

CHANGES TO EURIMAGES' REGULATIONS IN 2020 AND 2021

The Board of Management of Eurimages has made a number of changes to the current support regulations. Some will enter into force on 1 January 2020, others only on 1 January 2021.

Changes that will come into effect in 2020

- (1) A set of exclusion criteria has been put in place for the owners and/or managers of companies wishing to apply for support from Eurimages. These are intended to exclude any person or company who has been convicted by final judgement, is bankrupt or in liquidation, does not comply with obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or taxes, is in a situation of conflict of interest or has engaged in misconduct in connection with a previous project that led Eurimages to terminate the support agreement. If, after Eurimages' decision to support the company, the owner and/or manager of the company subsequently finds themselves in case of exclusion, the support will be cancelled and immediately refundable. In the case of co-production support, these changes can be found, for example, in Articles 1.5 and 8.3.4 of the Co-production Support Regulations. A declaratory form will need to be completed when applying for co-production support.
- (2) Requests for a shooting derogation - for producers who wish to shoot before the start of the Board of Management meeting - have been removed. Producers will simply have to fill out the project shooting dates and attach the shooting plan on the online platform in order to demonstrate that no more than 50% of the total days of shooting/animation (80% in the case of a documentary) takes place before the Board of Management meeting (Article 2.7 of the Co-production Support Regulations).
- (3) Co-production projects must comply both with national legislation AND with the bilateral or multilateral treaties in force between the co-producing countries (Article 2.1.4 of the Co-production Support Regulations).
- (4) A new selection criterion for co-production projects, "adherence to the values and objectives of the Council of Europe", has been added to the existing list (Article 3.2.2 of the Co-production Support Regulations).
- (5) At the time of payment of the last instalment, chartered accountants must certify not only the production costs but also the financing obtained in each co-production country (Article 5.2.3 of the Co-production Support Regulations).
- (6) Exceptionally, sales agents' flat market fees will be deductible from revenues generated by supported co-productions if they are directly related to the exploitation of the film (Article 7.3.1 of the Co-production Support Regulations).
- (7) Co-production participations of 90%-10% are eligible if they comply with the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on Cinematographic Co-production (revised). If a co-production with this structure complies with a bilateral treaty, it will also be eligible for Eurimages support provided that its budget is at least 5 million euros (Article 2.3.1 of the Co-production Support Regulations).

- (8) The Distribution Support Programme in its current form will end on 31 March 2020 (i.e. at the end of the cycle that began in June 2019). Eurimages will launch an independent study on the pertinence of a distribution support open to all member States of the Fund and intended only for projects supported for co-production by Eurimages.

Changes that will come into effect in January 2021

- (1) Co-production support awards of an amount less than or equal to €150,000 will be considered as grants and no longer as conditionally repayable loans. This measure will apply exclusively to projects supported from 1 January 2021 and will not be retroactive.
- (2) Co-production support will be paid in two instalments instead of three, as from 1 January 2021.
- (3) Festivals/markets hosting the Eurimages Co-production Development Awards will be selected through a call for proposals to be published in the course of 2020. This system will apply from January 2021 and the current system will therefore remain unchanged for the year 2020.
- (4) Lab Project Awards in their current form will end on 31 December 2020. Eurimages will launch an independent study on the relevance of these prizes awarded to non-conventional projects and on the means by which they could be awarded in the future at artistic and/or audiovisual events.
- (5) Support to cinemas will become automatic from 2021. The current system remains unchanged in 2020.