

## CALL FOR PARTNERSHIPS & SPONSORSHIPS

*Supporting creative collaboration and series co-production development*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Pilot Programme for Series Co-productions is a cultural funding programme by the Council of Europe, home of Eurimages, to support cultural and linguistic diversity through independent series co-productions.

The programme is implemented by Eurimages for the Council of Europe, funded by voluntary contributions from [donor institutions](#) in Eurimages and/or Council of Europe member states. Donors' countries of establishment are considered Contributing Countries.

### 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On 1 April 2022 in Strasbourg, Ministers of Culture expressed<sup>1</sup> concerns over the challenges to cultural diversity and pluralism in TV series creation due to the dominance of global audiovisual media services. To address these issues, the Ministers invited the Council of Europe to support the Budapest Drama Series Process and develop a new legal and financial framework for international drama series co-productions. The financial initiative takes the form of a pilot programme with funding provided through the Council of Europe's voluntary contributions system.

### 3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANISATION

The Council of Europe is the international organisation upholding human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe. It is headquartered in Strasbourg, France. Founded in 1949, it is the continent's leading human rights organisation, bringing together 46 member states, including all 27 European Union member states, and representing a population of approximately 675 million as of 2023.

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<sup>1</sup> "Creating our future: Creativity and cultural heritage as strategic resources for a diverse and democratic Europe" Final Declaration, Council of Europe Conference of Ministers of Culture, Strasbourg, 1 April 2022 <https://go.coe.int/L3yd3>

The Council of Europe, in the field of audiovisual productions, actively promotes cultural diversity, cross-border creative collaboration, and freedom of artistic expression, notably through initiatives supporting the co-production of audiovisual works, particularly cinematographic projects and audiovisual works in the form of series.

## 4. OBJECTIVES AND MODALITIES OF THE CALL FOR PARTNERSHIPS

The Council of Europe invites applications from entities that implement professional events such as co-production markets, training initiatives, conferences or other relevant industry platforms that support creative collaboration and the development of international co-productions of audiovisual works in the form of series.

Selected applicants shall enter into a partnership or sponsorship agreement with the Council of Europe for up to one edition, to be held in 2026. A subsequent call shall be organised for editions held in 2027.

This Call consists of three distinct measures:

1. Series Co-Production Development Award (SCPDA) — *Partnership measure*
2. Series Co-Development Labs (SCDL) — *Sponsorship measure*
3. Culture on Screen — *Sponsorship measure*

## 5. ACTIONS TO BE SUPPORTED

### 5.1 Series Co-Production Development Award (SCPDA)

#### **Definition**

The SCPDA is a partnership measure between the Council of Europe and professional events that present independent international series co-production projects initiated by producers from [Eurimages member states](#).

#### **Eligible for partnership**

Organisations legally established in a Contributing Country, implementing professional co-production markets or industry platforms dedicated to audiovisual works in the form of series.

#### **Eligible beneficiaries (for receiving the hosted award)**

Independent production companies from Eurimages member states.

#### **Objective**

To support the development of international co-production projects and strengthen the independent European audiovisual sector.

## 5.2 Series Co-Development Labs (SCDL)

### Definition

The SCDL is a sponsorship measure supporting structured training or capacity-building initiatives aimed at enhancing creative collaboration and co-development of audiovisual works in the form of series with the potential to become cross-border co-productions.

### Eligible for sponsorship

Organisations legally established in a Contributing Country, implementing training initiatives, workshops or labs for audiovisual professionals.

### Objective

To reinforce early-stage co-development capacity and foster cross-border cooperation among creative teams.

## 5.3 Culture on Screen — Public Promotion of Series Co-Productions and Values-Based Works

### Definition

*Culture on Screen* is a sponsorship measure under which the Council of Europe supports round tables, conferences, panels, podcasts or think tanks. The measure promotes and explores the contribution and impact of series co-productions and values-based audiovisual works to cultural diversity, freedom of expression and democratic dialogue.

### Eligible for sponsorship

Organisations legally established in an Eurimages member state, implementing professional or public-facing audiovisual events including components dedicated to series.

### Objective

To strengthen public and industry dialogue on the cultural and democratic significance of series co-productions.

## 6. BUDGET AVAILABLE

Measure	Type	Number per year (max)	Maximum amount (€)	Total (€)
SCPDA	Partnership	2	€50,000	€100,000
SCDL	Sponsorship	3	€15,000	€45,000
Culture on Screen	Sponsorship	4	€7,500	€30,000
<b>Total available budget</b>				<b>175,000</b>

## 7. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

### 7.1 Eligibility of applicants

#### a. SCPDA

Applicants shall be legal entities **established in a Contributing Country** and authorised to enter into a partnership agreement with the Council of Europe.

#### b. SCDL

Applicants shall be legal entities **established in a Contributing Country** and authorised to enter into a sponsorship agreement with the Council of Europe.

#### c. Culture on Screen

Applicants shall be legal entities **established in an Eurimages member state** and authorised to enter into a sponsorship agreement with the Council of Europe.

### 7.2 Combination and submission rules

Applicants shall submit a separate application for each measure. Applicants may apply simultaneously for the **SCPDA** and **Culture on Screen**, or **SCDL** and **Culture on Screen** provided that distinct applications are submitted for each. No other combination of measures shall be permitted. Applications combining the **SCDL** with **SCPDA** shall not be accepted.

### 7.3 Eligibility of Events

#### General requirements (apply to all measures)

Events shall:

- have existed for at least two years;
- take place annually in a Contributing Country (SCPDA and SCDL) or Eurimages member state (Culture on Screen);
- last a minimum of two consecutive days;
- engage professionals from at least five Eurimages member states;
- demonstrate a gender-equality policy and sustainability awareness strategy;
- be conducted in English or provide adequate English-language working facilities.

#### Specific requirements per measure

##### a. SCPDA

The event shall be a professional co-production market or industry platform dedicated to facilitating and presenting international series projects.

##### b. SCDL

The event shall be a structured training initiative, workshop or lab dedicated to co-development and collaborative series creation.

### **c. Culture on Screen**

The event shall be a professional or public-facing activity dedicated to debate, reflection, closed door think tank format or thematic promotion of audiovisual works in the form of series.

## **8. REQUIREMENTS FOR HOSTING THE SCPDA (APPLIES EXCLUSIVELY TO SCPDA)**

### **8.1 Selection of Projects**

- At least 25% of the full line-up shall comprise eligible SCPDA projects, with a minimum of five projects.
- Gender balance shall be ensured.
- Projects shall be presented in English in a format that facilitates exchange with the jury (one-to-one meetings or equivalent).

### **8.2 Jury**

- At least three members, including one Council of Europe staff member and two industry professionals.
- Gender balance shall be ensured.
- All jury members shall sign a declaration of non-conflict of interest.
- Selection shall be based on artistic quality, the potential impact of SCPDA support and cross-border co-production viability.

### **8.3 Publicity and Awards Ceremony**

- Organisers shall ensure visibility of the SCPDA in all communication materials.
- A diploma shall be produced and professional photographs of the awards ceremony provided.

## 9. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

### 9.1 SCPDA - Applications will be assessed based on:

<b>A. References/Track record and experience</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Prominence</b> <i>The significance of the industry event, the quality of its positioning compared to similar activities, and its European/international dimension added value.</i>	15
<b>Quality of Professional Actions</b> <i>The calibre of organised workshops, meetings, training sessions, and other professional activities related to the development, production, and distribution of series.</i>	15
<b>Market Outreach</b> <i>The reach and influence of the industry event within Contributing Countries and Eurimages member states.</i>	10
<b>Editorial Line and Achievements</b> <i>The editorial direction of the industry event and the outcomes or achievements attained.</i>	10
<b>B. Proposal to host a Series Co-production Development Award</b>	<b>50</b>
Envisaged selection criteria of series co-production projects, which should include regard for gender balance, diversity and inclusion	15
Selection criteria for jury members (including regard for gender balance)	10
Quality of the communication strategy vis-à-vis the public, the industry in regard to the selected eligible projects and the Series Co-production Development Award	10
Quality of the organisation of the professional event, in particular the method of presentation of the projects (one-to-one, pitches...)	10
Quality of gender equality policy as well as if appropriate its diversity and inclusion policy.	3
Quality of sustainability strategy.	2
<b>C. Final score = A+B</b>	<b>100</b>

## 9.1 SCDL - Applications will be assessed based on:

<b>A. Relevance and quality</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Pedagogical concept</b> <i>The strength, clarity and coherence of the proposed training or lab methodology, including its capacity to support structured learning, creative collaboration and the advancement of series co-development.</i>	15
<b>Cross border relevance</b> <i>The degree to which the training initiative involves professionals from several Eurimages member states and facilitates meaningful international collaboration at the co-development stage.</i>	10
<b>Expertise of tutors and mentors</b> <i>The professional qualifications, international experience and recognised competence of the experts guiding the training activities.</i>	10
<b>Editorial Line and Achievements</b> <i>The editorial direction of the industry event and the outcomes or achievements attained.</i>	10
<b>Impact on Co-Development Capacity</b> <i>The expected contribution of the initiative to strengthening the creative, technical and organisational capacities of participants to progress toward cross-border co-production.</i>	10
<b>Gender Equality, Diversity and Sustainability Measures</b> <i>The quality, credibility and implementation of gender equality, diversity, inclusion and environmental sustainability measures within the design and delivery of the training initiative.</i>	5
<b>B. Organisational capacity</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Track record in training delivery</b> <i>The organisation's experience, reputation and demonstrated success in delivering professional training initiatives in the audiovisual sector.</i>	20
<b>Adequacy of structure and resources</b> <i>The appropriateness of the organisational structure, staffing, facilities and resources allocated to ensure the effective delivery of the proposed initiative</i>	15
<b>Communication and dissemination strategy</b> <i>The clarity and effectiveness of the communication plan to reach relevant professionals, promote the initiative and disseminate results at European level.</i>	10
<b>Administrative and Financial Reliability</b> <i>The soundness of the administrative framework and financial management ensuring responsible use of sponsorship funds.</i>	5
<b>C. Final score = A+B</b>	<b>100</b>

## 9.2 Culture on Screen - Applications will be assessed based on:

<b>A. Conceptual quality</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Relevance and Clarity of Proposed Activities</b> <i>The quality, thematic clarity and professional relevance of the proposed round tables, panels, conferences, podcasts or think tanks.</i>	20
<b>Contribution to cultural diversity and democratic dialogue</b> <i>The extent to which the proposed activities promote understanding of cultural diversity, freedom of expression and democratic values through the lens of co-produced series.</i>	15
<b>Cross-border relevance</b> <i>The presence of international perspectives and participation from professionals or stakeholders representing several Eurimages member states.</i>	15
<b>B. Organisational and communication capacity</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Experience in hosting public-facing or interactive contributive events</b> <i>The organisation's track record in delivering high quality events, debates or public activities in the audiovisual sector.</i>	20
<b>Communication and outreach strategy</b> <i>The strength and effectiveness of the communication and outreach plan targeting industry professionals, stakeholders and wider audiences, ensuring visibility of Culture on Screen.</i>	15
<b>Quality of Planning and Logistics</b> <i>The adequacy and professionalism of the logistical and organisational arrangements to deliver the proposed activities.</i>	10
<b>Gender Equality, Diversity and Sustainability Measures – 5 points</b> <i>The inclusion and credibility of measures relating to gender equality, diversity, inclusion and environmental responsibility.</i>	5
<b>C. Final score = A+B</b>	<b>100</b>

- The submitted proposals will be selected based on the above criteria by the Council of Europe on the recommendations of the Evaluation Committee.
- The Council of Europe will select according to a fair geographical and calendar distribution. The Council of Europe will do its utmost to ensure the representation of different types of series works (drama, documentaries, animation).
- All meeting reports and deliberations relating to this selection are confidential.

## EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Applicants shall be excluded from the call for proposals for the Series Co-production Development Award if they, or, where applicable, their owners or persons having powers of representation or decision-making:

- a. have been sentenced by final judgment on one or more of the following charges: participation in a criminal organisation, corruption, fraud, money laundering, terrorist financing, terrorist offences or offences linked to terrorist activities, child labour or trafficking in human beings;
- b. are in a situation of bankruptcy, liquidation, termination of activity, insolvency or arrangement with creditors or any like situation arising from a procedure of the same kind, or are subject to a procedure of the same kind;
- c. have received a judgment with res judicata force, finding an offence that affects their professional integrity or serious professional misconduct;
- d. do not comply with their obligations as regards payment of social security contributions, taxes and dues, according to the statutory provisions of their country of incorporation, establishment or residence;
- e. are an entity created to circumvent tax, social or other legal obligations (empty shell company), have ever created or are in the process of creation of such an entity;
- f. have been involved in mismanagement of the Council of Europe funds or public funds;
- g. are or appear to be in a situation of conflict of interest or a potential conflict of interests;
- h. are retired Council of Europe staff members or are staff members having benefitted from an early departure scheme;
- i. have not fulfilled, in the previous three years, their contractual obligations in the performance of a contract concluded with the Council of Europe leading to a total or partial refusal of payment and/or termination of the contract by the Council of Europe.

## **10. CONTENT OF THE PROPOSAL**

The proposal shall be submitted exclusively online via the dedicated platform and must include the following elements:

**10.1 A declaration relating to the exclusion criteria duly completed and signed (see Appendix I);**

**10.2 Legal registration documents for the organizing body if it is established under civil law or a declaration that it has the authority to enter into the partnership with the Council of Europe if it is a public authority;**

**10.3 A description of the professional event and its main activities (maximum 5 pages) indicating:**

- a) a description and a history, including its location, frequency and date;
- b) the existence of workshops, meetings, training or other professional events in the audiovisual industry;
- c) international aspects, geographical scope, countries involved and their number in the co-production market;
- d) the public and professionals targeted by the co-production market, including a description of its editorial line;
- e) gender equality policy and, if appropriate, its diversity and inclusion policy
- f) sustainability strategy.

**10.4 A description of the proposal to host and organise the Council of Europe Series Co-production Development Award (maximum 5 pages) indicating:**

- a) project selection criteria and method;
- b) criteria and method for selecting jury members;
- c) method of presentation of the projects (one-to-one, pitches...);
- d) communication vis-à-vis the public, the industry and the Council of Europe;
- e) logistics and organisation of the co-production market (including gender equality policy, and, if appropriate, its diversity and inclusion policy and sustainability strategy);
- f) working language(s).

**10.5 A description of the proposal to implement the Series Co-Development Lab shall include:**

- a) pedagogical concept and structure of the co-development initiative, including learning objectives, methodology and planned stages of the training;

- b) criteria and method for selecting participants, ensuring regard for cross-border collaboration, gender balance, diversity and inclusion;
- c) composition, expertise and selection method of tutors, mentors and trainers involved in delivering the lab;
- d) description of the co-development activities, including workshops, group sessions, individual consultations or residencies, and the expected outcomes for participants;
- e) communication strategy vis-à-vis the professional community, the industry and the Council of Europe, ensuring appropriate visibility of the SCDL sponsorship;
- f) logistics and organisation of the lab, including facilities, scheduling, participant support measures, as well as gender equality, diversity and inclusion policies and the sustainability strategy;
- g) working language(s).

#### **10.6 A description of the proposal to implement Culture on Screen shall include:**

- a) concept, thematic focus and objectives of the proposed round tables, panels, conferences, podcasts or think tanks within the Culture on Screen framework with particular interest towards European co-produced series;
- b) criteria and method for selecting speakers, moderators and contributors, ensuring regard for gender balance, diversity, inclusion and cross-border representation;
- c) description of the planned activities, including format, structure and the way in which they will promote reflection on cultural diversity, democratic dialogue and values-based audiovisual works;
- d) communication and outreach strategy vis-à-vis the public, the audiovisual industry and the Council of Europe, ensuring appropriate visibility of Culture on Screen;
- e) logistical and organisational arrangements, including venues, scheduling, technical requirements, and the implementation of gender equality, diversity, inclusion and sustainability measures;
- f) working language(s).

**Proposals must be written in English. A French version may be provided in addition.**

## 11. PROVISIONAL CALENDAR

<b>Phases</b>	<b>Indicative timing</b>
<b>Publication of the call</b>	5 March 2026
<b>Deadline for submitting applications</b>	31 March 2026 17:00 CET
<b>Information to applicants on the results</b>	May 2026
<b>Signature of the partnership agreements</b>	May-October 2026
<b>Implementation period</b>	May 2026- December 2026

# ANNEX I – DECLARATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE EXCLUSION CRITERIA

**I, the undersigned, .....**

**acting as the representative of the company/organisation**

Name and legal form: .....

Address: .....

VAT No.: .....

**for the professional event: .....**

**hereby declare that:**

- a) neither the company/organisation I represent nor its owners or any of the persons having powers of representation or decision-making have ever been convicted by final judgment for any of the following offences: participation in a criminal organisation, corruption, fraud or money laundering, terrorist financing, terrorist offences or offences linked to terrorist activities, child labour or trafficking in human beings;
- b) neither the company/organisation I represent nor its owners or any of the persons having powers of representation or decision-making is bankrupt, being wound up, no longer allowed to trade or subject to a judicial insolvency procedure or an arrangement with creditors or in any similar situation resulting from a procedure of the same type or subject to a procedure of the same type;
- c) neither the company/organisation I represent nor its owners or any of the persons having powers of representation or decision-making have ever been convicted by a final judgment for serious professional misconduct or any other offence relating to professional conduct;
- d) the company/organisation I represent or its owners or any of the persons having powers of representation have fulfilled all obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions, taxes and duties under the legislation of the country in which it is established;
- e) neither the company/organisation I represent nor its owners or any of the persons having powers of representation or decision-making are in a situation of a conflict of interests or a potential conflict of interests in relation to this call for proposals or, to the best of my knowledge, to any sub-contractors to be used for the realisation of the proposal; the company/organisation I represent or its owners or any of the persons having powers of representation have been notified and understand that a conflict of interests may arise, in particular, from economic interests, political or national affinities, emotional or family ties or any other type of shared relationship or interest;
- f) neither the company/organisation I represent nor its owners or any of the persons having powers of representation or decision-making have ever engaged in misconduct in connection with an earlier application for support or partnership that led Council of Europe to justifiably terminate a support or partnership agreement or to exclude the company/organisation concerned from the support or partnership agreement;

g) neither the company/organisation I represent nor its owners or any of the persons having powers of representation or decision-making are included in the lists of persons or entities subject to restrictive measures applied by the European Union (available at [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://www.sanctionsmap.eu)).

h) the information provided to the Council of Europe under this procedure is complete, correct and truthful;

i) if my company's/organisation's proposal is retained, I will provide the Council of Europe with the following documents upon request:

- In relation to the matters referred to in sub-paragraphs a), b) and c) above, a recent extract from the criminal record or an equivalent recent document issued by a judicial or administrative authority in the country of origin or provenance, showing that the requirements referred to have been met. If the national law of the country in which the company or organisation is established does not provide for such documents to be supplied to legal persons, these documents shall be requested for natural persons concerned, such as the administrators or any person vested with powers of representation, decision or supervision on the company's/organisation's behalf;
- In the case referred to in sub-paragraph d) above, recent certificates or letters from the relevant authorities of the state concerned are required. These documents must provide proof of payment of all the taxes, duties and social security contributions owed by the applicant including VAT, corporation tax and social insurance contributions.

If necessary, where one of the documents referred to above is not issued in the country concerned, it may be replaced by a sworn or, failing that, a solemn statement made by the interested party before a judicial or administrative authority, a notary or a qualified professional body in the applicant's country of origin or provenance.

In signing this form, I acknowledge that I have been notified that if any of the statements made or information provided prove to be false, the Council of Europe reserves the right to exclude the proposal concerned from this call for proposals or to terminate any existing contractual relations related to the latter.

Signature.....

[Click here to insert the name of the signatory (e.g. J. Smith)]

Date :

\* \* \*

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