



Creative
Europe
MEDIA



SUPPORT FOR CONTENT DEVELOPMENT – SLATE FUNDING – 2018

**F.A.Q. - Frequently Asked Questions
Call for Proposals EACEA/23/2017
Deadline for submitting applications:
6 February 2018 – 12:00 (noon, Brussels time)**

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-2018_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, 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.

A company is listed as having two separate business activities. Film production is one of them but how to prove that this 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 2013. 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 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 funds 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 subject 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 which has the biggest share is considered as having the majority (example 35%-33%-32% ownership) and is therefore the one which should apply.

Which proofs are required to justify that the applicant company is 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. 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 a producer submit an application as main producer, and under the same deadline/call appear in another application as a co-producer (confirmed by a deal-memo)?

Yes, this is possible as it respects the rule of one application per company.

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 of the two deadlines. In addition, beneficiaries of an on-going Slate Funding support cannot apply for a Single Project.

If a company got support for a single development project in the framework of the Call for 2017, is it possible to apply under the Content Development Slate Funding Call for 2018?

Yes, the company can apply under the Call for support for Slate Funding in 2018. Alternatively, the company can choose to apply again for support for the development of a Single Project under one of the two deadlines of the Call for 2018.

Can a company that was awarded Slate Funding in 2017 apply again for Slate Funding in 2018?

No, a company which received Slate Funding in 2017 cannot apply for Slate Funding in 2018. However, companies having been awarded Slate Funding in 2016 (or earlier) under the Creative Europe/MEDIA Sub-programme can apply again, even if the 2016 (or earlier) Slate is not closed yet.

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, broadcast on television or distributed on digital platform in at least three countries other than that of the applicant during the period between 01/01/2015 and the date of submission of the application. In case of broadcast, 3 different broadcasters are necessary.

Companies established in countries with high production capacity (France, Germany, Italy, Spain and United Kingdom) must prove that they have produced two previous eligible works, which had a commercial exploitation under the same conditions.

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 personal credit, onscreen credit (where the name of the person is visible with the title of producer or delegate producer) is necessary. Onscreen credit is the only possible proof for personal credit. Only the personal credit of the CEO or of a shareholder of the applicant company can be taken into account. 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 previous work accepted if the cinema release or the broadcast date is out of the reference period (between

01/01/2015 and the date of submission of the application), as long as the distribution 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. In the case where no revenue reports are contractually available, the original agreement/proof of sale will be accepted.

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 01/01/2015 for this current Call and will end at 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 that are 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 second season of a series be submitted for Development support if the applicant company was already awarded support for the Development of the first season?

Yes, a new 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 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.

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 and Switzerland¹.

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 2018" 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.

What is the standard identifier requested in the eForm? Do I need to have one in order to apply?

ISAN (International Standard Audiovisual Number) is a voluntary numbering system and metadata scheme for the unique and persistent identification of any audiovisual works and versions thereof including films, shorts, documentaries, television programs, sports events, advertising, etc.

EIDR is a universal unique identifier system for movie and television assets that provides global unique identifiers for the entire range of audiovisual object types that are relevant to the entertainment industry.

Having an ISAN/EIDR (or any other standard identifier) at the moment of application is not mandatory. However if the project is selected for funding, an identifier number must be obtained before the submission of the final report.

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

Proofs of rights and letters of intention – and any other material the applicant considers valuable for the evaluation - can be scanned and attached with the artistic material. Note however that there is a 10MB limitation for the combined annexes to the eForm. So make sure to scan in low resolution.

¹ Please note that at the time of publication of this FAQ, Switzerland is not participating in the Creative Europe/MEDIA Sub-programme. Please refer to the list of participating countries: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe/library/eligibility-organisations-non-eu-countries_en

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 track record is not solid, then the applicant can provide information on personal credits.

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, please contact immediately 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"?

You should attach to the eForm as an Annex 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 at least 10 pages, and if available synopsis or episode outline, a director's note, visual elements etc.... The amount and extent of information to be provided 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, you may include the links in both the application form and the descriptive artistic material and do not 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.

Please note that these links must be stable: it is strictly forbidden to make any modification to the content available through these links after the date of submission of your application. If there is no way to verify that the material has indeed not been changed after the date of submission of the application, it will not be taken into consideration in the evaluation of the application.

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?

The 'Project Summary' in the eForm is a summary of the project (story as well as other contextual elements) and should not exceed 2000 characters. If this is written in another language than English, an 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 these 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 any delays in the contractualization process in case your application is selected.

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-2018_en

If you need technical assistance, please contact the helpdesk BEFORE the deadline via eacea-helpdesk@ec.europa.eu. Make sure that you attach your eForm to your mail and that you describe the technical issue in detail. 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. Failed submission attempts, whatever may be the reason, will not be accepted.

I have not received an acknowledgment of receipt for my application, what shall I do?

First 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 reference number of the application and the name of the 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 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 sent correctly.

4. BUDGET AND FINANCING

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 are therefore eligible.

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

Note that the financial capacity check methodology is currently under revision. What is described below reflects the practise on the date of publication of the FAQ.

The financial capacity is calculated by a matrix that takes into account the main figures of the company's last 3 years. 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 (70%)?

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