



**MEDIA 2007 (2007-2013) \***

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS EACEA 24/2008**

**GUIDELINES**

**SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
A SLATE OF PROJECTS  
(SLATE FUNDING)**

**\* Decision N° 1718/2006/EC  
of the Parliament and of the Council**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1. Legal basis**

The current Call for Proposals and attached Guidelines (hereafter: "Call for Proposals") are based on Decision No 1718/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 November 2006 concerning the implementation of a programme of support for the European audiovisual sector (MEDIA 2007).<sup>1</sup>

The total budget for the MEDIA Programme 2007-2013 amounts to EUR 754.95 million.

The European Commission is responsible for the implementation of the MEDIA Programme and for the decision to grant individual European Community funds. The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency hereafter "the Agency" manages the MEDIA Programme on behalf and under the control of the European Commission.

The MEDIA Programme Unit of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency is responsible for the implementation of this Call for Proposals.

This Call is aimed at European applicants whose activities contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the MEDIA Programme as described in the European Parliament and Council Decision No 1718/2006/EC.

These Guidelines explain how to submit a proposal with a view to obtaining a community financial contribution.

*The implementation of this Call for Proposals is subject to the adoption of the European Union budget for the year 2009 by the budget authority.*

## **2. OBJECTIVES & PRIORITIES**

### **2.1. Global objectives of the MEDIA programme**

The global objectives of the MEDIA 2007 programme are to:

- Preserve and enhance European cultural and linguistic diversity and its cinematographic and audiovisual heritage, guarantee its accessibility to the public and promote intercultural dialogue;
- Increase the circulation and viewership of European audiovisual works inside and outside the European Union, including through greater cooperation between players;
- Strengthen the competitiveness of the European audiovisual sector in the framework of an open and competitive European market favourable to employment, including by promoting links between audiovisual professionals.

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<sup>1</sup> published in the Official Journal of the European Communities on the 24th of November 2006 (OJ L327, pp 12-29).

## **2.2. Specific objectives of the Development support**

The current Call for Proposals has the specific objective of promoting, by providing financial support, the development of production projects intended for European and international markets presented by independent European production companies in the following categories: drama, creative documentary and animation.

## **2.3. Priorities of this Call for Proposals**

Three types of support for development are available within the framework of this Call for Proposals: support for Single Projects, Slate Funding and Slate Funding 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage.

**These guidelines concern Slate Funding.** They are aimed at companies having previous international experience and the financial capacity that allows them to envisage the development of a number of projects.

<h2><b>3. TIMETABLE</b></h2>
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The Call for Proposals 24/08 is open from 02/09/08 (date of its publication in the Official Journal n° C225) until 17/04/2009. It has two deadlines (the postmark will be taken as proof of timely sending).

To be included in the 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, the application for support must be sent to the Agency between the date of the publication of the Call for Proposals and 17/11/08. The intention is to inform applicants of the outcome of the selection procedure of this 1<sup>st</sup> deadline no later than the month of April 2009.

To be included in the 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline, the application for support must be sent to the Agency between 18/11/08 and 17/04/09, the date of closure of the Call for Proposals. The intention is to inform applicants of the outcome of the selection procedure of this 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline no later than the month of September 2009.

The Agency cannot under any circumstances be held responsible for the shortcomings of courier services, and it is up to the applicant alone to ensure that the proposal is sent off in good time. In the event that there are any charges in the delivery of an application (postal, fiscal or other) the Agency cannot be held liable for them and will refuse to accept such packages.

Please read carefully section 13.3. concerning the procedures for submitting applications.

A production company can only submit one application for development support (Single Project, Slate Funding or Slate Funding 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage) for the 2009 budget year.

Furthermore, a company that has a Slate Funding or Slate Funding 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage contract running cannot apply for support for a Single Project or Slate Funding. It can only apply for Slate Funding 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage under certain conditions (see the Guidelines for Slate Funding 2<sup>nd</sup> stage).

The submitted projects must not have entered into production before the date of signature, by the last party, of the agreement between the beneficiary and the Agency. The estimated date of signature of the agreements is June 2009 for applications submitted under the 1<sup>st</sup> deadline and November 2009 for those applications submitted under the 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline.

The period of eligibility of costs will start from the date of the submission of the application and ends no later than 30/06/2011 for requests for support submitted within the 1st deadline and no later than 30/11/2011 for those requests submitted within the 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline. If a project enters into production before the aforementioned dates, the period of eligibility of costs ends for this project on the date it enters into production.

However, the acquisition of author rights is eligible retroactively for a period of 12 months preceding the date of submission of the application.

The maximum duration of the action is until 30/06/2011 for the applicants included in the 1<sup>st</sup> deadline of 17/11/08 and until 30/11/2011 for the applicants included in the 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline of 17/04/09. However, if after the signing of the agreement and the start of the action it becomes impossible for the beneficiary, for fully justified reasons beyond their control, to complete the action within the scheduled period, an extension to the eligibility period may be granted. A maximum extension of 6 additional months may be granted, if requested before the deadline specified in the agreement.

With the exception of the acquisition of rights, all costs incurred before the date of the submission of the application will be considered ineligible.

#### **4. AVAILABLE BUDGET**

The total budget earmarked for the co-financing of actions under this Call for Proposals is estimated at EUR 17m, subject to the adoption of the European Union budget for the year 2009 by the budget authority.

Of this EUR 17m, the budget allocated to co-financing Single Projects and Slate Funding is estimated to be EUR 13m (EUR 6,5m for the 1<sup>st</sup> deadline and EUR 6,5m for the 2<sup>nd</sup>).

The budget allocated to co-financing Slate Funding 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage (see the specific Guidelines) is estimated to be EUR 4m.

Financial contribution from the Commission cannot exceed 50 % of the total eligible costs.

The selection of an action does not signify agreement to the level of financial support requested. The final amount to be awarded will be determined within the available budgetary resources and in consideration of the nature and costs of the action.

The recipient company must guarantee the remaining financing.

Each grant will amount between EUR 70,000 and EUR 190,000.

The Community grant will be detailed in the agreement between the Agency and the beneficiary company both as a percentage of the development budget and as a total amount.

The Agency reserves the right not to distribute all the funds available.

#### **5. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

Only applications which comply with the following criteria will be the subject of an in-depth evaluation.

The Agency reserves the right not to process proposals which lack the required documentation or information (documents listed in the application form) at the deadline.

## **5.1 Eligible applicants**

### **5.1.1. Independent European companies having as their main activity audiovisual production and which have been legally constituted for at least 36 months.**

The present Call is open to independent European production companies that have been registered for at least 36 months at the date of submission.

A European production company is a company whose main object and activity is audiovisual production and which is registered in one of the Member States of the European Union or in one of the countries participating in the MEDIA 2007 Programme and which is owned and continues to be owned, whether directly or by majority shareholding, by nationals from these countries.

An independent production company is an audiovisual production company which does not have majority control by a television broadcaster, either in shareholding or commercial terms. Majority control is considered to occur when more than 25% of the share capital of a production company is held by a single broadcaster (50% when several broadcasters are involved) or when, over a three-year period, more than 90% of a production company's revenue is generated in co-operation with a single broadcaster.

The following are not eligible:

- Foundations, Institutes, Universities, associations and other legal bodies acting in the public interest;
- applications from groups of companies;
- private individuals.

### **5.1.2 Legal Entity**

In order to demonstrate its existence as a legal entity, the applicant must provide the following documents:

- **"Legal Status Form"** duly completed and signed by the legal representative of the applicant (Form C)
- **"Financial Status Form"** ("Bank Identification Sheet") duly completed, stamped and signed by both the legal representative of the applicant and by a representative of the bank (Form D-I)

These documents must mention the name of the applicant (full legal title), the registration number, the official registered address of the applicant, the date and place of registration.

- A copy of the **VAT registration**, including the VAT number. If the applicant does not have a VAT number, "Not applicable" shall be written down in the appropriate place on the application form C.
- A copy of the **applicant's registration certificate** from the relevant authority, (e.g Companies register, Official Journal, etc.).

If the name of the legal representative of the applicant is not stated in the official registration document, a copy of his/her nomination is also required (for instance: signed minutes of the Board).

Where the person authorised to sign any agreement with the Agency is not an individual specified in the documents mentioned in the previous paragraph, a letter or proxy (signed by one of the aforementioned individuals) giving them the authority to sign agreements with the Agency on the applicant's behalf must be provided.

**5.1.3. Companies 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<sup>2</sup>)** must prove that they have in the 5 years preceding their application completed one previous work.

**In both cases, the companies must prove:**

- that they were the sole production company;
- or that they were, in the case of a co-production with another production company, the major co-producer in the financing plan or the delegate producer;
- or that their Chief Executive or one of their shareholders has a personal credit on the work as producer or delegate producer.

A previous work produced by a company other than the applicant company may be accepted, if the applicant company can show that its Chief Executive, one of its shareholders or one of the producers it employs, has a personal credit in the role of producer, delegate producer or executive producer. This producer must have been employed by the company for at least twelve months on the date of the application.

Only official credits that appear in the onscreen credits are accepted as proof of personal credits. Declarations of third parties will not be taken into account.

If the previous work is a series, the applicant company must provide the requirements listed above for the entire series.

**The previous work must be in one of the following eligible categories (see 5.3):**

- a drama of at least 50 minutes (the total length of the series in the case of a series);
- a creative documentary of at least 25 minutes (length per episode in the case of a series);
- an animation of at least 24 minutes (the total length of the series in the case of a series).

**The previous work must be completed. A production (one-off project or series) is regarded as completed on:**

- the date of official delivery by the laboratory of the answer print (for cinema films)
- the date of official delivery of the master copy to the broadcaster (for works intended for television)

In respect to series, the entire series must be completed by the date of submission.

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

**The company making an application must prove, in addition, that the previous work(s) has (have) been distributed internationally in the 5 years preceding the application.**

Distribution is understood to be all forms of commercial release of the work to the public: cinema, television, DVD and on-line distribution. The following are not considered to be commercial releases: free on-line access and screenings at festival, cinema museums, cultural associations and other comparable structures.

The date taken into account in verifying that distribution has taken place during the reference period is the date on which the distribution contract was signed or the date the distribution took place (date of cinema release, broadcast date etc).

## **5.2. Eligible Countries**

Legal entities 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.

## **5.3 Eligible activities**

The following development activities are eligible.

### **5.3.1. Slate composed of 3 – 6 eligible projects**

A Slate Funding application must contain a slate of at least 3 and a maximum of 6 eligible projects.

Each project can receive an amount of support between EUR 10,000 and EUR 60,000. The total amount of support that can be allocated under Slate Funding is between EUR 70,000 and EUR 190,000.

Projects contained within the slate must belong to one of the following categories.

#### **5.3.1.1. Drama projects intended for commercial exploitation**

Only drama projects (whether a one-off or a series) of no less than 50 minutes are eligible.

#### **5.3.1.2. Creative documentaries intended for commercial exploitation**

Creative documentaries take a real-life subject as their starting point but require substantial original writing and set out an author's and/or director's point of view.

Only documentaries of no less than 25 minutes (duration per episode in case of series) are eligible.

#### **5.3.1.3. Animation projects intended for commercial exploitation**

Only animation projects (whether a one-off or a series) of no less than 24 minutes are eligible.

#### **5.3.1.4. Ineligible Activities**

The development and production activities for the following categories of work are ineligible:



- live recordings, TV games, talk shows, reality shows or educational, teaching and 'how-to' programmes;
- documentaries promoting tourism, "making-of", reports, animal reportages, news programmes and "docu-soaps";
- projects promoting, directly or indirectly, messages that are at odds with the policies of the European Union. For example, projects that may be contrary to the interests of public health (alcohol, tobacco, drugs), respect for human rights, people's security, freedom of expression etc.;
- projects promoting violence and/or racism and/or with a pornographic content;
- works of a promotional nature;
- institutional productions to promote a specific organisation or its activities.

#### **5.4. 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.

For each project it is required to provide a contract covering the rights to the artistic material included in the application. This must include at least: concept, subject, treatment, script or bible. This contract must be duly signed by the authors(s) and dated at the latest on the date of the submission of the application.

The following types of contracts will be accepted:

- an option agreement concerning the transfer of rights between the author and the applicant company, of an adequate duration to cover the whole development schedule and clearly setting out the conditions for exercising the option;
- or
- a contract transferring the rights from the author to the applicant company.

The option agreement or transfer of rights contract can be replaced by:

- a unilateral declaration of the transfer of rights to the applicant company where the author is the producer, a shareholder or an employee of the company;
- a co-production or co-development agreement duly dated and signed by the parties and clearly showing that the applicant company holds the majority of the rights at the date of the application.

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 duly dated and signed.

#### **5.5 Eligible proposals**

Only proposals submitted using the official application form, completed in full, signed (original signatures required) and received by the specified deadline, will be considered.

The application form must be accompanied by an official letter from the applicant, documents attesting to its financial and operational capacity, and all the other documents referred to in the application form.

Applicants must submit a budget that is balanced in terms of expenditure and revenue and must comply with the ceiling for Community cofinancing, set at 50%.

## **6. EXCLUSION CRITERIA**

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 Communities and set out below.

Applicants will be excluded from participating in the Call for Proposals if they are in any of the following situations:

- a) they are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- b) they have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of *res judicata*;
- c) they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify;
- d) they have not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of the country of the contracting authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;
- e) they have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of *res judicata* for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Communities' financial interests;
- f) they are subject to an administrative penalty referred to in Article 96(1) of the Financial Regulation.

Applicants will not be granted financial assistance if, on the date of the grant award procedure, they:

- (a) are subject to a conflict of interests;
- (b) are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in the grant award procedure, or fail to supply this information;
- (c) find themselves in one of the situations of exclusion, referred to in art 93(1) of the Financial Regulation, for this grant award procedure.

In accordance with Articles from 93 to 96 of the Financial Regulation, administrative and financial penalties may be imposed on applicants who are guilty of misrepresentation or are found to have seriously failed to meet their contractual obligations under a previous contract award procedure.

To comply with these provisions, applicants must sign a declaration on their honour certifying that they are not in any of the situations referred to in Articles 93 and 94 of the Financial Regulation.

## **7. SELECTION CRITERIA**

The selection criteria shall be such as to make it possible to assess the applicant's ability to complete the proposed action.

Applicants must have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity throughout the period during which the action is being carried out or the year for which the grant is awarded and to participate in its funding. They must have the professional competencies and qualifications required to complete the proposed action.

Applicants must submit a declaration on their honour, completed and signed, attesting to their status as a legal entity and to their financial and operational capacity to complete the proposed activities.

### **7.1 Operational capacity**

In order to permit an assessment of their operational capacity, applicants must submit, together with their applications:

- the CVs of the members of the applicant company's team directly attached to the development of the submitted action;
- a list of productions already produced by the applicant Company and/or the producer of the referral work (see 5.1.3.)

### **7.2 Financial capacity**

In order to permit an assessment of their financial capacity, applicants must submit, together with their applications:

- 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) must be included within the application form. These accounts should be certified by an approved auditor external to the company.
- the Financial Capacity form (see Application Form D-II) carefully and fully completed must be signed by the legal representative of the company. The information (in figures) should be given in national currency and must be based on the certified accounts. The applicant guarantees that these figures are correct and verifiable. This information is required to evaluate the financial strength and co-financing capacity of the applicant.

Please note that the data to be provided are different depending on whether the applicant is a profit or a non profit company. The Agency applies these criteria taking into account the legislative framework of the different countries participating in the Programme.

If, on the basis of the documents submitted, the Agency considers that financial capacity has not been proved or is not satisfactory, it may:

- reject the application
- ask for further information
- require a guarantee (see 9.3)
- offer a grant agreement without prefinancing

<b>8. AWARD CRITERIA</b>
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Eligible applications conforming to the selection requirements will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

### **8.1. Criteria for automatic points**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Number of points</b>
An applicant company established in a country with low production capacity (see list 5.1.3)	2
A 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)

### **8.2. Evaluation Criteria considered by the independent experts**

Applications will be evaluated in terms of the award criteria with the help of independent experts. On the basis of the independent experts' opinions, a list of actions, ranked according to merit, will be established. Grants are allocated to the best projects within the limits of the available budget.

The Agency selects experts on the basis of their independence, professional experience and quality. Their identity may not be communicated to applicants, for reasons of confidentiality and impartiality.

Points will be allocated out of a total of 100 on the basis of the following weightings:

<b>Criteria relating to the skills of the applicant company</b>		<b>Criteria relating to the submitted projects</b>	
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Weighting</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
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 budget	15	Potential of the creative team	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
<b>Total</b>	<b>60 points</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>40 points</b>

## 9. FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

Community grants are incentives to carry out actions which would not be feasible without the MEDIA Programme financial support, and are based on the principle of co-financing.

They complement the applicant's own financial contribution and/or national, regional or private assistance that has been obtained elsewhere.

Acceptance of an application by the Agency does not constitute an undertaking to award a financial contribution equal to the amount requested by the beneficiary. The awarding of a grant does not establish an entitlement for subsequent years.

Grant applications must include a detailed estimated budget in which all prices are given in euro. Applicants from countries outside the euro zone must use the conversion rates published at the date of the application and available from the MEDIA Desks and Antennae and from the website of the Commission at: <http://ec.europa.eu/budget/inforeuro>.

The budget for the action attached to the application must have revenue and expenditure in balance and show clearly the costs which are eligible for financing from the Community budget.

The allocated amount may not exceed the amount requested.

The applicant must indicate the sources and amounts of any other funding received or applied for in the same financial year for the same action.

The beneficiary shall supply evidence of the co-financing provided, either by way of own resources, or in the form of financial transfers from third parties. The applicants shall provide an explicit undertaking from each co-financing organisation to provide the amount of funding stated in the grant application for the operation.

The Community grant may not have the purpose or effect of producing a profit for the beneficiary. Profit is defined as a surplus of receipts over costs. The amount of the grant will be reduced by the amount of any surplus.

### **9.1 Payment procedures**

In the event of definitive approval by the Agency, a financial agreement, drawn up in euro and detailing the conditions and level of funding, will be entered into between the Agency and the beneficiary. This original agreement must be signed and returned to the Agency immediately. The Agency will sign it last.

The account or sub-account indicated by the beneficiary must make it possible to identify the funds transferred by the Agency. If the funds paid into this account give rise to interest or equivalent profits in accordance with the legislation of the country where the account is held, such profit or interest will be recovered by the Agency where it results from the prefinancing payment if this payment exceeds EUR 50,000.

- A **pre-financing payment** of 70% will be transferred to the beneficiary within 45 days of the date when the last of the two parties signs the agreement and all the possible guarantees are received. Pre-financing is intended to provide the beneficiary with a float.
- The Agency will establish the amount of the **final payment** to be made to the beneficiary on the basis of the final report. If the eligible costs actually incurred by the applicant during the action are lower than anticipated, the Agency will apply its rate of funding to the actual costs,

and the beneficiary will, where applicable, be required to repay any excess amounts already transferred by the Agency under the pre-financing payment.

## **9.2 Certificate on the financial statements and underlying accounts**

A certificate on the financial statements and underlying accounts, produced by an approved auditor, may be demanded by the authorising officer responsible in support of any payment on the basis of his assessment of risks.

The certificate shall be attached to the request for payment. The certificate shall certify, in accordance with a methodology approved by the contracting authority, that the costs declared by the beneficiary in the financial statements on which the request for payment is based are real, accurately recorded and eligible in accordance with the grant agreement.

## **9.3 Guarantee**

The Agency may require any applicant which has been awarded a grant to provide a guarantee first, in order to limit the financial risks linked to the prefinancing payment.

The purpose of this guarantee is to make a bank or a financial institution stand as irrevocable collateral security for, or first-call guarantor of, the grant beneficiary's obligations.

This financial guarantee, in euro, shall be provided by an approved bank or financial institution established in one of the Member State of the European Union. When the beneficiary is established in a third country, the authorising officer responsible may agree that a bank or financial institution established in that third country may provide the guarantee if he considers that the bank or financial institution offers equivalent security and characteristics as those offered by a bank or financial institution established in a Member State.

The guarantee shall be released as the pre-financing is gradually cleared against interim payments or payments of balances to the beneficiary, in accordance with the conditions laid down in the grant agreement.

## **9.4 Double financing**

Subsidised actions may not benefit from any other Community funding for the same activity.

To ensure this, the applicant must indicate in the application form of any other grant requests which the applicant has submitted or intends to submit to the European Institutions during the same year, stating in each case the budget heading, the Community programme and the amount requested.

## **9.5 Eligible costs**

Eligible costs of the action are costs actually incurred by the beneficiary, which meet the following criteria:

- they are incurred during the duration of the action as specified in the grant agreement, with the exception of costs relating to final reports and certificates on the action's financial statements and underlying accounts;
- they are connected with the subject of the agreement and they are indicated in the estimated overall budget of the action;
- they are necessary for the implementation of the action which is the subject of the grant;

- they are identifiable and verifiable, in particular being recorded in the accounting records of the beneficiary and determined according to the applicable accounting standards of the country where the beneficiary is established and according to the usual cost-accounting practices of the beneficiary;
- they comply with the requirements of applicable tax and social legislation;
- they are reasonable, justified, and comply with the requirements of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency.

The beneficiary's internal accounting and auditing procedures must permit direct reconciliation of the costs and revenue declared in respect of the action with the corresponding accounting statements and supporting documents.

Eligible direct costs:

The eligible direct costs for the action are those costs which, with due regard for the conditions of eligibility set out above, are identifiable as specific costs directly linked to the performance of the action and which can therefore be booked to it directly. In particular, the following direct costs are eligible, provided that they satisfy the criteria set out in the previous paragraph :

- acquisition of author rights;
- research;
- archive research;
- scriptwriting, including treatments, up to and including the final draft;
- storyboards;
- research and identification of key cast and crew;
- preparation of the provisional production budget;
- preparation of a financing plan;
- search for and identification of industry partners, co-producers and financiers;
- preparation of the production schedule up to delivery;
- initial marketing and sales plans (target markets and buyers, foreseen releases, presentation at festivals and markets, etc.);
- production of a video treatment or of a pilot.

Eligible indirect costs (administrative costs)

A flat-rate amount, not exceeding 7% of the eligible direct costs of the action, is eligible under indirect costs, representing the beneficiary's general administrative costs which can be regarded as chargeable to the action.

Indirect costs may not include costs entered under another budget heading. Indirect costs are not eligible where the beneficiary already receives an operating grant.

**9.6 Ineligible costs**

The following costs shall not be considered eligible:

- return on capital;
- debt and debt service charges;
- provisions for losses or potential future liabilities;
- interest owed;
- doubtful debts;
- exchange losses;

- VAT, unless the beneficiary can show that it is unable to recover it according to the applicable national legislation;
- costs declared by the beneficiary and covered by another action or work programme receiving a Community grant;
- excessive or reckless expenditure;
- the participation fee for training activities supported by MEDIA;
- production costs.

Contributions in kind (such as professional credits/industry credits in kind and deferred salaries) shall not constitute eligible costs.

### **9.7 Sources of income**

All financial contributions must be substantiated by clear statements duly dated and signed, specifying the amounts and the fact that they will be provided in cash.

The Financing Plan should show:

- The direct monetary contribution from the applicant (own resources);
- The financial contribution from other fund providers (public and/or private);
- The contribution applied for to the MEDIA Programme.

## **10. SUB-CONTRACTING AND AWARD OF PROCUREMENT CONTRACT**

Where implementation of the action requires sub-contracting or the awarding of a procurement contract, the beneficiary and, where applicable, its partners must obtain competitive tenders from potential contractors and award the contract to the bid offering best value for money, observing the principles of transparency and equal treatment of potential contractors and taking care to avoid conflicts of interests.

## **11. PUBLICITY**

All grants awarded in the course of a financial year must be published on the Internet site of the Community institutions during the first half of the year following the closure of the budget year in respect of which they were awarded. The information may also be published using any other appropriate medium, including the Official Journal of the European Union.

With the agreement of the beneficiary -taking account of whether information is of such a nature as to jeopardise its security or prejudice its financial interests-, the Agency will publish the following information:

- name and address of the beneficiary,
- subject of the grant,
- amount awarded and rate of funding.

Beneficiaries must clearly acknowledge the European Union's contribution in all publications or in conjunction with activities for which the grant is used.

Furthermore, beneficiaries are required to give prominence to the name and logo of the European Commission on all their publications, posters, programmes and other products realised under the co-financed action and to mention "*With the support of the MEDIA Programme of the European Union*".



## **12. DATA PROTECTION**

All personal data (such as names, addresses, CVs, etc.) will be processed in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data.

Your replies to the questions in the application form are necessary in order to assess your grant application and they will be processed solely for that purpose by the department responsible for the Community grant programme concerned. On request, you may be sent personal data and correct or complete them. For any question relating to these data, please contact the Agency. Beneficiaries may lodge a complaint against the processing of their personal data with the European Data Protection Supervisor at any time.

## **13. PROCEDURE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS**

### **13.1 Publication**

The Call for Proposals is being published in the Official Journal of the European Union and on the Internet site of the EACEA Agency at the following address: [www.ec.europa.eu/media](http://www.ec.europa.eu/media)

### **13.2 Application form**

Grant applications must be drawn up in one of the official EU languages, using the form specifically designed for this purpose. Please note that only typed applications will be considered.

The official forms can be downloaded from the internet website mentioned in Section 13.1.

### **13.3 Submission of the grant application**

Only applications submitted on the correct form, duly completed, dated, showing a balanced budget (revenue/expenditure), submitted in 1 original copy for forms A to G and three copies for forms 1 to 3, and signed by the person authorised to enter into legally binding commitments on behalf of the applicant will be accepted.

Applications which do not include all the stipulated documents in the required format and which are not submitted before the deadline will not be considered. For your easier assistance, a recapitulative list of all the documents with the respective number of copies is detailed in the Application Form.

Applications must be sent by registered mail or private courier posted no later than the closing dates of **17/11/2008** and **17/04/2009**, to the following address:

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)  
Constantin Daskalakis  
BOUR 3/29  
Avenue du Bourget, 1  
B-1140 Brussels  
Belgium

ENVELOPES SHOULD BE CLEARLY MARKED: "MEDIA 2007 – Development - Call for Proposals N° 24/2008 Slate Funding"

Applications sent by fax or e-mail will not be accepted.

No changes to the dossier can be made after the application has been submitted. However, if there is a need to clarify certain aspects, the Agency may contact the applicant for this purpose.

Applicants will be informed of the receipt of their proposal within 15 working days.

Only applications that fulfil the eligibility criteria will be considered for a grant. If an application is deemed ineligible, a letter indicating the reasons will be sent to the applicant.

Selected proposals will be subjected to a financial analysis, in connection with which the Agency may ask the persons responsible for the proposed actions to provide additional information and, if appropriate, guarantees.

#### **13.4 Rules applicable**

- COUNCIL REGULATION (EC, Euratom) N° 1995/2006 of 13 December 2006 (OJ L 390/2006 of 30 December 2006); amending Council Regulation N° 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (OJ L 248, 16.09.2002);
- COMMISSION REGULATION (EC, EURATOM) N° 478/2007 of 23 April 2007 amending Regulation (EC, Euratom) N° 2342/2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) N° 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities;
- Decision N° 1718/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 November 2006 concerning the implementation of a support programme for the European audiovisual sector (MEDIA 2007).

#### **13.5 Contacts**

Additional information is available at MEDIA Desks and Antennae as per the list included on the following website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/media/overview/who/desks/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/media/overview/who/desks/index_en.htm)