

Nightlife - Subsidies Opportunities in Brussels

There is no dedicated “nightlife subsidy” in Brussels. For venues specifically, there are almost no direct structural subsidies unless the venue is recognised as a cultural institution under a community framework. For festivals and event organisers, funding is fragmented and depends on positioning:

- If framed as cultural: FWB, VGC, municipal cultural grants
- If framed as community/social: COCOF, equal.brussels, foundations
- If framed as tourism/attractiveness: visit.brussels, City of Brussels
- If framed as economic/creative industry: hub.brussels
- If framed as international cultural cooperation: WBI, Creative Europe

In practice, successful nightlife organisations in Brussels combine multiple small and medium sources rather than relying on one structural subsidy.

1. City of Brussels (Ville de Bruxelles / Stad Brussel)

[Cultural Associations Grant](#)

Type → Operational or project-based subsidy

Who → Non-profit organisations based in the City of Brussels

What → Annual operational support or One-off event or project funding

→ *Relevance*

High, if the event takes place in the City of Brussels and can be framed as contributing to cultural life or tourism. Public space events require prior authorisation.

[Equal Opportunities Grant](#)

Type → Project-based subsidy (small scale)

Who → Non-profits active for at least 12 months

What → Projects promoting inclusion, anti-discrimination, gender equality, accessibility

→ *Relevance*

Relevant for organisations working on safer nightlife, inclusion, LGBTQIA+ programming, accessibility or anti-violence initiatives in party settings.

2. Other Brussels Municipalities (19 communes/gemeenten)

Each municipality (Ixelles, Saint-Gilles, Schaerbeek, Molenbeek, etc.) has its own cultural and event subsidies.

Type → Annual or project-based cultural grants

Who → Local associations active in the commune

What → Neighbourhood festivals, cultural events, community projects

→ *Relevance*

Medium to high for locally rooted festivals or recurring events. These are often smaller amounts but easier to access than regional or community-level funding.

3. Brussels-Capital Region

[visit.brussels – Event Promotion Support](#)

Type → Communication and visibility support (not direct cash subsidy)

Who → Event organisers in Brussels

What → Media visibility campaigns (digital, posters, social media)

→ *Relevance*

Strong for large festivals or major public events with tourism impact. This is strategic visibility support rather than financial aid.

[equal.brussels \(Brussels-Capital Region\)](#)

Type → Project calls

What → Equality, anti-discrimination, inclusion-focused initiatives

→ *Relevance*

Relevant for organisations working on safer nightlife, gender-based violence prevention, inclusion or diversity in festive spaces.

[hub.brussels \(Regional Economic Agency\)](#)

Type → Non-financial support and sometimes project calls

What → Coaching, Business development, Internationalisation support, Support for Creative and Cultural Industries (CCI)

→ *Relevance*

Useful for structured organisations with an economic model (festival companies, production structures). This is mainly accompaniment in kind, not classic subsidies.

[image de Bruxelles](#)

Type → Financial support, one shot events

What → Promotion of Brussels through culture and visibility of Brussels assets

4. French-speaking Community

[Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles \(FWB\)](#)

Type → Cultural subsidies, structural or multi-annual funding

What → Support for cultural organisations, concert venue, festival support (if framed as artistic or cultural event). For labels, training programs, check [here](#).

→ *Relevance*

Possible if the project is clearly positioned as cultural or artistic (music programming, contemporary creation, interdisciplinary festival).

[Wallonie Bruxelles Musique](#)

What → Receive support for a showcase concert, launch party, label or agency event for projects abroad

[COCOF \(Commission communautaire française\)](#)

Type → Socio-cultural subsidies

What → Support for associations active in socio-cultural fields, or cultural centers, project-based funding

→ *Relevance*

Relevant for associations with strong social or community dimensions (education, participation, harm reduction, inclusion).

5. Flemish-speaking Community

[VGC \(Vlaamse Gemeenschapscommissie\)](#)

Type → Cultural and community grants

Who → Dutch-speaking or bilingual organisations active in Brussels

What → Cultural events, community projects, artistic initiatives

→ *Relevance*

More accessible if the structure works in Dutch or has a clear Flemish-Brussels cultural positioning.

[Àfonds and Àfonds+ \(VGC\)](#)

Type → Artistic development and support

What → Support for artistic structures and creators

→ *Relevance*

Relevant for nightlife operators. More relevant for collectives that also function as artistic production platforms.

You can also check [Kunsten Art Decree](#)