



Creative
Europe
MEDIA



SUPPORT FOR CONTENT DEVELOPMENT – SLATE FUNDING – 2017

**F.A.Q. - Frequently Asked Questions
Call for Proposals EACEA/21/2016
Deadline for submitting applications: 02/02/2017**

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/support-for-development-slate-funding-2017_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 in the Scheme?

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

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

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

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

How long does a company need to be legally registered for in order to be eligible to participate in the Call?

The company applying has to be officially constituted (i.e. date of registration/incorporation as shown in 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 other eligibility criteria such as audiovisual production as its main activity and proven track record. Natural persons (individuals) are not eligible.

Are there any requirements regarding the minimum size of a company who wants to participate in the Call?

The Guidelines do not contain any indication regarding the minimum size of a company in order to be eligible for Slate Funding. The evaluation of the company's capacity to develop and produce a Slate is carried out 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 how to prove that it is the main activity?

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

The 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 this company be eligible according to the rule of at least 36 months of legal constitution?

Normally a name change does not imply a change of the registration number. In case of a change of legal status, which often causes a change of the registration number, in order to establish operational continuity, the applicant must prove that all active and passive assets of the previous company have been transferred to the new entity and that the old company is closed.

Could you confirm that Development grants are only awarded 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 in the case of 3 co-producers?

In the case of 2 co-producers, 50/50 share of rights is acceptable. In the case of 3 producers, the one holding the biggest

share is considered as having the majority (example 35%-33%-32% ownership) and is therefore the one who should apply.

Which proofs are required to justify that the applicant company is the owner of the majority of rights related to 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. A duly dated and signed contract is required, 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 to apply either for Slate Funding or Single Project. If Single Project is chosen, it is only possible to submit one application under one deadline. In addition, beneficiaries of an on-going Slate Funding support since 2014 cannot apply for a Single Project.

If a company got support for a Single development project in the framework of Call 2016, is it possible to apply under the Content Development Slate Funding Call for 2017?

Yes, the company can apply under the Call for support of a Slate Funding in 2017. The company can also choose to apply again for the Development support of a Single Project under the Call's first deadline in 2016 or for the second deadline in 2017.

In any case the company will have to choose between applying under the Slate Funding Call 2017 or the Call Single Project 2017.

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 since we considered the first year of the Creative Europe Programme in 2014 as year Zero.

Can a company awarded for a Slate Funding in 2016 apply again for Slate Funding in 2017?

No, a company which received a Slate Funding in 2016 cannot apply for a Slate Funding in 2017. However, companies having received a Slate Funding in 2015 (or in 2014) under the Creative Europe/MEDIA Sub-programme can apply again, even if the 2015 (or 2014) Slate is not yet closed.

PROVEN TRACK RECORD / PREVIOUS WORK

How recent must the previous production be in order to be considered eligible?

As described in section 6.1 of the Guidelines, the applicant must prove it has produced a previous eligible work in the five years preceding the submission of the application. Moreover, the production 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 period between 1/01/2014 and the date of submission of the application. In case of broadcast, 3 different broadcasters are necessary.

What kind of document is required in order to demonstrate that the applicant company produced a previous eligible work?

The principle rule is that the applicant company must have produced the previous work. It must prove that it was the only company involved, i.e. sole production company or that it was, in the case of a co-production, the major co-producer in the financing plan or the delegate producer. If this is based on the financial plan, a certified final budget would be the proof. Sole production company is proved by onscreen credits.

If it is a person credit, onscreen credit is necessary where the name of the person is visible with the title of producer or delegate producer, but a co-producer credit is not accepted. Onscreen credit is the only possible proof for personal credit. All proofs of eligibility are to be kept by the applicant and could be requested by the Agency at a later stage during the selection process.

Is a reference project accepted if the cinema release or the broadcast date was after the reference period of 2 years preceding the submission, 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 accepted as proof and the date of distribution mentioned in the contract is not taken into account for this purpose.

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

No. Only the date of 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 for this current Call on 01/01/2014 and will end on the date of submission of the application. Release after the submission date of the application will not be accepted.

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

There is no reference in the Guidelines to where these countries should be or to which group they should belong to. Therefore, any country can be accepted.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Can the applicant apply for Development to support the second season of a drama series if the company was already awarded support for the Development of the first season?

Yes, a second season is eligible as long as the applicant can demonstrate that this project is new and different. Please note that the project will be assessed against the award criteria defined in the Guidelines and in particular with regard to 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. However the evaluation will be carried out by the experts, on a case-by-case basis, who will determine whether the explanations provided can erase potential doubts as to the feasibility or viability of the project.

Is it possible to mix the genres (animation/creative documentary/fiction) in a Slate?

Yes, the mix between several genres is accepted in the Slate as well as the various platforms it is targeted at, as long as the projects fulfil the eligibility criteria defined under Section 6 of the Guidelines.

Can the Slate be composed of 2 fictions and a short film?

No, the Slate has to comprise between 3 to 5 eligible works as defined under point 6.2 of the Guidelines. The short film might only be an addition to the Slate.

Is it possible to add several short film projects to the Slate?

No, only one (1) short film can be added to the Slate.

Are there any restrictions regarding the type of Short Film that can be added to the Slate?

In order to be eligible, the Short Film has to have a maximum length of 20 minutes. It can be an animation, creative documentary or fiction. Previews and advertising films, pilot teasers and demos are not eligible. Furthermore, no project listed as ineligible under section 6.2 of the Guidelines can be taken in consideration.

2. AUTOMATIC POINTS

Which 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, the Republic of Serbia, 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 online applications are accepted. Please find hereunder the link to the eForm:

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

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

As the title of the Slate project is compulsory, what should an applicant indicate?

Applicants can simply indicate "Slate Funding 2017" as the title for their application. There is no need to list all the titles of the projects in this space.

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 provide only the scripts, if the treatment is not available?

For Slate Funding applications, treatments and dialog scenes are preferable and essential but if these are not available at the time of submission, the applicant company should provide the artistic material at its disposal, even if only the scripts.

It is up to the applicant to decide what material to include in the application, in order to obtain the highest scores under each of the award criterion defined in the Guidelines.

Where are authors' contracts & letters of intention meant to be added? Should they be included in the project presentations?

All proofs of rights are to be kept by the applicant for further demands by the Agency. However, letters of intention – and any other material the applicant considers valuable for the evaluation - can be scanned and attached with the artistic material or in a separate Annex..

Should the track record of all the producers involved be attached to the application?

The ground rule is that the applicant company must have a track record. If the company's reference work is too weak, then the applicant can provide information on personal credits. In any case the applicant shall provide as much information on all staff and producers listed to the project(s) in order to enable a proper evaluation of the Slate, in particular with regards to the award criteria "Organisation of the project's team".

Is it possible to make any changes to an application which has already been submitted and the deadline has not passed yet?

If the time permits, we recommend that you submit a new modified application. We will take into account the last version of the application. In any case you can contact us before the deadline at the following address: EACEA-MEDIA-DEVELOPMENT@ec.europa.eu, stating the reference number of your 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 for clarification, it will contact the applicant.

What should I include in the Annex as "detailed description of the project"?

As Annex of the eForm you should attach all the artistic material you have at your disposal to enable a proper assessment of each project of the Slate. This includes in particular the latest version of a script if available, a treatment of minimum 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 depends on the genre of your project and the stage of development you are at.

What should I include in the Annex 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 this Annex of the eForm (such as proofs of co-financing, co-production, letters of interest or intent etc.).

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

Yes, please include the links in both the application form and the descriptive artistic material and make sure not to forget to provide the password if there is any (with a validity of over 3 months). However, only links to material such as high resolution images or audiovisual presentation material (showreels, trailers etc...) can be accepted. In no event the applicant can provide in a link its whole application nor the annexes requested.

Do we need to upload the VAT Certificate and legal entity form, etc, to the Participant Portal before submission or will these be requested in a similar way as the other evidence documents?

As it does not block the application, the VAT certificate and the other documents, 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 any delays in the application process.

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

Yes, this is possible. Please note that any changes in the portal must be done by the LEAR. Please make sure that this person is available during the selection process or has a back-up.

I have tested the connection and have provided all information and documents to my application, yet I cannot send my application, I receive a warning message "submission error" due to (...) "technical problem, submission process has failed (...)".

This type of message often appears when your security settings do not enable the sending of the eForm. You have first to check your settings and disable them by following the instructions described in the first pages of the "proposal submission user guide" ("Guide for applicant", available under the section "How to apply" on the website page: https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe/funding/support-for-development-slate-funding-2017_en

If you need technical assistance, please contact BEFORE the deadline the helpdesk under eacea-helpdesk@ec.europa.eu. Please read the last pages of the user guide quoted above.

Please make sure to send your application well before the deadline to avoid such misadventures. Only once the application has been sent and received by our servers will it be deemed as submitted. Such attempts will not be accepted.

I have not received an acknowledgment of receipt to my application, what should I do?

First you must check that you have provided a correct e-mail in the eForm. If this was not the case, please notify EACEA-MEDIA-DEVELOPMENT@ec.europa.eu quoting the name of your company applying.

If the e-mail provided in the eForm was correct, then **immediately** send a message to eacea-media-development@ec.europa.eu **before the deadline**, together with your full application form in an attachment.

If you have furthermore received a submission error message, please follow the steps described in the point above, as this means that your application was never correctly sent.

4. BUDGET AND FINANCING

What is the maximum MEDIA contribution that can be requested when applying for a Slate?

The minimum MEDIA contribution for a Slate is of 70.000€. The maximum MEDIA contribution for a Slate without the addition of a Short Film is of 200.000€ (150.000€ in case the Slate consists in only creative documentary projects). In any case the MEDIA contribution awarded cannot exceed 50% of the total eligible development costs of the Slate submitted.

Are there any limits regarding the amounts awarded to each of the projects included in my Slate?

A project of a Slate can be awarded from a minimum amount of 10.000€ up to a maximum of 60.000€, provided the amount does not exceed 50% of the eligible (development) costs declared for the specific project.

What are the financial conditions if I add a Short Film to my Slate?

If you add a Short Film to your Slate, the maximum MEDIA contribution for the Short Film cannot exceed 10.000€, provided that this contribution does not exceed 80% of the eligible costs of the production of the short. Consequently, if a Short Film is added to your Slate, the maximum contribution of a Slate can be of 210.000€ and 160.000€ in the case of a creative documentary Slate only.

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

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

Could you please explain how the applicant's financial capacity is assessed?

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

- results (profit/loss), dividends and depreciation of the 3 previous years;
- the equity, current assets and current liabilities and the 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 unable to provide certified accounts for the last 2 years will fail the test. The most unfavourable factor is a negative equity.

Also, if the total costs of the project are considerably above the league of the total costs of the fiscal exercise and no third party financing is in place, the financial capacity might be assessed as not being solid enough.

In case of a weak financial capacity, in order to receive the pre-financing payment a company must request a guarantee from its bank. Could you confirm whether this guarantee should cover to the total amount of the grant or only the first instalment (50%)?

The amount to be covered by a bank guarantee is only the amount corresponding to the pre-financing (in the case of Slate Funding 70%) and not to the total amount. Moreover, the company has the possibility to obtain an interim payment of 50% based on incurred costs in order to avoid the costs of a bank guarantee or in the case of impossibility to receive one from a bank.