

EUROPEAN FESTIVALS FOREST

carbon capture for arts companies

Annual Report 2025

MARCH 2026

MISSION

We work together with festivals, arts organisations, and their audiences across the continent to mitigate the environmental impact of the cultural sector through afforestation, to embed best practice in our sector, and to focus the activist potential of the cultural world to campaign for the culture and practice of environmental sustainability towards net zero.

Since 2022

30,000

TREES

donated by

21 festivals, 2 ensembles,
2 agencies, 1 publisher, 1 venue

CONTENT REPORT 2025

In 2025 we welcomed several new partners: the festival Kullar & Klang in Vännforsbäck, in the rural north of Sweden; the two Dutch festivals Grachtenfestival and String Quartet Biënnale, both based in Amsterdam; the festival Off the Beaten Path, set in a remote mountain landscape in Bulgaria; Sarajevo Fest Art & Politics, exploring the intersection of art and politics; and the renowned St Martin-in-the-Fields Autumn Lecture Series from London.

We are thrilled to share that, thanks to the contributions of 27 arts organizations and individual donors across Europe, the festival forest has now grown beyond 30,000 trees. In spring and summer 2026, we will gladly plant 10,795 new trees on their behalf, joining the 20,054 that have already braved their first Arctic winter(s). Reaching this milestone in just over four years is a powerful testament to the impact we are making together.

A special thanks to Into the Great Wide Open for going the extra mile in offsetting their historical CO₂ emissions.

A huge thank you to each and every one of you:

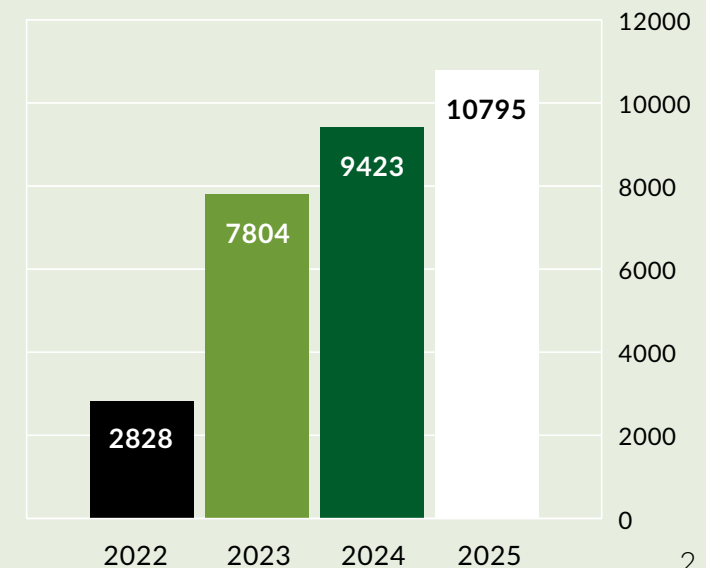
- Brussels Jazz Orchestra (BE)
- Culturescapes (CH)
- ECOS Festival (SP)
- Fast Forward Classical (DE)
- Festivaletteratura (IT)
- Flamenco Agency (SP)
- Grachtenfestival (NL)
- Into the Great Wide Open (NL)
- Kullar & Klang (SE)
- Noorderzon (NL)
- Off The Beaten Path (BG)
- Parade (NL)
- Popronde (NL)
- Princeton University Press (UK)
- ReMusica (XK)
- Rewire (NL)
- Reykjavik Arts Festival (IS)
- Ricciotti (NL)
- Sarajevo Fest Art & Politics (BiH)
- Schiermonnikoog Festival (NL)
- St Martin-in-the-Fields (UK)
- STROOM (BE)
- String Quartet Biënnale Amsterdam (NL)
- Usedomer Musikfestival (DE)
- Walden Festival (BE)
- Weissenhorn Klassik (DE)
- Wonderfeel (NL)

*And individual donors from across Europe
and beyond.*



Festival Forest growth curve since 2022

The numbers reflect the trees donated that year, with planting occurring in the following year.



FINANCIAL REPORT 2025

2025, in addition to income from donations, we also incurred several costs, which are detailed in our Financial Report. These included expenses for tree purchases, website maintenance, accounting services, travel, and design.

The startup costs from the first two years (2021 and 2022), which provide benefits over multiple years, were recorded as depreciation of intangible fixed assets. For 2025, we decided to include all costs incurred in that year, as well as the remaining expenses from earlier years in our financial statements. This explains the depreciation of intangible fixed assets.

The costs for the trees donated in 2024 and 2025 were incurred and are here recorded in the accounts of 2025.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2025



COMMUNICATION

Besides sending out our irregular newsletters throughout the year, we also led a **workshop** at the Arts Festivals Summit 2025 in Edinburgh, organised by our partner the European Festivals Association, on Green Travel & Transport. Together with contributors Megan Best (Native Events), Rozan Dikkat (Enjoy Jazz) and Tijl Couzij (Into the Great Wide Open), we shared practical approaches and honest experiences of what works (and what doesn't) when it comes to making travel and transport more sustainable as a festival. We spoke about audience travel, artist mobility and the limits festivals face, while exchanging concrete ideas on how to take small but meaningful steps forward. We ended with a walk through the city, picking up litter together while continuing the conversation – a simple, collective action that grounded the session in practice.

[> You can read the event report here](#)

On 16 October we hosted an **online webinar** together with Sweden Festivals on planting trees within the European Festivals Forest. We brought together festival organisers to share experiences and practical questions around sustainability, and to explore how tree planting can play a meaningful role within a broader approach. The session offered space for exchange, reflection and a closer look at how the forest is developing in practice.

[> Link to the webinar](#)



IN THE SPOTLIGHTS

Off the Beaten Path Festival

Lora Tchekorotova,

director: "Our festival takes place in remote villages and towns where classical music is rarely performed. What makes us special is not only the music we create, but also our wonderous locations where we are surrounded by the magnificent forests of the Rhodope Mountains and the refreshing waterfalls of the Devetaki Plateau. Last summer, we witnessed devastating wildfires in the Pirin mountains, the smoke and debris reaching our festival. As artists, we are in a unique position to bring people together in support of the causes we all care about. We are thrilled to join the European Festival Forest by donating a portion of our ticket sales to help plant trees. Here is to making a difference together, one tree at a time!"



> *Read here more about the 8th edition of Off the Beaten Path in July and August 2026*

Sarajevo Fest

Haris Pašović, director of Sarajevo Fest & artistic leader of the East West Theatre Company:

"It sounded beyond crazy – to plant trees in Iceland! But Tamar and Peter could probably make me plant trees on the moon as well. Their inspiring vision of the Festival Forest planted in Iceland was so inviting that we at the Sarajevo Fest happily joined the initiative. The whole project will contribute, even if modestly, to the health of our environment, but it already represents a massive boost to the sense of togetherness among European festivals. The Festival Forest's climate impact, along with its strong symbolic value, reflects European arts festivals' belief in a bright future for our planet."



Photo: Primoz Korosec

Thank you, Tamar and Peter, for your green folie à deux, which you passed on to us so that together we could build a living, green, fragrant legacy for festivals."

The next edition of Sarajevo Fest will take place in autumn 2026.

> *Read here about last edition*

String Quartet Biennale Amsterdam

Yasmin Hilberdink,

artistic director & founder of String Quartet Biennale Amsterdam:



Photo: Juri Hensch

"As the world's largest festival devoted to the string quartet, we carry a responsibility not only to celebrate this remarkable musical form but also to foster a more sustainable future. The string quartet teaches us about equality, attentiveness and collaboration; values that are urgently needed beyond the stage as well."

At the SQBA, artists and audiences meet in an atmosphere of curiosity and openness, discovering what the string quartet can express across generations and cultures. Joining the European Festivals Forest feels like a natural extension of our mission. Just as every quartet relies on shared responsibility and active listening, we wish to contribute to a healthier planet together with our performers, partners and visitors."

> *Watch here the aftermovie of the String Quartet Biennale Amsterdam 2026*

JOIN US

Join us working towards Net Zero for €2 per tree. Sign up on www.festivalsforest.eu or if you have questions send an email to:

Tamar Brüggemann:
tamar@festivalsforest.eu

Peter Florence:
peter@festivalsforest.eu

WANT TO SUPPORT THE FOREST?

> Plant a tree for just €2



Tree planting partner:



Associate partner:



PLANT A TREE | IN THE EUROPEAN FESTIVALS FOREST

www.festivalsforest.eu

The European Festivals Forest is a not-for-profit foundation with charity registration number 84843225 at the Netherlands Chamber of Commerce.