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CEV Solidarity Fund Guidelines 2026

Type 1: Project-Based Applications

Contents

Introduction	2
Who Can Apply?	2
What Types of Projects Are Eligible?	2
Strategic Focus Areas	3
Project Eligibility Criteria	3
Evaluation Framework	4
Funding Categories, Project Duration and Grant Amounts	5
Application Process	6
Application Timeline	6
Monitoring & Reporting	6
Instructions for the CEV Solidarity Fund Templates	7



Introduction

European Volleyball Confederation (CEV) is committed to fostering the growth, inclusion, and innovation of volleyball throughout Europe. As part of this commitment, the CEV Solidarity Fund serves as a key mechanism to support National Federations (NFs) and affiliated clubs in delivering impactful projects that align with CEV's strategic vision.

The Solidarity Fund is structured around two funding types. This document focuses on Type 1: Project-Based Applications, designed specifically to empower National Federations, clubs, and individuals with great ideas to initiate and implement projects that utilise volleyball as a platform for social development, education, sustainability, and digital innovation.

These guidelines provide a comprehensive overview of eligibility, strategic focus areas, application requirements, evaluation criteria, and administrative processes. The purpose is to ensure transparency, coherence, and accessibility for all potential applicants.

Who Can Apply?

Applications for Type 1: Project-Based funding are open to:

- National Federations affiliated with the CEV;
- Volleyball clubs;
- Individuals

Applicants must fulfill the following conditions:

- Demonstrate capacity to implement the project, either independently or in partnership with local stakeholders;

The Fund encourages both experienced and emerging applicants to submit proposals.

What Types of Projects Are Eligible?

The CEV Solidarity Fund supports projects that demonstrate a clear connection to volleyball as the central platform for impact. Projects should be designed to:

- Promote grassroots participation, particularly among youth, women, and marginalised groups;
- Integrate educational components, such as coaching development, dual-career planning, or school partnerships;
- Utilise digital tools or innovative methods to enhance outreach, training, or data management;
- Incorporate environmentally sustainable practices in volleyball-related activities and events.

Projects may range in scale and scope, but all proposals must include a clear plan for implementation, monitoring, and long-term benefit to the volleyball community.



Strategic Focus Areas

Each project must align with at least one of the following strategic focus areas, which are also in line with the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) (3, 4, 5, 9, 10, and 13) and the [European Union's Strategic Priorities](#) for 2024-2029:

1. **Grassroots Development & Mass Participation:** Fostering the growth of volleyball at the grassroots level by encouraging participation across a broad demographic, enhancing visibility of the sport, and promoting healthy lifestyles through community-based activities.
2. **Digital Transformation:** Embracing technological tools and systems to modernise volleyball operations, enhance learning experiences, and improve communication and data management within and beyond the sport.
3. **Inclusion & Diversity:** Promoting equal access and representation in volleyball regardless of gender, ethnicity, ability, or socio-economic background. Projects must embed gender equality as a cross-cutting requirement.
4. **Environmental Sustainability:** Supporting projects that minimise environmental impact, encourage responsible resource use, and raise awareness of ecological issues through volleyball activities.

Project Eligibility Criteria

To be considered, all projects must meet the following criteria:

Criteria	Description
Project Design & Feasibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realistic and coherent objectives, timelines, and budgets; • Adequate team capacity to deliver the project; • Identification of potential risks and corresponding mitigation strategies; • Potential for sustainability and legacy after CEV funding ends.
Strategic Fit & Volleyball Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear alignment with CEV strategic priorities and values; • Volleyball must be the primary activity through which other objectives are delivered; • Equality must be embedded across all interventions.
Transparency & Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear financial accountability (auditable accounts and spending plans); • Defined indicators and monitoring plans to track progress; • Capacity to report results and ensure transparency.
Community & Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement of local communities and stakeholders; • Inclusive and safe sport practices; • Anticipated short- and long-term impact on beneficiaries.



Evaluation Framework

Projects will be evaluated on a 100-point scale. To be eligible for funding, the applications must:

- Score at least 70 points overall;
- Obtain at least 50% of the points in each individual criterion.

Evaluation Criteria	Checklist	Points
Quality of Project Design & Feasibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the project established budget plan (1-3 years) for funding needs? • Is the implementation plan realistic (timeline, objectives, resources and team capacity)? • What risks are associated with the project, and what strategies are in place to mitigate those risks? • Does the project use innovative digital platforms or technologies to improve delivery, reach, or impact? 	30
Strategic Fit & Volleyball Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the vision, mission, and goals of the project align with CEV's core values? • Is Volleyball the main activity of the project, used as the main platform through which broader goals are pursued (e.g. promoting healthy lifestyle, education, inclusion)? 	25
Transparency & Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there auditable accounts and visible spending decisions? • Is there a sustainability plan in place to ensure that the benefits of the project continue after the support ends (project legacy)? 	25
Community & Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What will be the impact on the community, and how will it be measured? • Is the project inclusive? 	20



Funding Categories, Project Duration and Grant Amounts

To ensure balanced distribution of resources, proportional impact, and effective monitoring, **Type 1: Project-Based Applications** are structured into **three funding categories**, based on project duration, scale, and level of ambition.

Applicants must select **one funding category** that best corresponds to the scope and maturity of their proposed project. **Only one application per applicant per call is permitted.**

Funding Categories

1. 1 Year Project – Pilot/Local

- **Project duration: 12 months**
- **CEV grant range: Up to EUR 20,000**

This category is intended for small-scale or pilot initiatives aimed at testing innovative ideas, addressing local needs, or launching new grassroots activities. It is particularly suitable for emerging applicants, clubs, or National Federations seeking to explore new approaches with limited financial risk.

2. 2 Years Project -Development

- **Project duration: 24 months**
- **CEV grant range: Up to EUR 40,000**

This category supports structured development projects with a broader reach and clearer organisational framework. Projects are expected to demonstrate defined objectives, measurable outcomes, and potential for continuation or expansion at national or regional level.

3. 3 Years Project – Strategic / Scalable

- **Project duration: 36 months**
- **CEV grant range: Up to EUR 80,000**

This category is designed for high-impact projects with strong strategic relevance, scalability, and long-term legacy for European volleyball. Applicants must demonstrate substantial organisational capacity, robust governance, and a clear sustainability plan beyond the funding period.

Project Duration and Funding Conditions

Projects may have a duration of **one (1), two(2), or three (3) years**, depending on the selected funding category. Applicants must clearly justify the proposed duration and requested budget in relation to project objectives, activities, and expected outcomes.

For multi-year projects, **CEV reserves the right to approve funding on an annual instalment basis**, subject to satisfactory progress, reporting, and compliance with contractual obligations.



Application Process

How to apply

Applications must be submitted through the dedicated [CEV Solidarity Fund – Type 1 Project-Based Applications Form](#) by the specified deadline. Before completing the form, applicants are strongly advised to:

- Carefully read these **Guidelines** to ensure eligibility and alignment with CEV strategic priorities.
- Download and complete the [CEV Solidarity Fund Templates](#), which includes four pre-formatted sheets to guide you through the main components of your proposal.
- Once you complete the templates, you may upload it as a single document in Word or PDF form in the “Transparency & Monitoring& Financial Accountability” section of the application Form

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. All applicants will receive an acknowledgment of receipt.

Required Documents

- **Completed application form**
- **CEV Solidarity Fund Templates** — completed and uploaded as a single file (see below)

Application Timeline

- **31 March 2026:** Application deadline
- **15 May 2026:** Announcement of the successful applications
- **30 June 2026:** Finalisation of administrative and legal procedures
- **01 July 2026:** Project implementation

Please note that the above timeline is indicative and may be adjusted depending on administrative, operational, or external circumstances.

Monitoring & Reporting

Successful projects are obliged to submit:

- A mid-term progress report (after 6 months of implementation);
- A final report within 2 months of completion, including financial summary, outcome indicators, and lessons learned.

Additional site visits or virtual check-ins may be scheduled during the implementation period. Failure to submit the required reports may result in disadvantages in future application rounds.



Instructions for the CEV Solidarity Fund Templates

[Instructions for the CEV Solidarity Fund Templates](#)

The file contains **four sheets**, each pre-filled with examples to guide you. You may replace or adapt the examples to fit your project.

Sheet #1 - Project Timeline & Key Milestones

Purpose: To demonstrate how your project will be implemented and managed over time.

- Divide your project into main phases (e.g. Preparation, Implementation, Communication, Evaluation).
- Describe the key activities, start and end dates, and the person responsible.
- Include an “Expected Output/Milestone” for each phase (e.g. “10 tournaments held,” “Training completed”).
- *Pre-filled example:* helps applicants see how to combine phases, activities, and outputs clearly.

Sheet #2 - Implementation Team

Purpose: To show who will deliver your project and their main responsibilities.

- List each team member’s name, role/position, main responsibilities, and approximate time allocation.
- Include both paid staff and volunteers if applicable.
- *Pre-filled examples:* Project Coordinator – oversees implementation and reporting – 40% allocation.

Sheet #3 - Budget Plan & Cost Justification

Purpose: To provide a transparent financial overview of your project.

- Use the predefined categories (Equipment, Training, Events, Communication, Travel, etc.) or add your own.
- Fill in the columns for description, quantity, unit cost, total cost, requested amount from CEV, co-funding (if any), and justification.
- Ensure your total funding request is realistic and consistent with your project scope.
- *Pre-filled examples:* illustrate typical cost categories and proportional co-funding.

Sheet #4 - Monitoring & KPIs

Purpose: To explain how you will measure your project’s progress and success.

- Define 2–5 **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)** linked to your objectives.
- For each, describe the indicator, data collection method, frequency of monitoring, and person responsible.
- *Pre-filled examples:* show common volleyball-related KPIs for participation, training, and inclusion.

💡 Submission Tip

Once you have completed all four sheets:

- Review your file to ensure that all information is complete and consistent with your application form.
- Upload it in the “Transparency & Monitoring & Financial Accountability” section of the application Form.