

EVALUATION GUIDE

CALL FOR PROPOSALS 21/11

SLATE FUNDING

INTRODUCTION

1. Aim of the Evaluation Guide

The aim of the **Evaluation Guide** is:

- to identify the different stages of the evaluation process and its methodology;
- to define the role of each assessor;
- to provide standard evaluation forms for the assessors. The use of these forms is mandatory for all assessors.

2. Assessors

For MEDIA Slate Funding, the assessors are:

- **the MEDIA Unit of the Executive Agency**, in charge of checking the eligibility of projects and assessing the selection criteria (**parts A and B of the evaluation guide**). The selection criterion relating to the financial capacity is only assessed for companies which have been pre-selected. The Agency also grants the automatic points (**part D of the evaluation guide**).
- at least **two experts**, in charge of assessing the award criteria (**parts C of the evaluation guide**).
- **an Evaluation Committee**, with at least 2 officials from the MEDIA Unit at the Executive Agency and at the Commission assisted by at least three independent experts. The Evaluation Committee validates the eligibility check and reviews the assessment of the selection and award criteria. The Evaluation Committee provides a clear justification for all its decisions and establishes a list of projects proposed for selection.

3. Organisation of the evaluation process

Evaluation phase	Assessor	The project
Eligibility criteria	Executive Agency	Is eligible ⇒ is assessed against selection criteria Is not eligible ⇒ is eliminated from the selection process
Selection criteria	Executive Agency	Meets the selection criteria ⇒ is assessed against award criteria Does not meet the selection criteria ⇒ is eliminated from the selection process. If the selection criterion concerning the financial stability is assessed as not fulfilled, the project is eliminated or can be supported subject to the provision of a bank guarantee, an interim payment or without pre-financing.
Award criteria	Experts	Is scored

Eligibility, Selection and Award criteria	Evaluation Committee	Is finally assessed and scored.
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4. Ranking of the projects

The Evaluation Committee checks the consistency between the appreciation made by the experts and their relevance for each application. It carefully analyses the list of proposals and verifies the overall consistency of the results. This phase follows a peer assessment by external experts who have been briefed and are monitored by the Evaluation Committee.

On the basis of the final scores for the award criteria and of the scores for the automatic points, the projects are ranked in order of merit and the best ones are proposed for selection.

5. Decision regarding the amount of support

The Evaluation Committee can propose to lower the amount of support requested by the applicant. The Evaluation Committee must justify its decision on the basis of the development budget, by indicating which items are overestimated. The amount of support will also be reduced if one project of the proposed slate is ineligible subject to the condition that the slate retains at least 3 eligible projects and that the total amount of support is at least EUR 70,000.

6. Decision by the Commission

After transmission of the list proposed by the Evaluation Committee to the MEDIA Committee for information and to the European Parliament for scrutiny, the Commission adopts a decision granting support to the best projects. The total budget available for the Call for Proposals cannot in any case be exceeded at the end of the selection process.

7. Information of the applicants

In case of non eligibility or rejection, applicants are informed by the Agency. If a proposal is eliminated for non-compliance with the eligibility rules, the applicant company will be notified as soon as possible. In case of rejection after evaluation of the award criteria, the experts' evaluations are not communicated to applicants for reasons of confidentiality and impartiality.

8. Confidentiality and conflicts of interest

The names of the experts assessing a specific application are confidential. Upon reception of the submission(s), experts are asked to sign a declaration of honour by which they declare that they are not placed in a position which may give rise to a situation of conflict of interests and they commit themselves to respect confidentiality, anonymity and independence.

In conformity with the Commission Regulation (EC) N° 651/2009 the Agency publishes every year on its website a list of experts used during the previous years.

A: ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Assessor: MEDIA Unit, Executive Agency

Proposals must comply with each of the criteria below. Failure to comply with one of them entails the elimination from the selection process. **Only eligible proposals qualify for the next stage of the evaluation process.**

The Agency does not ask applicants for missing documents. However, if the documents provided by the applicant company don't allow a complete and final assessment of the eligibility, the Agency will request additional information in order to be able to confirm whether or not the application complies with the eligibility criteria.

LIST OF THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

1. A project must be submitted before the closing submission date. The EACEA Call for Proposals 21/11 is open from the date of its publication in the Official Journal until 13/04/2012.

2. A production company can only submit one application for development support (Single Project, Slate Funding or Slate Funding 2nd Stage) for the 2012 budget year.

3. Companies submitting an application must have as their main object and activity audiovisual production.

4. Companies submitting an application must have been registered for at least 36 months at the date of submission.

5. Companies submitting an application must be independent companies. They must not have majority control by a broadcaster, either in shareholding or commercial terms. 'Majority control by a broadcaster' is considered to occur where more than 25% of a production company's share capital is held by a single broadcaster (50% where several broadcasters are involved) or where, over a three-year period, more than 90% of a production company's revenue is generated from sales to a single broadcaster.

6. Companies submitting an application must provide evidence that they have experience in production and international distribution.

Companies established in France, Germany, Italy, Spain and United Kingdom: companies submitting an application must prove that they have in the 5 years preceding their application completed two previous works.

Companies established in the other countries (countries with low audiovisual production capacity) must prove that they have in the 5 years preceding their application completed one previous work.

If the evidence concerning the distribution during the reference period is missing, or doesn't allow to meet the requirement, the application is directly eliminated from the selection procedure.

In any case, the Agency will check the compliance with this criterion against the distribution(s) document(s) provided in the original application and will take into account only the previous work(s) mentioned in the original application.

7. Companies submitting an application must be established in one of the following countries: Member States of the European Union, countries in the European Economic Area participating in the MEDIA 2007 Programme (Iceland, Liechtenstein and

Norway), Switzerland and Croatia. The companies must also be owned and continue to be owned, either directly or by majority shareholding, by nationals of these countries.

8. Only the development activities for the following audiovisual works (one-offs or series) are eligible: drama projects intended for commercial exploitation of no less than 50 minutes, creative documentaries intended for commercial exploitation of no less than 25 minutes (duration per episode in case of a series), animation projects intended for commercial exploitation of no less than 24 minutes.

9. A Slate Funding application must contain a slate of at least 3 and a maximum of 5 projects. Each project can receive an amount of support between €10,000 and €60,000. The total amount of support that can be allocated under Slate Funding is between €70,000 and €190,000.

If the number of eligible projects within a slate is less than three, the application is eliminated from the selection procedure.

If the total requested amount for the eligible projects within a slate is less than €70,000, the application is eliminated from the selection procedure.

10. Financial support cannot exceed 50% of the total eligible costs.

11. Subsidised projects may not benefit from any other European Union funding for the same activity.

12. Only proposals submitted using the official application forms (both online and paper application package version), completed in full and signed (original signatures required) will be considered.

13. Applicants must state that they are not in any of the situations described in Articles 93(1), 94 and 96(2)(a) of the Financial Regulation applicable to the General Budget of the European Union.

TABLE USED TO CHECK THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

Company	Project Reference	Eligibility criteria n° (Y/N)													Conclusions (Accepted or Rejected)	Comments
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		

B. SELECTION CRITERIA

Assessor: MEDIA Unit, Executive Agency

For the evaluation of selection criteria, the assessor is asked to give a global evaluation regarding the ability of the applicant company to carry out the project, from financial and operational points of view.

1. Operational capacity

This criterion is assessed on the basis of the details relating to the experience of the members of the applicant company directly attached to the development of the submitted projects and the list of productions already produced by the applicant company and/or the producer of the referral work, as well as on the basis of the documents relating to the ownership of rights.

No later than on the date of submission, the applicant company must show that it holds the majority of the rights relating to each of the projects for which support is being sought. It is required to provide a contract covering the rights to the artistic material. This contract must be duly signed and dated by the author(s). If the project is an adaptation of an existing work (novel, biography etc.), the applicant company must also show that it holds the majority of the rights relating to the rights of adaptation to this work with an option agreement or transfer of rights contract.

If in the original application, no document concerning the rights situation is provided for one project, this project is ineligible and cannot be considered as part of the slate.

2. Financial Capacity

The applicant is requested to provide the audited annual accounts of the 2 most recent completed fiscal years for profit companies and of the last year for non profit companies (i.e balance sheet, profit and loss accounts and the annexes). These accounts should be certified by an approved auditor external to the company.

For the protection of the financial interest of the European Union, the financial capacity of the applicant companies which have been pre-selected for development support (after assessment of the award criteria) is assessed on the basis of:

- the balance between capital and reserves and liabilities
- the annual profitability
- the proved co-financing
- the level of the total development budget and the requested contribution

If on the basis of the documents provided the Agency considers that the financial capacity is not proven or is not satisfactory, it may refuse the application, request additional information, require a bank guarantee, offer a grant agreement without pre-financing or make a first payment after at least 50% of the estimated expenditure has been incurred on the basis of an Interim Financial Report certified by an external approved auditor.

LIST OF THE SELECTION CRITERIA:
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1. Operational capacity

2. Financial capacity

TABLE USED TO CHECK THE SELECTION CRITERIA:

Company	Project Reference	Recommendation of the Committee (yes/no)		Comments, conditions if applicable
		1	2	

C. AWARD CRITERIA

AWARD CRITERIA CONSIDERED BY THE INDEPENDENT EXPERTS

<i>Company Name</i>	
<i>Country</i>	
<i>Requested amount</i>	

EXPERT'S EVALUATION GRID

Criteria relating to the skills of the applicant company		Criteria relating to the submitted projects	
Criteria	Weighting	Criteria	Weighting
Capacity of the company to develop and produce at a European level	15	Quality of the projects	10
Quality of the development strategy and consistency of the development budgets	15	Potential of the creative teams	10
Quality of the financing strategy	15	Potential for production and the feasibility of the projects	10
Quality of the distribution strategy	15	Potential for European and international distribution	10
Total	60 points	Total	40 points

Criterion N° 1: Capacity of the company to develop and produce at a European level

The assessor is requested to score from 0 to 15 and to take into account the track record of the company and/or the skills of its members, the presence of the company on the European market and the capability of its management to envisage the simultaneous development of a slate of projects.

Score (0 to 15)	

Criterion N° 2: Quality of the Projects

The assessor is requested to assess the quality of each project and its creative potential taking into account the artistic qualities (strength of idea, premise, dramatic potential, narrative choices, quality of writing, character development, world of the story, visual approach, art work, research, creative team's track record...). Please score each project individually and provide in the conclusion a global score for the whole proposed slate.

PROJECT 1

Project Title		Score (0 to 10)	
Summarize the content of the Project			
Justify your appreciation			
			Yes
			No
Does the project promote violence, racism or pornography? If yes, the project is eliminated from the selection process.			

PROJECT 2

Project Title		Score (0 to 10)	
Summarize the content of the Project			
Justify your appreciation			
			Yes No
Does the project promote violence, racism or pornography? If yes, the project is eliminated from the selection process.			

PROJECT 3

Project Title		Score (0 to 10)	
Summarize the content of the Project			
Justify your appreciation			
			Yes No
Does the project promote violence, racism or pornography? If yes, the project is eliminated from the selection process.			

PROJECT X Please copy it for each additional project or delete it if not applicable

Project Title		Score (0 to 10)	
Summarize the content of the Project			
Justify your appreciation			
			Yes No
Does the project promote violence, racism or pornography? If yes, the project is eliminated from the selection process.			

CONCLUSION: Quality of projects

Total Score (0 to 10)	
Personal comment (if any)	

Criterion N° 3: Quality of the Development strategy and consistency of the development budgets

The assessor is requested to score this criterion globally on the proposed slate from 0 to 15. Please take into account the sufficiency of detail, the adequacy of each development strategy to the needs of the project as well as the appropriateness of the estimated costs.

Score (0 to 15)	

Criterion N° 4: Quality of the Financing strategy

The assessor is requested to score this criterion globally on the proposed slate from 0 to 15 and to take into account the adequacy of the projects to the estimated production costs, the awareness of the suitable potential partners and territories, the sufficiency and realism of detail and the co-financing capacity of the applicant company.

Score (0 to 15)	

Criterion N° 5: Quality of the Distribution strategy

The assessor is requested to score it from 0 to 15 and to take into account its sufficiency regarding the identified target audience, the knowledge of the markets, the European/International vision and the relevance of the choice of territories.

Score (0 to 15)	

Criterion N° 6: Potential of the creative teams

The assessor is requested to score it from 0 to 10 and to take into account the likelihood to succeed due to their artistic qualities, their track record and level of involvement, as well as the adequacy of their experience to the projects.

Score (0 to 10)	

Criterion N° 7: Potential for Production and the Feasibility of the projects

The assessor is requested to score it from 0 to 10 and to take into account the appropriateness of the estimated production budget, the experience of the team members attached to the development of the projects and the possible letters of interest.

Score (0 to 10)	

Criterion N° 8: Potential for European and International Distribution

The assessor is requested to score it from 0 to 10 and to take into account the transnational appeal of the projects, their potential for foreign sales and the possible letters of interest.

Score (0 to 10)	

AWARD CRITERIA – SUMMARY

Award criteria	Score
1. Capacity of the company to develop and produce at a European level (0 to 15)	
2. Quality of the Projects (0 to 10)	
3. Quality of the Development strategy and consistency of the development budgets (0 to 15)	
4. Quality of the Financing strategy (0 to 15)	
5. Quality of the Distribution strategy (0 to 15)	
6. Potential of the creative teams (0 to 10)	
7. Potential for Production and the Feasibility of the projects (0 to 10)	
8. Potential for European and International distribution (0 to 10)	
Total /100 :	

As an indication, would you recommend the rejection or the selection of the slate of projects?

Recommendation for selection	
Recommendation for rejection	

If you recommend the selection:

Amount of support requested by the applicant company	
Amount of support recommended by the expert The support recommended by the expert cannot be higher than the support requested by the applicant company. A reduced amount, must be justified on the basis of the development budgets (please indicate which items you consider overestimated).	

Reasons for recommendations

Please note that your evaluation will not be transmitted to the applicant.

D. AUTOMATIC POINTS

Assessor: MEDIA Unit, Executive Agency

The agency will grant the following automatic points:

Criteria	Number of points
An applicant company established in a country with low production capacity ¹	2
An applicant company which benefited from development support under MEDIA PLUS or MEDIA 2007 for a project that has been produced	1 (No matter how many projects supported by MEDIA have been produced)

¹ The following are considered as countries with low production capacity: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Éire/Ireland, Liechtenstein, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Norway, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland