls under the category of cultural or Innovation and Business Development projects.
2. Eligible applicants include legally competent individuals, companies, organizations, and institutions based in South Iceland. Companies, public corporations, and associations primarily owned by the state or local government should generally not be the leading party in the projects applying for this grant.
3. Applicants' confidentiality will be maintained in their applications, with only an official publication of the list of funded projects, applicant names, and funding amounts.
4. Prior to applying for another grant to continue or initiate a new project, applicants must have submitted interim and/or final reports for any previous grants received.
5. Funded projects must be completed within a maximum duration of 12 months. For long-term projects, applicants should define project stages and apply only for stages scheduled for completion within 12 months of contract signing.
6. Projects funded from the fund's previous allocation in the year must be completed by May 1 of the following year, with a maximum extension until November 1. Projects funded from the subsequent allocation of the fund in the year must be completed by December 1 of the following year, with a maximum extension until June 1 of the following year. Projects not completed within 12 months or by the specified dates will be canceled unless a deadline extension request is received beforehand.
7. A contract is required for each grant. If the contract is not signed within six weeks of the decision notification, the grant will be automatically canceled.
8. Grants are disbursed based on project progress and agreement. Applicants must submit interim and/or final reports for approval by SASS. The final payment should not be less than 250,000 ISK or 25% of the total amount if the fund is less than 1,000,000 ISK.
9. Once the allocation has been made, it is considered final and cannot be reevaluated.
10. When applying for the South Iceland development fund, applicant confirms, with reference to EU regulation no. 1408/2013 (de Minimis), that public support for the project does not exceed 200 thousand EUR total, including the grant being applied for, during the previous two fiscal years and the current fiscal year.
11. If a project is not fully funded, the project plan must be revised in consultation with SASS. Modifications to the project plan may involve working on part of the project, a portion of the project that SASS chooses to support, or adjustments to project components and funding based on the grant amount and project objectives.

WHAT IS FUNDED AND WHAT IS NOT?

A single grant from the fund can be a maximum of 2.5 million ISK. Applications for an amount higher than 2.5 million ISK are considered unsatisfactory according to the allocation rules and will therefore be dismissed without substantive consideration. Each project in the category of business development and innovation, or a similar project by the same applicant, can only receive a grant up to three times or a maximum of 6 million ISK over a three-year period.

The following guidelines discuss eligible costs:

SALARY / OWN WORK INPUT

Only time spent on the project will be considered. Work contributions should be calculated at ISK 5,700 per working hour. A work report must be maintained and submitted with interim and/or final reports.

TRAVEL AND MEETING EXPENSES

To include travel costs in the funded project, the purpose of travel and estimated travel costs must be declared.

OTHER COST

The application must specify other necessary project resources. Specialized equipment essential for project advancement may be purchased, and startup costs for cultural projects are permitted.

PURCHASED SERVICE

The application should describe the purchased service, its provider, the services included, cost, and defined results.

INCOME

If the project generates income during the project period, it must be accounted for in the plan. Examples of income sources include event entrance fees and product sales.

WHAT IS NOT FUNDED

1. Investment in ownership shares in companies, regional planning costs, purchase or renovation of production equipment, land or housing. General operating expenses, such as utilities and long-term rental costs. License fees and certifications.
2. Costs incurred **before** the grant application was submitted to SASS.
3. Documentation of cultural heritage, sports club operations, town festivals or public gatherings without a specific focus, general veneration, traditional cultural projects within schools. Any form of publication, including written material, visual content, music, or spoken or acted language.

OBJECTIVE OF GRANTS:

- To support business projects that create jobs and/or increase productivity in South Iceland.
- To support innovation and diversify the business landscape in South Iceland.

SPECIAL EMPHASIS OF GRANTS:

- Innovation within exiting companies and entry of products and services into new markets.
- Innovation in energy efficiency and food production, as well as development projects in high-tech and creative industries
- Projects involving or promoting innovation among youth and young adults.
- Projects promoting sustainability and a positive environmental impact.
- Projects eligible for international competitive funds.
- Research and collaborative projects aligned with the goals of the South Iceland Development Fund.

EVALUATION

The evaluation of applications is based on the following reference elements. Each element carries a value on a scale of 1-10, indicating its importance. During evaluation, the application is assessed against each of these elements and assigned a grade also on the 1-10 scale. The final grade for the application is determined by multiplying each grade by the value of the corresponding reference element, and the total score represents the application's quality. The importance value of each reference element is indicated in brackets.

1. The project fits well with the fund's objectives and emphases. (8-point value)
2. The project has potential to create long-term, year-round employment in South Iceland. (10-point value)
3. Greatly innovative or unique for South Iceland (8-point value)
4. The grounds and implementation of the project are realistic. Relative knowledge and experience is existing and available. (10-point value)
5. The grant will have a great impact on the progress of the project. (8-point value)

The projects must align with the category's goals and may also align with one or more of the fund's emphases. The committee will assess how well the project meets these objectives and emphases during each grant allocation.

OBJECTIVE OF GRANTS:

- To promote arts and cultural activities in South Iceland.

SPECIAL EMPHASIS OF GRANTS:

- Multicultural events and collaborative projects in the field of multiculturalism.
- Projects that support creative spaces and development projects among museums, visitor centers, and exhibitions.
- Projects that encourage cooperation between two or more individuals, municipalities, or art forms, or events taking place in multiple locations.
- Projects that involve or support arts and cultural work among youth and young adults.
- Art workshops and art classes for children and youth.
- Cultural projects that promote environmental awareness, sustainability, and/or are based on South Iceland's cultural heritage.

EVALUATION

The evaluation of applications is based on the following reference elements. Each element carries a value on a scale of 1-10, indicating its importance. During evaluation, the application is assessed against each of these elements and assigned a grade also on the 1-10 scale. The final grade for the application is determined by multiplying each grade by the value of the corresponding reference element, and the total score represents the application's quality. The importance value of each reference element is indicated in brackets.

1. The project fits well with the fund's objectives and emphases. (8-point value)
2. The project has a positive impact on South Iceland's culture and society. (10-point value)
3. The project involves new project, original creation or increased diversity in South Iceland's cultural activity (10-point value)
4. The grounds and implementation of the project are realistic. Relative knowledge and experience is existing and available. (8-point value)
5. The grant will have a great impact on the progress of the project. (10-point value)

The projects must align with the category's goals and may also align with one or more of the fund's emphases. The committee will assess how well the project meets these objectives and emphases during each grant allocation.