



**THE METIS FUND:
A unique initiative for connecting
arts and development**

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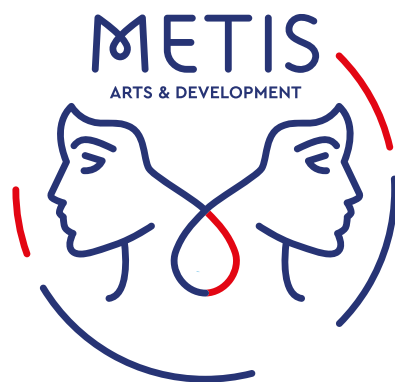


“What we call a ‘work of art’ is the result of an action whose finite aim is to call forth infinite developments in someone.”

PAUL VALÉRY

“Art is the indestructible link between all peoples and all civilizations.”

SALVADOR DALI



Metis promotes a better integration of arts and culture in the developmental process. Too often treated separately, arts and development would do better to strengthen and enrich each other.

This fund was launched in 2021 by Agence Française de Développement (AFD), and brings together stakeholders committed to this ideal. Together, they support local artistic initiatives connected to the projects, people and territories backed by AFD.

Metis:
Sharing emotions,
generating transformations.

METIS THE GODDESS

In Greek mythology, Metis is the goddess of wisdom. Having been swallowed by Zeus – who feared the strength of her offspring – Metis quietly contributes to his unmatched power. For us, the multifaceted Metis is a symbol of the potential power that emerges when we unite development with the arts.



“At the New Africa-France Summit in Montpellier in October 2021, French President Emmanuel Macron emphasized the need to enlist the help of civil society in artistic work that inspires invention.

I am delighted that AFD Group is working to achieve this through the Metis initiative. This unprecedented financial framework was designed to encourage creative expression within the projects we support on all continents.

Culture therefore becomes a key element in our inclusive investments and a driver of transformation through painting, writing, dance and music.

These esthetic actions will portray the hope of a world in common.”

RÉMY RIOUX, AFD CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



The arts, an essential means of driving development

DEVELOPMENT, A TECHNICAL APPROACH

Development projects aim to improve living conditions in countries expressing this need. Their implementation relies above all on the technical dimension required for their effectiveness. A diverse network of public and private stakeholders is mobilized for these projects, working at both local and international levels.

However, until now, this sector has devoted little attention to the emotional aspect, a fundamental component of any humanist project. Yet who could deny that projects introducing new ways of living can also bring about an emotional adventure?

THE ARTS, HUMANITY AMPLIFIED

Through painting, music, dance, theater and poetry, the arts connect us to our senses and the emotional world. They are sources of emotional resonance. The arts create connections that transcend social, cultural, religious and political differences. They expose what is hidden, raise awareness, criticize, challenge and build. The arts enrich our individual and collective intelligence.

Since the dawn of time, the arts have been present in the daily lives of human societies. Just think of the cave paintings in Lascaux in the south of France, or the role of painting in ancient Egypt, or of African ritual dances. Arts and development have always fueled and fed another.

Assessments and feedback from the field reveal that development projects are still struggling to achieve their objectives and obtain the results needed to address growing challenges, and the time has come for us to innovate in our ways of thinking and acting.

“Without emotions, it is impossible to transform darkness into light and apathy into movement.”

CARL GUSTAV JUNG



© Photo Laid Liazid

Through Metis, AFD offers a unique initiative connecting development and the arts.

AFD: MAIN OPERATOR OF INCLUSIVE FRENCH INVESTMENT IN SUPPORT OF DEVELOPMENT

Created in 1941, Agence Française de Développement (AFD) now works in 115 countries. The projects it supports target the sectors of energy, urban development, agricultural development, preservation of the environment, health, and education. AFD is one of the world's leading donors of public funds. Based on the findings outlined above, and strengthened by France's rich cultural and artistic experience, AFD has decided to create a unique initiative through the Metis Fund.

METIS: PURSUING THE MUTUAL ENRICHMENT OF THE ARTS, CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT

Metis proposes to open new spaces for dialogue. This financial framework allows artists in countries where AFD is active to invest in development projects supported by AFD. Metis targets artists who want to take part in these projects, who, while recognizing the technical aspects, can provide the additional emotional aspects that will render them all the more effective.

METIS AND ITS PATRONS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO:

- Strengthening the impacts of development projects
- Improving local ownership of these projects
- Stimulating the involvement of all stakeholders
- Helping donors, including AFD, become more attentive to the talent present in countries where they intervene
- Strengthening cohesion within and surrounding AFD

“People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

MAYA ANGELOU, POET AND AFRICAN AMERICAN ACTIVIST



A concrete example: Metis supports Mauritian “artist” Kan Chan Kin

CONTEXT

AFD actively intervenes to support governments of countries in the Indian Ocean, companies, NGOs, and research centers to preserve marine ecosystems, which are sources of crucial socio-economic services for the people living in these countries.

To contribute to this process, Metis has decided to mobilize our emotional energy and support artist Kan Chan Kin.

“My main focus is making music. I also create a variety of objects using waste and recycled products. It’s a way for me to raise awareness about pollution and our way of life that produces a lot of waste. I try to combine art with environmental messages.”

KAN CHAN KIN

EXPECTED IMPACTS

- Enrichment stemming from the meetings between:
 - the artist and scientists, academic experts on plastic pollution
 - the artist and various Mauritian stakeholders involved in waste management
- An emotional response to plastic pollution in the ocean among diverse audiences invited to the workshop, exhibitions and Kan’s concerts
- Increased awareness among stakeholders who have been in contact with Kan and his productions with the aim of improving buying and consumption behaviors, and the management of plastic waste

THE PROJECT

Supported by Metis, Kan Chan Kin will:

- Produce musical instruments using plastic waste
- Organize awareness-raising workshops
- Involve a wide range of stakeholders from Mauritius in his creations
- Exhibit his work
- Produce a concert highlighting these instruments created by upcycling



Metis: an ambitious, agile, and radiant initiative

“Talented, often unknown artists will receive support from Metis. They will be inspired by our challenges, difficulties, and successes on the ground, where development projects are carried out. They will bring new life and color to our stories, especially those of the local people involved.”

TIPHAINE DE MOMBYNES, HEAD OF METIS FOR AFD

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR ARTISTIC PROJECTS

1

Contributes to the SDGs
(Sustainable Development Goals)

2

Targets beneficiaries of AFD's actions, as close as possible to the areas concerned

3

Strengthens and enriches AFD's operations and sectoral strategies

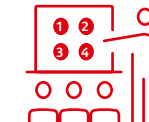
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Demonstrates genuine artistic quality

SELECTION PROCESS



In partnership with AFD, an artist (or institution promoting the arts) provides a description of the project. The project proposal is then submitted to Metis.

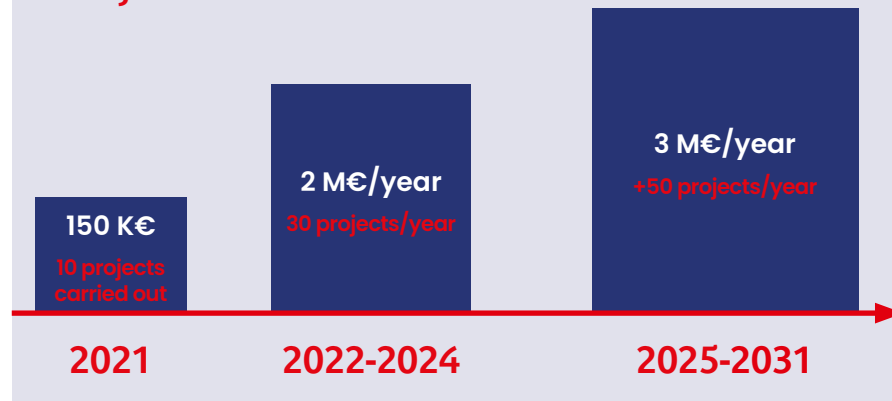


The Metis selection board selects proposals according to the eligibility criteria.



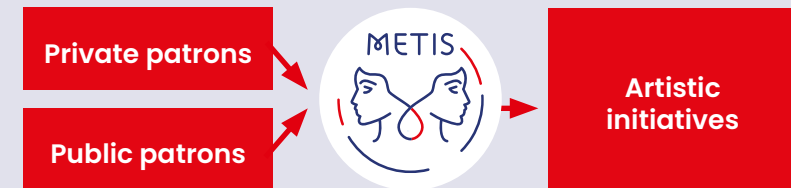
Metis finances, supports and promotes the selected projects.

BUDGET



OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS

Metis has its own legal status. It receives funds from diverse public and private, French and foreign sources. Metis offers an attractive tax system for its patrons.



Metis: concrete examples of projects

BURKINA FASO



ART

Dance Street performances and dance training

Artist Irène Tassembédo, Le Grin des Arts Vivants

DEVELOPMENT

Objectives

Strengthen social cohesion in areas undergoing urban development:

- Work on self-esteem
- Foster resilience and inclusion
- Provide access to art and culture
- Vulnerable urban communities
- Women
- General public

Publics

- Populations vulnérables urbaines
- Femmes
- Grand public

HAITI



ART

Theater Creation and performance of an original collective work

Artist Gaëlle Bien-Aimé

DEVELOPMENT

Objectives

- Cope with endemic insecurity and instability:
- Encourage self-expression and openness
 - Avoid repetition or imitation
 - Curb the spiral of violence

Target audience

- Young middle school students aged 12-15

MOROCCO



ART

Photography Reporting, photo workshop, and traveling exhibition

Artist Laïd Liazid

DEVELOPMENT

Objectives

FRaise awareness of the role of women in traditional fishing:

- Impacts of female entrepreneurship and of women's financial empowerment on development
 - Environmental protection
- Target audiences
- Fisherwomen
 - Coastal communities
 - General public

Target audiences

- Fisherwomen
- Coastal communities
- General public

INDO-PACIFIC OCEAN MAURITIUS - INDONESIA - INDIA



ART

Music Instruments made from recycled materials, musical creation and performance

Artist Kan Chan Kin

Comics Comic strips against plastic

Artists Fikri Izzaldin, Maulana Saputra and Audrey Ardissa

Visual Arts Artwork made from plastic waste

Artist Manveer Singh aka Plasticvalla

DEVELOPMENT

Objectives

Raise awareness about plastic pollution in the oceans:

- Behavioral changes to better reduce and sort waste
- Enlist the help of partners to protect resources and manage waste
- Encourage artistic practices that produce greater developmental change

Target audiences

- Young people
- General public
- Partners and decision-makers



Metis: concrete examples of projects

MEXICO



ART
Painting
 Mural, social events

Artist
 Priscila Martinez

DEVELOPMENT
Objectives
 Promote the protection of biodiversity:
 • Raise awareness through art
 • Community involvement
 • Create a sense of belonging

Target audiences
 • Local inhabitants and stakeholders

NIGERIA



ART
Dance
 Drawing workshops, painting and collage, exhibition and sale to benefit NGOs

Artists
 Chidima Urunwa and Uche Uguru

DEVELOPMENT
Objectives
 Help prevent children from dropping out of school:
 • Encourage the expression of emotions to overcome difficulties
 • Reintegration into the school system through art
 • Return to school fund

Target audiences
 • Children in difficult situations who have dropped out of school
 • Parents
 • Community leaders

PERU



ART
Arts
 Visual arts and storytelling
 Artistic residency exchange between the Peruvian Amazon and the Brocéliande forest in France

Artists Jessica Moulinet, Philippe Manguin and Peruvian artists

DEVELOPMENT
Objectives
 Conservation of forests, ecosystems and ways of life through artistic dialogue:
 • Promote cultural and natural diversity
 • Inspire new models of development and living together

Target audiences
 • Local communities
 • General public

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, CARIBBEAN, AND THE GULF OF MEXICO



ART
Graphic narrative
 Regional comic strip

Artists Jessica Oublié and nine illustrators in the countries involved

DEVELOPMENT
Objectives
 Mobilize people against the spread of sargassum (brown algae):
 • Raise awareness about environmental and socio economic impacts
 • Generate common regional solutions

Target audiences
 • General public
 • Decision-makers





Metis: **Transforming our world** **by sharing emotions**

Launched in 2021 by Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the Metis Fund promotes a better integration of the arts and culture in official development assistance. Metis brings together stakeholders who are committed to this ideal. Together, they support local artistic initiatives related to the development projects funded by AFD.

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