



Creative  
Europe  
MEDIA



## SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT – SLATE FUNDING – 2016

**F.A.Q. - Frequently Asked Questions  
Call for Proposals EACEA/19/2015  
Deadline for submitting applications: 04/02/2016**

This document is intended to provide useful information to applicants. It does not replace or overrule the criteria or any other conditions contained in the Call for proposals notice or in the Guidelines available under:  
[https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe/funding/development-slate-funding-2016\\_en](https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe/funding/development-slate-funding-2016_en)

It applies only to the Call for Proposals and rounds as indicated above.

# 1. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

## ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES

### Which countries are eligible to participate?

The EU Member States as well as Iceland, Norway, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) and Montenegro.

For more details, please read this note on the eligibility of non-EU countries in the Creative Europe programme [http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe/library/eligibility-organisations-non-eu-countries\\_en](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe/library/eligibility-organisations-non-eu-countries_en)

NB: As the list of non-EU participating in the MEDIA sub-programme is often evolving, we highly recommend that you check this list regularly.

## ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

### A company has to be legally constituted for 36 months before when?

The applying company has to be officially constituted (i.e. date of registration/incorporation as shown on the registration documents) at least 36 months before the submission date.

### Is an association, which is legally registered with the main activity “production of audiovisual works” and which has been developing and producing documentary films for several years eligible?

An association can be eligible as long as it is officially registered at national level and fulfils the other eligibility criteria such as audiovisual production as its main activity and proven track record. Natural persons (individuals) are not eligible.

### Could you also give us some indication on whether there is a minimum size for Slate companies?

The guidelines do not contain any indication of a minimum size of a company to be eligible for slate funding. The evaluation of the company's capacity to develop and produce a slate is done by experts on a case-by-case basis.

### A company is listed as having two separate business activities. Film production is one of them but I am not sure how to evidence that it is the main activity.

The best proof to be provided is the text in the national registration certificate and the activity code. This would be the best one but others, like statutes of the company, can be accepted if the production activity is clearly indicated.

### My company was legally established in 2007. This year it changed its name and it received a new legal status and a new registration number. Would it be eligible according to the rule of at least 36 months of legal constitution?

Normally a name change does not change the register number. In case of a change of legal status which often provokes a change of the registration number, in order to establish operational continuity, you must proof that all active and passive of the previous company was transferred to the new entity and that the old company is closed.

### Could you confirm that Development grants are only allowed to a unique beneficiary and not to several co-producers?

Development grants are mono-beneficiary support, therefore only one producer should be indicated in the eform. However, the projects contained in the Slate funding application can be the subjects of a co-production agreement or co-development between producers. The applicant company must own the majority of the rights related to the projects.

### In the case of co-production between 2 companies, would 50/50 share be eligible? What about 3 co-producers?

In the case of 2 co-producers, 50/50% share of rights is acceptable. In case of 3 producers, the one which has the biggest share is considered as having the majority (example 35%-33%-32% ownership) and is the one who should apply.

### What are the proofs required to justify that the applicant company is really the owner of the majority of rights related the project?

The applicant must show that it holds the majority of the rights relating to each project, no later than on the date of submission. It is required to provide a duly dated and signed contract covering the rights to the artistic material included in the application. This artistic material shall include at least: concept, subject, treatment, script or bible. If the project is an adaptation of an existing work (novel, biography etc.), the applicant must also show that it holds the majority of the rights relating to the rights of adaptation to this work.

#### **MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS/RESUBMISSIONS**

##### **Can applicants apply for a slate funding as well as a single project with different projects for the coming calls?**

No, this is not allowed. An applicant has to choose between applying for either Slate Funding or Single Project and if single, then one deadline only is possible.

In addition, beneficiaries of an on-going slate funding support granted in 2015 cannot apply for a single project (nor a slate funding support in 2016).

##### **If a company got support for a single development project in the framework of call 2015, can it apply under the development slate funding call for 2016?**

Yes, the company can apply under the call for support of a Slate Funding in 2016. Or the company can also choose to apply again for the development support of a Single Project in 2015 (first deadline)/2016 (second deadline).

##### **Is it possible to apply for a slate under the current call if the previous slate under MEDIA 2007 is still not "closed"?**

Yes, it is possible to apply because at the start of the Creative Europe Programme in 2014, we considered first year as year Zero.

##### **Can a company with a Slate Funding in 2015 apply again for Slate Funding in 2016?**

No, a company which received a Slate Funding in 2015 cannot apply for a Slate Funding in 2016. However, companies having received a Slate Funding in 2014 under the Creative Europe/MEDIA Programme can apply again, even if his 2014 Slate is not closed yet.

#### **PROVEN TRACK RECORD / PREVIOUS WORK**

##### **How recent must the previous production be to be eligible?**

The previous work has to be produced within the five years preceding the submission date.

Moreover, it will have to be officially released in cinemas or broadcast on television in at least three countries other than that of the applicant during the two calendar years preceding the publication of the Call for Proposals (at the earliest 1/01/2013). In case of broadcast, 3 different broadcasters are necessary.

##### **Is a reference project accepted even if the cinema release or the broadcast date was after the reference period of 2 years preceding the call publication, as long as the contract was within this time frame?**

No, only effective distribution is taken into consideration - applicants must prove the date of release in cinema or broadcast date. Contracts are not acceptable taken for the date of distribution.

##### **Is DVD distribution of the previous work eligible? What about internet platforms?**

No. Only official release in cinema or television broadcast date are accepted. Commercial distribution online and distribution from international sales agent are accepted if duly documented by a revenues report related to the reference period.

##### **If the previous work produced by the applicant has been released or broadcasted after the submission date, can it be considered?**

The reference period for distribution of the previous work starts on 01/01/2013 for this current Call will end at the date of submission of the application. Release after the submission of the application will not be accepted.

##### **If the previous work has been distributed in three countries that are not participating in the MEDIA Sub-programme, is it eligible?**

There is no reference in the guidelines where these countries should be or to which group they should belong to. Therefore, any country will do.

## ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

### **Can the second season of a drama series apply for Development if a company already got support for the Development of the first season?**

Yes, a second season is eligible as long as the applicant can demonstrate that this is a new and different project. Bear also in mind that the project will be assessed against the award criteria defined in the Guidelines and in particular originality and added-value.

### **A company is currently compiling a documentary slate. Three of four projects will be realized by the same (well experienced) producer/director and writer. The projects have international potential and are very different from each other. Is it a disadvantage if the same two persons are attached to most of the projects of the slate?**

In such a case, the applicant should carefully explain the timetable and how the same person can be involved at such a high level in many projects of different nature. It will be up to the experts to evaluate, on a case-by-case basis, if the explanations provided can erase potential doubts as to the feasibility or viability of the project.

## 2. AUTOMATIC POINTS

### **What are the countries with medium and low production capacity?**

Countries with medium capacity are the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland.

Countries with low production capacity are the following: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, FYROM, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Montenegro, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia.

France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom are considered as high production capacity countries under these Guidelines.

## 3. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

### **Can I apply only in paper form?**

No, only e-forms applications are accepted. Please find hereunder the link to the e-Form:

<https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/PPMT/>

Please note that no paper back-up copy is necessary.

### **The title of the slate project is compulsory. What should an applicant indicate?**

Applicants can indicate "Slate Funding 2016" as title for their application. There is no need to list all the titles of the projects in the title.

### **A company wants to apply with four or five projects, but in most cases they have scripts but no treatments. Would it be possible to hand in only the scripts, if a treatment is not available?**

For Slate funding applications, treatments and dialog scenes are preferable and essential but if an applicant company does not have them, it should provide the artistic material at its disposal, even if it is only the scripts. It is up to the applicant to decide what materials are the best for their application in order to get the highest scores under each of the award criterion defined in the Guidelines.

**Where do the applicants add their authors' contracts & letters of intention? Do they add them to the project presentations?**

All proofs of rights are to be kept by the applicant for further demands by the Agency. On the other hand, letters of intention – and any other material the applicant considers valuable for the evaluation - can be scanned with the artistic material.

**Should the track record of all producers be attached the application?**

The ground rule is that the applicant company must have a track record. If the company reference works are too thin, the applicant can provide information on personal credits.

**Is it possible to make any changes to an application which has already been submitted as we are still before the deadline?**

If the time permits, we recommend that you submit a new modified application. We will take into account the last version of the application.

**Can I send additional documents or modify my application after the deadline?**

No, the applications cannot be modified after the deadline. If the Agency needs further information, it will contact the applicant.

**What shall I include in the Annex 1 as "detailed description of the project"?**

You should attach to the Eform as annex 1 all the artistic material you have at your disposal to enable a proper assessment of each of the projects of the Slate. This includes in particular the latest version of a script if available, a treatment of a maximum 10 pages, and if available synopsis or episode outline, a director's note, visual elements etc.... The amount and extent of information to provide at this stage is depending on the genre of your project and the stage of development you are at.

**What shall I include in the Annex 5 of the application form "Relevant supporting documents of co-production and financing"?**

Any other documents relevant to the assessment of the award criteria and especially regarding co-production and financing should be included in the Annex 5 of the Eform (such as proofs of co-financing, co-production, letters of interest or intent etc.).

**May I include links to further artwork or even teasers/trailers in my project description?**

Yes, please include the links in both the application form and the descriptive artistic material and do not forget the password if there is any (with a validity of over than 3 months).

**Is there a difference between the 'Project Summary' in the main application and the 'Short Synopsis' in the annex? More specifically is the Project Summary a summary of the story or summary of the project?**

Project summary is a summary of the story and should not exceed 2000 characters. If it is written with another language than English, the English translation is requested.

**Do we need to upload the VAT Certificate and legal entity form, etc, to the participant portal before submission or will they be requested in a similar way to the other evidence documents?**

As it does not block the application, the VAT certificate, etc, can be uploaded to the participant portal after the application deadline. However, we recommend that you upload these documents as soon as possible to avoid slowing down the application process.

**Is it possible to modify company details in the participant database after the deadline?**

Yes, this is possible. Please note that the modification has to be done in the portal by the LEAR. Please ensure that this person is available during the selection process or has a back-up.

## 4. BUDGET AND FINANCING

**A company applying for a theatrical fiction project are also keen to develop an online platform which will expand the world of their character and hopefully assist with the marketing the project. Would the design and plan of this platform be considered and eligible cost?**

Yes, they are considered as marketing actions and costs and are therefore eligible.

**Could you please explain us how the applicant's financial capacity is calculated?**

The financial capacity is calculated by a matrix taking into account the main figures of the company's last 3 years of exercise. The main elements of the calculation are the following:

- results (profit/loss), dividends and depreciation of 3 previous years;
- the equity, current assets and current liabilities and total costs of the last financial exercise/year (certified accounts);
- the amount of support from MEDIA, total costs of the project and third party financing already in place.

Companies not having 2 years of certified accounts will fail the test. The most negative factor is the equity being negative. Also if the total costs of the project are well above the league of the total costs of the fiscal exercise and no third party financing in place, the financial capacity might be assessed as not solid enough.

**In case of a weak financial capacity, a company has to ask for a guarantee to its bank in order to get pre-financing. Could you confirm whether that this guarantee should apply to the total amount of the grant or the first instalment (50%) only?**

The amount to be guaranteed is only the amount of the pre-financing (in the case of Slate funding 50%) and not the total amount. The company has the possibility to have an interim payment of 50% against certified costs to avoid the costs of a bank guarantee (or of they face the impossibility to receive one from a bank).