



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
AND THE EUROPEAN BROADCASTING UNION

The **Council of Europe**, an international organisation established in 1949, having its seat in Strasbourg, France, hereinafter referred to as “the Council of Europe”,

and

the **European Broadcasting Union**, an international association of broadcasters, having its seat in Geneva, Switzerland, hereinafter referred to as “the EBU”,

hereinafter jointly referred to as “the Parties”.

PREAMBLE

Recalling the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Council of Europe and the European Broadcasting Union on 20 June 2011, which established a general framework for co-operation and partnerships between the two organisations.

Recognising the shared commitment of the Parties to democracy, human rights, freedom of expression, cultural diversity and media pluralism, and the essential role of public service media in European democratic societies.

Considering the objectives of Eurimages, within the Council of Europe, and in particular the Pilot Programme for Series Co-productions, aimed at fostering independent creation, international co-production and culturally relevant European audiovisual works.

Considering the objectives of the EBU Drama Initiative and the expertise of the EBU Fiction Expert Group in supporting high quality drama and series intended for European audiences.

Recalling the intention of the Parties, as expressed in their Letter of Intent signed in 2025, to establish a joint partnership for the years 2026 and 2027 and to conclude a new memorandum of understanding governing the financial, technical, legal and operational modalities of such partnership.

Acknowledging the added value of a joint Development Award dedicated to drama series intended for international co-production, involving independent producers and public service media across Council of Europe member states.

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

Purpose and scope of co-operation

1. The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to establish a specific framework for co-operation between the Parties for the organisation and implementation of a joint Development Award for drama series, hereinafter referred to as “the Development Award”.
2. The Development Award shall be implemented within the framework of the Council of Europe Pilot Programme for Series Co-productions and in partnership with the EBU, with the objective of supporting the development of European drama series designed for international co-production and dissemination by public service media.
3. This Memorandum of Understanding is not legally binding. It expresses the intentions of the Parties and provides a framework for co-operation. Specific implementing arrangements may be concluded where necessary.

ARTICLE 2

Objectives of the Development Award

The Development Award aims to:

- a. encourage independent European storytelling reflecting cultural, democratic and educational values shared by the two organisations;
- b. strengthen international co-production between producers established in Council of Europe member states;
- c. foster collaboration between independent producers and public service media, including EBU members;
- d. support high-quality drama series with strong narrative ambition and European relevance;
- e. enhance the visibility and impact of the Council of Europe values within the European audiovisual landscape.

ARTICLE 3

Areas of co-operation and respective roles

1. The Council of Europe shall:
 - a. ensure the overall co-ordination of the Development Award within the Pilot Programme for Series Co-productions;
 - b. provide the financial contribution allocated to the Development Award, subject to the availability of funds and internal rules;
 - c. ensure the overall management and co-ordination of the call for projects, including submission procedures and grant award agreements with awarded producers;

d. appoint a representative to participate in the jury responsible for the selection of supported projects;

e. ensure compliance with the Council of Europe rules on visibility, reporting, transparency and audit.

2. The EBU shall:

a. contribute its professional expertise through the involvement of the EBU Fiction Expert Group;

b. organise, in the framework of the call for project, the expert review, which shall be aimed at assessing projects against the eligibility criteria and shortlisting eligible projects in accordance with its internal procedures;

c. appoint a representative to participate in the jury responsible for the selection of supported projects;

d. facilitate engagement with public service media, including expressions of interest and industry visibility, in line with editorial independence;

e. contribute to communication activities related to the Development Award, in co-ordination with the Council of Europe.

3. The Parties shall co-operate closely to ensure coherent implementation, clear communication and alignment with their respective objectives and standards.

ARTICLE 4

Selection process and award

1. The selection process shall be based on a joint call for projects developed and published by the Council of Europe in consultation with the EBU.

2. Projects shall be assessed on the basis of eligibility and evaluation criteria defined in the call, including suitability for international co-production, narrative potential, development strategy, budget feasibility and relevance to the values of the Council of Europe.

3. Following the expert review and shortlisting by the EBU Fiction Expert Group, a jury composed of representatives of the Council of Europe, the EBU and an independent professional shall decide on the allocation of the Development Award.

4. The financial support awarded shall be governed by a grant award agreement concluded between the Council of Europe and the selected beneficiary or beneficiaries.

ARTICLE 5

Financial provisions

1. Each Party shall bear its own costs related to the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding, unless otherwise agreed in writing.
2. The financial contribution allocated to the Development Award shall be administered exclusively by the Council of Europe in accordance with its financial regulations.
3. Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding shall be interpreted as creating a financial obligation for either Party beyond what is expressly agreed.

ARTICLE 6

Communication and visibility

1. The Parties shall agree on common communication and visibility arrangements for the Development Award, including the use of names, logos and acknowledgements.
2. Any use of the name, logo or visual identity of either Party shall be subject to prior written authorisation and shall comply with the respective communication guidelines.
3. The Parties shall co-ordinate public announcements, publications and industry communications related to the Development Award.

ARTICLE 7

Confidentiality and disclosure

1. The Parties shall respect the confidentiality of non-public information exchanged in the context of this Memorandum of Understanding and its implementation.
2. The EBU acknowledges that the Council of Europe is subject to transparency, audit and disclosure obligations, including towards its statutory bodies and donors.

ARTICLE 8

Amendment and termination

1. This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended at any time by mutual written consent of the Parties.
2. Either Party may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by giving written notice to the other Party at least six months in advance.
3. Termination shall not affect activities already launched, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties.

ARTICLE 9

Settlement of disputes

Any dispute relating to the interpretation or implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be settled amicably through consultation and negotiation between the Parties.

ARTICLE 10

Entry into effect and duration

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into effect upon signature by both Parties and shall apply from 1 January 2026 until 31 December 2027, unless terminated earlier in accordance with Article 8.

Signed on the 11.02.2026, in English in two originals.

For the Council of Europe

For the European Broadcasting Union



Alain Berset
Secretary General



Noel Curran
Director General