

## Co-operation and Cultural Action Service France

### 3. De-concentrated Credits / Social Development Fund

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#### Background

The Co-operation and Cultural Action Services (SCACs) are in charge of developing partnerships with recipient countries, and they plan and implement operations in the fields of science, culture and development co-operation. They try to ensure exchanges between France and partner countries and promote French work and know-how abroad. The SCACs depend directly on embassy services; in countries where there is no SCAC, the ambassador is directly in charge of co-operation.

#### Types of Grant

De-concentrated credits / Social Development Fund (CD/FSD) are co-financing grants that target projects mainly initiated by Southern citizens through non-government organisations (NGOs) or local authorities and implemented with their assistance.

#### Grant Size

Not defined; grants are provided from €7,000 to €300,000.

#### Own Contribution

Officially, the applicant has to contribute at least 30% of the total project costs, either in cash or in kind. However, in practice, own contributions are not always necessary and depend on the policy of the local SCAC office.

#### Funding Priorities

The French government created the CD/FSD to give financial support to development projects for local communities in partner countries of the primary solidarity zone. The goal is twofold: first, it aims at actively participating in poverty reduction efforts by funding projects at grassroots level. Through its geographical closeness to the beneficiaries, it is believed that the programme can adjust to

local situations most effectively, thus, bringing decision-makers, implementors and beneficiaries closer together. Second, it encourages local actors to independently conceive and implement development projects, thereby empowering local civil society. Certain projects particularly target the most vulnerable groups, such as mentally disabled people and young mothers from peripheral suburbs; however, other projects target elites such as universities and central administrations.

#### Grant-making Criteria

In practice, the selection criteria are the following:

- The belief in an applicant's reliability concerning his competence and intentions to achieve the project goals;
- The project's sustainability with a particular focus on the financial mechanisms in place to assure the functioning of the project after the funding period;
- The eligibility criteria as described on the local SCAC websites;
- The coherence of the project budget and project aims;
- The pertinence of the project, its impact and target groups – such as people in need – are general prerequisites rather than eligibility criteria specifically analysed.

#### Guidelines

There are no official guidelines, as each SCAC organises the allocation of funds independently. However, an evaluation was published in 2002, trying to analyse the actual practices. It can be found online at: [http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/ministere\\_817/publications\\_827/cooperation-internationale-developpement\\_3030/serie-evaluations\\_4632/evaluations-2003\\_4660/fonds-social-developpement\\_4667/index.html](http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/ministere_817/publications_827/cooperation-internationale-developpement_3030/serie-evaluations_4632/evaluations-2003_4660/fonds-social-developpement_4667/index.html)

In addition, each applicant should contact its responsible agency. Addresses are to be found online at: [http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/annuaire/result.asp?code\\_theme=&cbStructure4=1&selPays=-1&selVille=-1&complet=1&type=structure](http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/annuaire/result.asp?code_theme=&cbStructure4=1&selPays=-1&selVille=-1&complet=1&type=structure)

#### Project Duration

No minimum or maximum project duration exists.

#### Deadline

No deadline applies.

## Application Forms

In general, the final funding decision is taken by the ambassador or delegated to the SCAC. A consultative selection committee – under French chairmanship and bringing together representatives of the recipient countries' government authorities, representatives of civil society, other donors and SCAC representatives – has been put in place by most countries.

However, the frequency of meetings is often low. Moreover, the SCAC often prepares proposal dossiers in informal internal processes and, in highly unequal debates, has already made its decision when presenting them to their local counterparts. Finally, the quality of representation of civil society is very different among different countries. The presence of other donors is rare. This means that applicants should contact their local agencies to get an understanding of the application procedures, rules and forms used.

## Application and Procedures

These diverse rules can be found for each country on the following websites:

- Bolivia: <http://www.ambafrance-bo.org/fr/scac/pod.htm>
- Burkina Faso: [http://www.ambafrance-bf.org/article.php?id\\_article=284](http://www.ambafrance-bf.org/article.php?id_article=284)
- Cambodia: [http://www.ambafrance-kh.org/article.php?id\\_article=10#sommaire\\_2](http://www.ambafrance-kh.org/article.php?id_article=10#sommaire_2)
- Cape Verde: [http://www.ambafrance-cv.org/article.php?id\\_article=269](http://www.ambafrance-cv.org/article.php?id_article=269)
- Cameroon: [http://www.ambafrance-cm.org/article.php?id\\_article=344](http://www.ambafrance-cm.org/article.php?id_article=344)
- Ethiopia: [http://www.france-ethiopie.info/rubrique.php?id\\_rubrique=79](http://www.france-ethiopie.info/rubrique.php?id_rubrique=79)
- Ghana: [http://www.ambafrance-gh.org/article.php?id\\_article=10](http://www.ambafrance-gh.org/article.php?id_article=10)
- Ivory Coast: [http://www.ambafrance-ci.org/article.php?id\\_article=14#sommaire\\_2](http://www.ambafrance-ci.org/article.php?id_article=14#sommaire_2)
- Kenya: [http://www.ambafrance-ke.org/rubrique.php?id\\_rubrique=103](http://www.ambafrance-ke.org/rubrique.php?id_rubrique=103)
- Madagascar: [http://www.ambafrance-mada.org/rubrique.php?id\\_rubrique=77](http://www.ambafrance-mada.org/rubrique.php?id_rubrique=77)
- Mali: [http://www.ambafrance-ml.org/rubrique.php?id\\_rubrique=97](http://www.ambafrance-ml.org/rubrique.php?id_rubrique=97)
- Morocco: <http://www.ambafrance-ma.org/cooperation/>
- Mozambique: [http://www.ambafrance-mz.org/article.php?id\\_article=359](http://www.ambafrance-mz.org/article.php?id_article=359)
- Niger: [http://www.ambafrance-ne.org/article.php?id\\_article=302](http://www.ambafrance-ne.org/article.php?id_article=302)
- Dominican Republic: [http://www.ambafrance-do.org/article.php?id\\_article=287](http://www.ambafrance-do.org/article.php?id_article=287)
- Sénégal: [http://www.ambafrance-sn.org/article.php?id\\_article=274](http://www.ambafrance-sn.org/article.php?id_article=274)

- Chad: [http://www.ambafrance-td.org/article.php?id\\_article=10](http://www.ambafrance-td.org/article.php?id_article=10)
- Togo: [http://www.ambafrance-tg.org/rubrique.php?id\\_rubrique=83](http://www.ambafrance-tg.org/rubrique.php?id_rubrique=83)
- Vietnam: [http://www.ambafrance-vn.org/rubrique.php?id\\_rubrique=95](http://www.ambafrance-vn.org/rubrique.php?id_rubrique=95)

## Language

French

## Tips

The agency in the recipient country should be contacted in any case.

<b>NAME OF GRANT PROGRAMME</b>	De-concentrated credits / Social Development Fund
<b>NAME</b>	Service de Coopération et d'Action Culturelle
<b>NAME IN ENGLISH</b>	Co-operation and Cultural Action Service
<b>ACRONYM</b>	SCAC
<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	French embassies
<b>CONTACT</b>	Contact the SCAC of the French embassy in the recipient country. An online directory is available online at: <a href="http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/annuaire/result.asp?code_theme=&amp;cbStructure4=1&amp;selPays=-1&amp;selVille=-1&amp;complet=1&amp;type=structure">http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/annuaire/result.asp?code_theme=&amp;cbStructure4=1&amp;selPays=-1&amp;selVille=-1&amp;complet=1&amp;type=structure</a>

## COUNTRY INDEX

## PRIORITY COUNTRIES

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Tunisia	Namibia
South Africa	Niger
Angola	Nigeria
Benin	Uganda
Burkina-Faso	Democratic Republic of Congo
Burundi	Rwanda
Cameroon	Sao Tome and Principe
Cape Verde	Senegal
Central Africa	Sierra Leone
Comoros	Sudan
Congo	Tanzania
Ivory Coast	Chad
Djibouti	Togo
Eritrea	Zimbabwe
Ethiopia	Cambodia
Gabon	Laos
Ghana	Vietnam
Gambia	Cuba
Guinea	Haiti
Guinea-Bissau	Dominican Republic
Equatorial Guinea	Surinam
Kenya	Vanuatu