

MEDIA Plus (2001-2006)
CALL FOR PROPOSALS 66/04
GUIDELINES FOR
SUPPORT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SLATES OF PROJECTS
SLATE FUNDING 2ND STAGE

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Purpose of the guidelines for support to development of slates of projects

- To inform you of the conditions for accessing the mechanism and the arrangements for selecting applications.

You are wondering whether your company is entitled to apply, whether your projects can benefit from MEDIA funding, what amount you can expect to receive, how the selection procedure works. These guidelines have been designed to answer your questions as comprehensively as possible.

- To help you to prepare the application forms, by indicating clearly the information the Commission needs to evaluate your project properly and the documents that must be attached.

Before reading the detailed information in these guidelines, please consult the next page, which provides an overview of the conditions which must be met to apply for development support for a slate of projects. This will help you to find out quickly whether or not this funding is available to you. If so, the subsequent pages will help you to prepare your application.

Call for proposals 66/04 - Summary of the access conditions for support to development of slates of projects (Slate Funding 2nd stage)

- When to apply

During the period of the call for proposals. The call for proposals 66/04 will be open from 9 November 2004 to 31 May 2005. Two MEDIA award procedures will run during this period. See 2.1.1.

- The conditions to be met to apply for Slate Funding 2nd stage

You must already have been selected for Slate Funding 1st stage. 100% of this 1st stage funding must already have been allocated to development projects, and 75% must already have been credited to the dedicated bank account. Moreover, a minimum number of projects must have entered into production. See 3.1.

- Slate Funding 2nd stage 1 or 2?

Companies applying for Slate Funding 2nd stage may submit an application for Slate Funding 2nd stage 1 or 2. To apply for Slate Funding 2nd stage 1, a company must submit a development plan for three years comprising 3 to 6 projects. To apply for Slate Funding 2nd stage 2, a company must submit a development plan for three years comprising 3 to 10 projects. See 4.

- What kinds of companies are accepted?

Applicants for funding for the development of slates of projects must be independent European production companies and must have been registered for at least 3 years. See 3.2 and 3.3.

- Which categories of projects are eligible for MEDIA funding?

Drama, animation, creative documentaries and multimedia. For all these projects, minimum conditions regarding their length must be met, and the applicant company must hold the copyright. See 5.

- What is the amount of funding for the development of slates of projects?

MEDIA Plus funding is between €60 000 and €90 000 for Slate Funding 2nd stage 1 and between €100 000 and €150 000 for Slate Funding 2nd stage 2. See 6.

- What are the chances of being awarded funding for the development of slates of projects?

The applications received by the Commission are ranked, at the end of the selection procedure, according to their merit. The best ones are funded, until the available budget is exhausted.

1. THE MEDIA PLUS PROGRAMME - DEVELOPMENT: FUNDING OBJECTIVES AND CONDITIONS

The aim of MEDIA Plus - Development is to provide funding to promote the development of production projects for the European and international markets submitted by independent European production companies in the following categories: drama, creative documentaries, animation and multimedia concepts.

Three types of funding are available under the programme:

- support for the development of a slate of projects (Slate Funding 1 or 2, 1st or 2nd stage): the applicant submits an application for funding for the development of a slate of projects.
- support for the development of single projects: the applicant submits an application for the development of a single project.
- support to projects which have been the subject of a MEDIA training activity (“MEDIA New Talent”).

Funding has been designed to meet the needs of three kinds of companies:

- medium-sized companies with previous experience at an international level and the financial capacity to develop several projects simultaneously (Slate Funding);
- small companies with limited financial capacity wishing to invest in the development of just one project;
- companies with limited previous experience that have focused on training activities.

The conditions for accessing these instruments in terms of previous experience and financial and technical capacity are different.

These guidelines apply to applications for Slate Funding 2nd stage. If you would like to apply for Slate Funding 1st stage, for development funding for single projects or “MEDIA New Talent”, please refer to the relevant guidelines, and check that you fulfil the access criteria.

2. TIMETABLE AND BUDGET FOR THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS 66/04

2.1. When and how to submit an application for support for the development of slate of projects (Slate Funding 2nd stage)

2.1.1. When?

The call for proposals for the award of the 2005 MEDIA Plus - Development budget was published in OJ N° C 272 of 06.11.2004.

This call for proposals is open from 9 November 2004 to 31 May 2005.

This means that you can submit your applications to the Commission between 9 November 2004 and 31 May 2005 inclusive.

No application sent before or after these dates will be accepted by the Commission (see 7.1.1.).

The relevant date is the date of posting (not the date of receipt by the Commission). The Commission 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.

2.1.2. *How?*

Applications must:

- include two unbound copies of forms and annexes A to H and 4 copies (1 unbound and 3 bound) of forms and annexes 1 to 7;
- be submitted using exclusively the application forms for the call for proposals 66/04, which can be downloaded in French or English from the site: http://europa.eu.int/comm/avpolicy/media/index_en.html; these forms must be used even if the project was eliminated in the framework of a previous call for proposals;
- not include any documents other than those requested. Any additional documents submitted by applicants will not be considered in the evaluation;
- include all the forms and all the supporting documents and information requested.
- not contain any handwriting (apart from the signatures required);
- be submitted on numbered pages printed on one side only, on A4 paper;
- be completed in one of the official languages of the European Union. However, we would advise you to complete your application in English as far as possible, in order to facilitate the evaluation.

Any application that does not meet these requirements will be declared ineligible and will not be considered by the Commission (see 7.1.1.).

Please note: the Commission will not be giving any applicants the opportunity to complete their application after submission. Do not, therefore, submit your application if one of the required documents is missing or does not meet the criteria.

Applications must be sent exclusively by registered mail or express courier to:

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG EAC - C/3 MEDIA Programme
Mr Costantin Daskalakis (office B100 4/27)
Rue de Genève 1
B-1049 Brussels

Applications delivered directly in person to the above address will not be accepted.

Envelopes must be clearly marked:

“MEDIA PLUS - DEVELOPMENT CALL N° 66/04”

Company Name
Country of origin
Slate Funding 2nd stage (1 or 2)

2.2. No more than one application per company for support under development is allowed for the 2005 budget.

Please note that no more than one application (for a Single Project, Slate Funding or “MEDIA New Talent”) may be submitted by a production company for the 2005 budget.

This rule also applies where a company wishes to resubmit an application which is rejected under the call for proposals 66/04. It must wait until a future call for proposals and must then demonstrate, on the relevant form, that substantial changes have been made compared to the old version.

Moreover, any company which has a current Slate Funding 1st stage agreement may not apply for support for a single project or for “MEDIA New Talent”. It may apply only for Slate Funding 2nd stage support (subject to certain conditions specified in 3.1).

A company with a current Slate Funding 2nd stage agreement and a completed Slate Funding 1st stage agreement may apply for Slate Funding 1st stage support.

2.3. Budget and award timetable

In 2004, the budget earmarked for the Development sector (Single Projects, Slate Funding and “MEDIA New Talent”) was €16,7 million. The Commission expects the budget for 2005 to be around the same amount. In 2004, €2,895 million was awarded to Slate Funding 2nd stage. This proportion could be slightly different in 2005.

For information, the following table shows the number of proposals received and selected in 2004 and the budget awarded to the various categories.

	MEDIA New Talent				Single projects				Slate Funding		
	Drama	Animation	Documen- tary	Multime- dia	Drama	Animation	Documen- tary	Multime- dia	SF1 1 ^{er} stage	SF2 1 ^{er} stage	SF 2 ^{ème} stage
Applications received	28	2	16	10	284	66	168	40	121	54	42
Applications selected	12	1	11	3	94	23	63	14	38	23	22
MEDIA Funding (€)	0,05	0,45	0,19	0,08	4,01	1,16	1,35	0,6	3,15	2,765	2,895

The 2005 budget will be awarded in two rounds.

All applications sent between 9 November 2004 and 8 February 2005 will be evaluated in the first round, during which 50% maximum of the 2005 budget will be allocated. The results of this first round will be available in June 2005. The agreements will be sent to the selected companies in the two months following the selection.

All applications sent between 9 February 2005 and 31 May 2005 will be evaluated in the second round, during which the remaining budget will be allocated. The results of this second round will be available in October 2005. The agreements will be sent to the selected companies in the two months following the selection.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply as soon as the call for proposals opens, so that the two award rounds are balanced. We would remind you that development costs can be considered eligible from the date of submission of the application (see 6.2.3.).

3. COMPANIES THAT MAY APPLY FOR SUPPORT TO DEVELOP SLATES OF PROJECTS (SLATE FUNDING 2ND STAGE)

NB: All the criteria below must be met, and supporting evidence provided. The compliance with the criteria will only be assessed on the basis of the documents provided in the application.

3.1. Companies already selected for Slate Funding 1st stage.

These companies may apply only if they meet the following three conditions:

- 100% of the support received under the Slate Funding 1st stage must have been allocated to projects approved by the Commission (see 8.2.);
- 75% minimum of the support must have been paid into the dedicated bank account (see 8.3.);
- A minimum number of projects supported under the Slate Funding 1st stage must have entered into production at the date of submission of the Slate Funding 2nd stage:
 - For Slate funding 1st stage applications comprising drama, animation or multimedia works, at least one project supported under the Slate Funding 1st stage must have entered into production at the date of submission of the Slate Funding 2nd stage;
 - For Slate Funding 1st stage applications comprising only documentaries:
 - if the Slate Funding 1st stage comprises 3 to 4 documentaries, at least one project supported under the Slate Funding 1st stage must have entered into production at the date of submission of the Slate Funding 2nd stage;
 - if the Slate Funding 1st stage comprises 5 to 8 documentaries, at least two projects supported under the Slate Funding 1st stage must have entered into production at the date of submission of the Slate Funding 2nd stage;
 - if the Slate Funding 1st stage comprises more than 8 documentaries, at least three projects supported under the Slate Funding 1st stage must have entered into production at the date of submission of the Slate Funding 2nd stage.

3.2. Independent European companies whose main activity is audiovisual and/or multimedia production

Companies submitting an application must have as their main object and activity audiovisual and/or multimedia production. Foundations, Institutes, Universities, associations and other legal bodies acting in the public interest cannot apply.

They must be established in one of the Member States of the European Union or in one of the other countries participating in the MEDIA Plus programme. They must also be owned and continue to be owned, either directly or by majority shareholding, by nationals of these countries.

The participating countries that are not members of the European Union are Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway (EEA countries) and Bulgaria.

Applications from groups of companies will not be accepted.

A company submitting an application must not have majority control by a broadcaster, either in shareholding or commercial terms.

‘Majority control’ 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. The Commission reserves the right to apply this criterion by taking into account the specific characteristics of the different audiovisual and/or legal systems of the Member States and other participating countries.

The Commission will check companies’ compliance with the criteria on the basis of the information provided in application Form D “Legal status of the applicant company” and the following supporting documents, which must be attached:

- Annex D1 to the application: a recent extract from the company’s registration stating the company’s date of registration, company’s legal full name, the registered office address, the legal status, objects and the names of its authorised legal representatives;
- Annex D2 to the application: the company’s up-to-date memorandum of association (or equivalent official document), stating in particular the shareholders’ names and nationalities as well as division of shares between shareholders.

3.3. Companies registered for at least three years

Only companies that can prove that they have been registered for at least three years can apply for Slate Funding.

The Commission checks this criterion on the basis of the information in Form D “Legal status of the applicant company” and in Annex D2 of the application file.

3.4. Companies with stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity throughout the lifetime of the slate of projects

The Commission will check the company’s compliance with the criteria on the basis of the information provided in application Forms E ‘Financial status of the applicant company’ and 2

‘Financial information relating to the applicant company and application submitted’ and the following supporting documents, which must be attached:

- Annex to Form 2: balance sheet and profit and loss accounts of the last two financial years.

3.5. Companies with the professional skills and qualifications required to complete the proposed project

The Commission will check the company’s compliance with the criteria on the basis of the information provided in application Form 1 “Information concerning the applicant company” and the following supporting documents, which must be attached:

- Annex to Form 1: CVs of the members of the applicant company who will be working directly on the development of the slate of projects, in particular the managing director, the authorised signatory, the head of development and the key members of the creative team (author, director, director of photography, etc.).

3.6. Exclusion criteria

The financial regulation governing the award of Commission funding provides for the automatic exclusion of applicants where:

- 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, 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 Commission can justify;
- d) they have not fulfilled their obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of the country of the authorising service or those of the country where the projects are to be performed;
- e) they have been the subject of a judgement which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Community’s financial interests;
- f) following another grant award procedure or procurement procedure financed by the Community budget, they have been declared to be in serious breach of contract for failure to comply with their contractual obligations;
- g) they are subject to a conflict of interest;
- h) they are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the Commission or fail to supply this information.

Applicants must declare on their honour, using Form B ‘Declaration on the applicant’s honour’, that they are not in one of the situations listed in points a) to h) above. The Commission may request other proofs from applicants that they are not in one of the above situations.

4. SLATE OF PROJECTS AND THREE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN

4.1. Submission of a slate of projects and a three-year development plan

The Commission wishes to support slates of projects in order to encourage companies to formulate medium-term development and financing strategies.

In this regard, the Commission requires that applicant companies submit a slate of projects accompanied by a detailed development plan covering a three-year period in support of their application (Forms 3 and 4).

The slate of projects (Form 4) must comprise between 3 and 6 projects for an application for Slate Funding 2nd stage 1 and between 3 and 10 projects for an application for Slate Funding 2nd stage 2 (see 4.3.1.).

Slates including documentaries only are not eligible for Slate Funding 2. Only Slate Funding 1 is available for documentary Slates.

In the slate, the applicant company must identify at least three projects which, if selected, will be developed using the funding provided under the MEDIA programme. These projects should number at least three (Form 4).

The three-year development plan must include (Form 3):

- a timetable for the development, production and funding activities;
- a description of the financial, technical, creative and management needs of the applicant company for the implementation of these activities;
- a description of the countries that the applicant company considers important for the co-production and/or broadcasting of its projects.

The application must also include (see 8.4 and Form 7):

- at least two reinvestment projects (obligatory for applications for Slate Funding 2nd stage 2);
- the reinvestment project(s) planned (optional for applications for Slate Funding 2nd stage 1).

4.2. MEDIA support conditions

The contribution from the MEDIA programme is calculated on the basis of all the detailed development budget estimates for the projects that the company wishes to develop with the MEDIA Programme support (Form 4). It must not exceed 50% of the total (see 6.4).

If the application is selected, the Slate of projects the applicant wishes to develop will be an integral part of the agreement. The Slate must correspond to the projects presented in the application file. However, the projects which have become non-eligible after the date of

submission (in particular, in case of entry into production, obtaining another community funding, a change in the ownership of the rights under 50%) must be replaced, subject to the compliance of the eligibility criteria applicable to the projects (see 5).

4.3. Slate Funding 2nd stage 1, Slate Funding 2nd stage 2

4.3.1. Slate Funding 2nd stage 1

To apply for Slate Funding 2nd stage 1, a company must submit a slate of projects accompanied by a development plan for three years comprising three to six projects (Forms 3 and 4). These projects should number at least three. The application may include reinvestment projects (Form 7).

Funding of between €60 000 and €90 000 may be granted by the MEDIA programme (see 6.4 for the specific arrangements for calculating the Community contribution). The beneficiary company must be able to match MEDIA funding on 50% - 50% basis (see 6.5).

4.3.2. Slate Funding 2nd stage 2

To apply for Slate Funding 2nd stage 2, a company must submit a slate of projects accompanied by a development plan for three years comprising three to ten projects (Forms 3 and 4).

In addition to the minimum number of three projects, the application must include at least two reinvestment projects (Form 7).

Slates of projects comprising only documentaries are not eligible for Slate Funding 2. They are only eligible for Slate Funding 1.

Funding of between €100 000 and €150 000 may be granted by the MEDIA programme (see 6.4 for the specific arrangements for calculating the Community contribution). The beneficiary company must be able to match MEDIA funding on a 50% - 50% basis (see 6.5). Slate Funding 2 is therefore available to companies with greater financial capacity and more international experience than is the case for companies applying for Slate Funding 1.

5. CRITERIA TO BE MET BY THE PROJECTS IN THE SLATE

5.1. Categories of eligible projects

The projects in the slate must belong to one of the following categories. The Commission will base its assessment on the information provided in Form 4.

5.1.1. Conditions applicable to all categories of projects

Both one-off projects and series are eligible.

IMAX format is permitted.

MEDIA Plus support will not be granted for any other form of live recordings, TV games, talk shows, reality shows or educational, teaching and 'how-to' programmes.

Projects submitted must not promote, directly or indirectly, messages that are at odds with the policies of the European Union. For example, all grants for 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. are prohibited.

Projects promoting violence and/or racism and/or with a pornographic content, or institutional productions to promote a specific organisation or its activities, will not be considered.

5.1.2. Drama projects for cinema or television

The total duration of projects submitted (whether a one-off or a series) must be no less than 50 minutes.

5.1.3. Creative documentaries for cinema or television

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. The creative aspect of the documentary must be explicitly demonstrated and described by the applicant company. The Commission will decide on the eligibility of the documentaries submitted on the basis of this information.

MEDIA Plus support will not be granted for "making-of", animal documentaries, reports, news programmes and magazines or 'docusoaps'.

The total duration of projects submitted must be no less than 25 minutes (duration per episode in case of series).

Slates including documentaries only are not eligible for Slate Funding 2. Only Slate Funding 1 is available for documentary Slates.

5.1.4. Animation projects for cinema or television

The total duration of projects submitted (whether one-off or series) must be no less than 24 minutes.

5.1.5. Multimedia concepts

The following may be submitted for a MEDIA Plus - Development grant:

- concepts for animation series specifically designed for online distribution (excluding individual short films);
- edutainment programmes for children/teenagers, character-based adventure games for individual or multiple players, where interactivity and narrative elements are significant;
- new concepts for drama, games or formats for digital television, the Internet or mobile devices, where interactivity and narrative elements are significant;

MEDIA Support will not be granted for:

- reference works (encyclopaedias, atlases, catalogues, databases...),

- “how to” products (school programmes, manuals...),
- software tools and services,
- news content, magazines,
- projects intended to promote tourism
- multimedia art works

5.2. On the date of submission of the application, the applicant company must hold at least 50% of the rights to the slate of projects to be developed with the MEDIA support.

NB: The slate of projects must comprise projects that, if selected and with the amount of the MEDIA funding, will be developed. These projects must number at least three.

For each project of the slate it wishes to develop with MEDIA support (excluding the reinvestment projects), the applicant company must demonstrate in the application (Form G) that it has, at the latest on the date of submission of the application, a contractual agreement with the author(s) permitting development of an audiovisual work based on the author’s work.

This contractual agreement, duly dated and signed, must state the extent of the transfer of rights, the length and any remuneration. The applicant company must, in any event, hold at least 50% of the rights to each project of the slate.

The contractual agreement may be subject to an option. In this case, it must make a direct reference to the applicant company and the author(s), be of an adequate duration to cover the whole development schedule and clearly set out the conditions for exercising the option.

The contractual agreement with the author must cover at least the artistic material included in the application: elaboration of concepts or subjects, treatments, scripts. Contractual agreements relating to rights to ideas as well as non binding agreements of the authors are not accepted.

If the project is an adaptation of an existing work, the company must provide both the following :

- the agreement covering the rights to adapt the original work (with the author or holder of the rights to the original work);
- the agreement covering the rights to the artistic material included in the application (elaboration of concepts or subjects, treatments, scripts).

Even if the author is also a producer or shareholder in the applicant company, a contractual agreement assigning the rights from the author to the company must be in place.

In the case where the author is employed by the applicant company, the copy of his/her employment contract establishing the assignment of rights can be provided to demonstrate the contractual agreement.

For multimedia projects, the proof of Intellectual Property Registration of the project can also be provided (where applicable).

The Commission will check that the projects identified by the applicant company for MEDIA funding meet the above conditions, based on the information provided in Form G ‘Copyright’ and the following documents:

- Annex G1 to the application: copies of the option agreements, duly dated and signed, including the conditions for exercising the option or the agreements for the transfer of rights, duly dated and signed, setting out the extent of the transfer, the length and any remuneration, including any co-development/co-production contracts and/or contracts relating to the right to adapt an existing work.

5.3. Ineligible projects

The projects described below are not eligible, even if they meet the conditions in 5.1. to 5.3. They cannot therefore be included in the slate nor taken into account in the application evaluation.

- Projects for which a MEDIA support is lower than 10.000€(20.000€for the fiction projects);
- Projects which have already benefited from MEDIA - Development support;
- Projects which have already benefited from a Community development contribution other than MEDIA;
- Projects for which production has started before the date of signature of the Specific Agreement (see 8.2).

6. ESTABLISHING DEVELOPMENT BUDGET ESTIMATES AND CALCULATING THE COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION

6.1. Detailed development budget estimates per project

Applicant companies must complete Form 4-III ‘Detailed development budget estimates’ for each development project which will be developed, if selected, with the contribution from the MEDIA programme. NB: these projects must number at least three.

Only eligible costs may be included in the development budget estimates.

6.2. Eligible costs

6.2.1. Eligible costs

Only costs directly associated with developing the projects identified by the applicant company for MEDIA funding are eligible, i.e.

- acquisition of 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 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.);
- for creative documentaries: the production of a video treatment;
- for animation projects: graphics research and production of a pilot;
- for multimedia projects: creation of programme content (treatment), creation of basic audio and video graphic elements, software programming necessary to run the project, programming logic (flow-chart), production of a demo.

These costs must be incurred by the applicant company itself and correspond to actual expenditure, i.e. payments made by the applicant company which can be proved on the basis of settled invoices.

VAT may be included in the costs submitted if the company cannot recover it.

6.2.2. *Ineligible costs*

The following costs are ineligible:

- production costs;
- capital investment costs;
- debts and bad debts;
- interest on debts owed;
- contributions in kind;
- expenditure on luxuries;
- exchange rate losses;
- general provisions (for losses, possible future liabilities, etc.);
- purchase of equipment (except depreciation of IT equipment for multimedia projects, see 6.3. point 5 ‘Technical equipment’).

6.2.3. *Period of eligible costs*

In principle, the date from which costs can be considered eligible, for each project benefiting from MEDIA funding, is the date of signature of the Agreement between the Commission and the beneficiary company (see 8.2).

Exception:

Where the applicant company establishes in Form 4-III that the project had to start before the signature of the Agreement, costs incurred after the date of submission of the application file may be considered eligible.

Only costs associated with the reservation or acquisition of rights incurred up to 12 months prior to the date of submission of the application (Chapter 1 of the development budget – Artistic rights) may be considered eligible with retroactive effect.

The submission date is established officially in the acknowledgement of receipt (Form A) sent to applicant by the Commission on registration of the application.

The period of eligible costs will end on the date of entry into production of the projects or at the latest 24 months after the signature of the agreement with the Commission.

6.3. Establishment of the detailed development budget estimates per project

The detailed development budget estimates must be established using Form 4-III. The costs must be broken down according to the categories below.

Development budget estimates must be in euro and rounded up or down to the nearest euro. Where projects are in non-EMU currencies, the rate used for the budget estimate must be the official exchange rate published in the Official Journal of the European Union on the first day of the month in which the project is submitted (see site <http://europa.eu.int/comm/budget/inforeuro/index.cfm>).

All costs higher than €10 000 must be broken down and explained in detail.

When implementation requires the publication of a call for tender, the following principles must be respected: transparency, equal treatment and no conflicts of interests.

NB: only eligible costs may be included in development budget estimates.

1. Artistic rights (including social security/fringes)

Only obligations payable during the development period are eligible. Payments associated with option agreements and/or copyright must be justified.

Any payments associated with options or copyright or payments due to the director which depend on the entry into pre-production, production and first day of principal photography should not be included.

2. Personnel costs (including social security/fringes)

Personnel costs must be calculated on the basis of the actual daily remuneration/fee paid to the employee/service provider, multiplied by the number of days worked on the project.

The use of the various eligible human resources must be justified in terms of their necessity to the project.

The various percentages applied to the usual charges paid by employers, such as social security contributions, must be stated.

Bonuses, incentive payments and profit-sharing schemes are not eligible.

The different types of staff engaged should be shown in detail in the budget.

3. Other costs

3.1. Travel and expenses

Only travel directly associated with the development of the project in question and specific, clearly identifiable activities can be considered. With regard to air travel, only economy class fares are accepted. In the case of travel by car, the eligible amount is the cost of the equivalent first class rail ticket.

The following maximum subsistence allowances, per person and per day, are eligible:

Country	Maximum in €	Country	Maximum in €
BE Belgium	150	IS Iceland	183
DA Denmark	179	LI Liechtenstein	174
DE Germany	127	NO Norway	171
GR Greece	113	BG Bulgaria	157
ES Spain	141	CZ Czech Republic	214
FR France	130	EE Estonia	129
IE Ireland	165	CY Cyprus	100
IT Italy	130	LV Latvia	174
LU Luxembourg	143	LT Lithuania	126
NL Netherlands	148	HU Hungary	136
AT Austria	122	MT Malta	86
PT Portugal	143	PL Poland	227
FI Finland	156	RO Romania	185
SW Sweden	157	SI Slovenia	148
UK United Kingdom	199	SK Slovakia	164

3.2. Technical equipment

The costs entered here must have a clearly identifiable link with the development activities of the projects in question.

For multimedia projects, the depreciation of IT equipment (new or second-hand) which is indispensable to the implementation of the project in question is eligible as long as it corresponds to the market rate and the equipment concerned is written down in accordance with the tax and accounting rules applicable to the applicant company. Only the proportion of depreciation corresponding to the duration of the project in question can be taken into account by the Commission, except where the nature and/or use of the item justifies otherwise. It is up to the applicant company to prove this, using Form 4-III 'Detailed development budget estimates'.

3.3. Miscellaneous

A flat rate of up to 7% for overheads (based on the total for Headings 1 to 3.3.5 of the development budget estimate) is allowed.

Total:

The total amount of the detailed development budget estimates (Form 5 'Summary development budget of the slate of projects') must be covered in full by the sources of finance indicated in Form 6.

6.4. Calculation of the Community contribution

The Community contribution is calculated using Form 4-III 'Detailed development budget estimates' and Form 5 'Summary development budget of the slate of projects'.

- The funding from the MEDIA Plus - Development programme may not in any event exceed 50% of the total detailed development budget estimates (Form 6).
- The applicant company must also ensure that the funding from the MEDIA programme does not exceed 50% of the detailed development budget for each project (Form 4-III). A derogation is always possible for projects highlighting Europe's cultural diversity, in which case the MEDIA Plus funding may be 60% of the development budget. However, it is up to the applicant to prove this, using Form 6. The Commission will decide on the basis of the arguments submitted.
- The minimum contribution from the MEDIA programme to a project is €10 000 (€20.000 for fiction projects)
- The maximum contribution to a project is €50 000 (in case of Slate Funding 2 and for animation feature-length films for theatrical release, this maximum can exceptionally be raised to €80.000).
- Depending on the type of application submitted, you must request an amount between the minimum and maximum amounts given below:

Category	Minimum			Maximum
Slate Funding 2 nd stage 1	€0 000	€70 000	€80 000	€90 000
Slate Funding 2 nd stage 2	€100 000	€110 000	€125 000	€150 000

6.5. Sources of finance

The development budget estimate must be balanced in respect of revenue and expenditure. You must therefore state in Form 6, how you intend to fund the development budget summary submitted on Form 5. The grant of a Community contribution cannot have as its aim or effect to create a profit for the beneficiary.

You must state your other sources of funding, in addition to the Community grant requested, and whether this funding has already been obtained or is being considered. If you state that the funding has been confirmed, you must enclose the contract or confirmation letter from the funding provider (Annex to Form 6). If the funding has not yet been confirmed but you have received letters expressing interest, you can also enclose them (Annex to Form 6, optional). In any event, if you are selected and whatever the outcome of the requests for funding made to third parties, you undertake, by signing Form B, the 'Declaration on the applicant's honour', to match the full amount of the Community funding.

With regard to the summary table of sources of finance:

- Financial contributions from public or private funds such as advances repayable from revenues, loans and subsidies. This funding may be national, regional or local.
- Support funds or automatic support, generated by the applicant company's previous project, should be mentioned in line 1.4 'Others'.
- The following items must not be included in the 'Producer's investment' (4.):
 - overheads;
 - commercial loans/inputs;
 - profit-sharing;
 - contributions in kind.

NB: other sources of Community funding for the development of the same project (e.g. funding obtained under the MEDIA programme) must not be included in your financing plan. In fact, the Community rules state that no project may benefit from two sources of Community funding. You undertake on your honour to respect this rule by signing Form B.

7. HOW ARE APPLICATIONS SELECTED?

The applications received by the Commission are assessed on the basis of three types of criteria:

7.1. Eligibility criteria

7.1.1. *Is the application file complete?*

The Commission will check that ALL the following elements have been respected in the application:

Presentation of the application	Use of the forms for call for proposals 66/04. A4 pages, printed on one side only and numbered. Two unbound copies of forms and annexes A to H and 4 bound copies (1 unbound and 3 bound) of forms and annexes 1 to 7. No handwriting. All the signatures required. All the required forms and annexes are present. Use of one of the 20 official languages.
Respect for the start and end dates of the call for proposals	Application sent on or after 9 November 2004 and no later than 31 May 2005. Just one application for the 2005 budget (the first one received in the case of multiple applications) will be considered by the Commission.
Complete applicant file	All the application forms are present and complete and the obligatory annexes attached, <i>in particular</i> : - balance sheet and profit and loss accounts for the last two financial years - CVs of company members - signed declaration on the applicant's honour - copyright - extract from the company's registration - memorandum of association.

The Commission will not ask applicants for additional documentation. If just one of the above elements is missing or cannot meet the criteria, the applicant company will be notified by mail that its application is ineligible and therefore has been rejected. The applicant company will be able to resubmit the application, but only under a different call for proposals and provided that changes have been made to remove the reasons for the initial rejection. The applicant company will have to explain this in the form provided to this effect.

7.1.2. Does the slate submitted and the projects within it meet the programme access criteria?

The Commission will check that the slate of projects meets ALL the criteria below (see 4):

Slate Funding 2 nd stage 1: the slate must comprise 3 to 6 projects. Slate Funding 2 nd stage 2: the slate must comprise 3 to 10 projects.
The applicant company submit a slate of at least three projects which will be developed with the MEDIA support. The applicant company must identify reinvestment projects (obligatory at least 2 for Slate Funding 2 nd stage 2, optional for Slate Funding 2 nd stage 1).
The projects making up the slate must belong to one of the following categories: drama, creative documentary, animation or multimedia.
The projects making up the slate must meet the minimum duration criteria.
At the moment of submission of the application, the applicant company holds at least 50% of the rights or an option with the author(s) to the slate of projects to be developed with the MEDIA support.
The projects making up the Slate must not come under one of the exclusion criteria in 3.6.

If, when the Commission examines an application for Slate Funding 2nd stage 2, it turns out that the eligibility criteria specific to this category are not met, the application will be automatically considered for Slate Funding 2nd stage 1, as long as it meets the conditions for the latter.

If a slate comprises fewer than three projects meeting all the above criteria, the application will be rejected. The company may resubmit it under another call for proposals if substantial changes have been made which remove the reasons for the rejection. The applicant company must mention the changes made in the form provided to this effect.

7.1.3. Does the company meet the conditions for access to Slate Funding 2nd stage

100% of the support received under the Slate Funding 1 st stage has been allocated to projects approved by the Commission.
75% of the support has been paid into the dedicated bank account.
The minimum number of projects supported under the Slate Funding 1 st stage has

entered into production at the date of submission of the Slate Funding 2nd stage.

7.1.4. *Are the budgets submitted really development budgets?*

If the Commission takes the view that the detailed development budget estimates (Form 4-III) contain costs other than development costs, the project(s) concerned will not be considered in the evaluation of the application. If, as a consequence, the slate then comprises fewer than three projects, the application will be considered ineligible and will be eliminated from the selection procedure. The company may resubmit under another call for proposals if substantial changes are made which remove the reasons for the rejection. The applicant company must explain the changes made in the form provided to this effect.

7.2. Selection criteria – is the company able to successfully implement the proposed development plan?

The Commission will also check that the applicant company is able, both technically and financially, to successfully implement the proposed development plan.

Is the company able to successfully technically implement the proposed development plan?	Is it an independent European company whose main activity is audiovisual and/or multimedia production and has it been registered for at least 3 years? See 3.
	What are the skills and professional qualifications of the members of the company? This evaluation is based on the CVs provided with the application and on form 1 'Information concerning the applicant company'
	What is its general experience? This evaluation is based on Form F 'Experience of the applicant company'.
Does the company have the financial resources to successfully implement the slate of projects?	Does the applicant company have the financial capacity to carry out the slate of projects ? (Form E 'Financial status of the applicant company')
	Does the company come under one of the exclusion criteria in 3.5? (Form B 'Declaration on the applicant's honour')

If the Commission takes the view that the applicant company is not able to properly implement the development plan, either technically or financially, the application will be rejected. The company may resubmit under another call for proposals if substantial changes have been made which remove the reasons for the rejection. The applicant company must explain the changes made in the form provided to this effect.

7.3. Award criteria - quality of the development plan and the proposed projects

Only applications considered eligible and fulfilling the selection criteria (see 7.1 and 7.2) will have the award criteria evaluated. The evaluation of the award criteria, unlike the eligibility and

selection checks, involves awarding marks which are used as a basis for ranking applications. All the award criteria have an identical weight in the evaluation process.

The applications are evaluated in terms of the award criteria with the help of two independent experts per application (one to evaluate more specifically the content of the development plan and the projects proposed, and one to evaluate more specifically the financial aspects). This evaluation serves as a recommendation for the Commission, which is the sole body authorised to decide on the award of funding.

On the basis of the recommendations of the independent experts, the Commission therefore establishes a list of applications, ranked according to merit, and awards funding to the best applications until the overall budget available is exhausted.

The Commission selects the 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.

7.3.1. Quality and originality of the projects

The quality and originality of the projects chosen by the applicant company for MEDIA funding are assessed. These projects are described in detail in Form 4. The documents enclosed in the Annexes (treatments, scripts, visual documents, declarations of intent, etc.) are also assessed.

- In the case of drama projects, creative documentaries and animation projects, this criterion includes, in particular, an examination of the subject, the narrative structure and the visual approach.

In the case of drama projects, the characters and dialogues are also examined; in the case of a creative documentary, its degree of creativity; for animation projects, the characters, graphics and dialogues are examined in particular.

- For multimedia concepts, the visual, audio and graphic components, the level of interactivity, the technology, the studio work and the preliminary version of the flow chart are examined in particular.

7.3.2. Quality of the development strategy

Including, in particular, an examination of the following aspects:

- the description and timetable of development activities envisaged in the development plan and for each project chosen for MEDIA funding;
- the feasibility of the development plan with regard to the simultaneous development of several projects;
- the co-development strategy;
- the co-financing strategy;
- the development budget estimates of the projects chosen to benefit from MEDIA funding and the financing plans.

Forms 3 ‘Three-year development plan’, 4-II ‘Development, funding and distribution strategies’, 4-III ‘Detailed development budget estimates’ and 6 ‘Summary of the sources of finance of the slate of projects’ and the corresponding Annexes will serve as the bases for evaluating this criterion.

7.3.3. Quality of the financing strategy and the production potential

Including, in particular, an examination of the following aspects:

- The draft production financing plan, the status of co-funding (planned or confirmed) for each of the projects put forward;
- the indication of possible co-production interest or agreements.

Forms 3, 5 and 4-II, as well as the supporting documents provided (contracts, letters of interest, etc.) will be taken into account to evaluate this criterion.

7.3.4. European and international potential and quality of the marketing and distribution strategies

Including, in particular, an examination of the following aspects for each of the projects proposed:

- transnational potential and sales potential (national and international);
- reasons for the choice of country (or countries) for co-production and/or distribution;
- suitability of the chosen format (genre, duration, shooting format) for the intended market and audience;
- the indication of possible distribution interest or agreements.

Forms 3, 5 and 4-II, as well as the supporting documents provided in the Annexes (contracts, letters of interest, etc.) will be taken into account to evaluate this criterion.

7.3.5. The status of Slate Funding 1st stage and results of the previous MEDIA supports granted to the applicant company

This criterion is assessed on the basis of the information provided by the applicant company on the results of the Slate Funding 1st stage from which it benefited (Form 1 ‘Information concerning the applicant company’). The applicant company must indicate, in particular:

- the progress of the projects funded under Slate Funding 1st stage, in particular:
- whether the projects have already entered into production, the production budgets, the financial partners, the marketing planned or already under way, etc.
- the co-development, co-production and distribution contracts that it has concluded for the projects funded under Slate Funding 1st stage, etc.

This criterion will also be evaluated on the basis of Form F “Experience of the applicant company”.

Compliance with the previous contractual obligations and results obtained in the framework of these contracts in terms of entry into production and reinvestment will be taken into account.

7.3.6. Others

Particular attention will be paid to applications from countries or regions with a low production capacity and/or a limited language or geographic area, as well as those submitted by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

8. AT THE END OF THE SELECTION PROCEDURES

8.1. Notification of the results to applicants

The list of companies, ranked according to merit, which may benefit from a MEDIA grant, depending on the budget available, is prepared by DG EAC (Directorate-General Education and Culture) and adopted by a Commission decision.

Once the decision has been adopted, applicant companies are informed of the outcome of their application. No information, not even off-the-record, can be provided by DG EAC or the Technical Assistance Office (see 9.2.) before adoption of the decision by the Commission. If a project is rejected, the Commission will inform the unsuccessful applicant of the reasons.

NB: Applications (including any accompanying cassettes, CD-ROMs, drawings, etc.) will not be returned to the applicants at the end of the selection period.

8.2. Conclusion of agreements between the Commission and beneficiary companies in the event of selection

Selection of a company does not oblige the Commission to grant the amount requested. Under no circumstances will the amount granted exceed the amount requested.

Where a proposal is selected, an Agreement, establishing the total amount of the MEDIA grant, will be concluded between the Commission and the beneficiary company.

Unless the beneficiary provides reasons to the contrary, the name and address of the beneficiary, the subject of the financial support, the amount awarded and the rate of funding will be published on the MEDIA website as soon as the decision referred to in 8.1 has been adopted.

8.3. Payments

The beneficiary company will have to use a dedicated bank account exclusively for the purpose of managing the MEDIA contribution. The contribution for each project of which the development is envisaged with MEDIA support will be paid in the following manner:

- 50% within 45 days of signature of the Agreement between the beneficiary and the Commission (pre-financing);

- the balance following submission and approval by the Commission of the certified final development expenditure accounts (no later than 24 months after signature of the Agreement).

If the Commission takes the view that there is a financial risk, it may make payment of all or part of the Community contribution subject to the provision of a bank guarantee or decide to grant the support without pre-financing and interim payment.

8.4. In the event of production commencing on a project which has benefited from MEDIA funding

If a project forming the subject of a Specific Agreement enters into production, the beneficiary company must repay the amount of the Community grant for this project to the dedicated bank account, no later than the first day of principal photography (or equivalent).

It will then have six months to reinvest this amount in one or more new development projects. Reinvestment projects can belong to any category (drama, creative documentary, animation, multimedia) as long as they meet the criteria in point 4 and the minimum and maximum amounts of Community funding per project in 6.4.

Reinvestment projects are approved by the Commission (approval of expenditure proposals). The company may choose to use the reinvestment for projects other than those presented in the application (Form 7), subject to the Commission's approval.

- What is the Commission's objective for the reinvestment mechanism?
- encouraging companies to have a medium-term strategic vision of their work;
- increasing the leverage effect of the Community funds.

9. CONTACTS

9.1. Commission departments responsible for implementing the MEDIA Plus - Development programme

Please contact the following people for more information on the Development sector of MEDIA Plus.

- For questions relating to selection:

Corinne MIMRAN
Corinne.Mimran@cec.eu.int
Tel. + 32 2 295.33.71

- For questions relating to agreements and their follow-up:

Domenico RANERI
Domenico.Raneri@cec.eu.int
Tel. + 32 2 296.21.20

9.2. The Technical Assistance Office

The Technical Assistance Office is responsible for helping the Commission to evaluate projects and follow them up. You may contact the Office for any practical information.

MEDIA Programme Technical Assistance Office

Rue du Trône, 12

B-1000 Brussels

Belgium

Tel. : + 32 2 743 20 87 or 88

Fax : + 32 2 743 27 27

9.3. The MEDIA Desks and Antennae

There are MEDIA Desks and Antennae in all the participating States. They are the closest bodies to you and are the best placed to provide you with appropriate information and advice. You will find a complete list of MEDIA Desks and Antennae in Annex 1.

Annex 1 : list of MEDIA Desks and MEDIA Antennae

BELGIË/BELGIQUE/BELGIEN (BE)

Vlaamse Gemeenschap:

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Fax (32-9) 235 22 66
E-mail: Info@mediadesk-vlaanderen.be
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?

Communauté française:

MEDIA Desk Belgique
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Catalina González

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Françoise Maupin

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