COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

CALL FOR PARTNERSHIPS & GRANTS

Supporting creative collaboration and series co-production development

Project	Pilot Programme for Series Co-productions
Awarding entity	Council of Europe
Duration	Projects shall be implemented by 31 December 2027.
Estimated starting date	24 November 2026
Issuance date	09 November 2026
Deadline for applications	24 November 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION **4**

II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION **4**

III. BUDGET AVAILABLE **4**

IV. REQUIREMENTS **4**

A. Series Co-Production Development Award (SCPDA) **4**

1. Definition 4

2. General objective 5

3. Eligible organisations for partnership 5

5. Implementation period 5

6. Requirement for Hosting the SCPDA 5

B. Series Co-Development Lab (SCDL) **5**

1. Definition 5

2. General objective 5

3. Eligible organisations 5

4. Implementation period 5

5. Budgetary requirements 6

6. Funding conditions: 6

7. Reporting requirements: 6

C. Culture on Screen — Public Promotion of Series Co-Productions and Values-Based Works (COS) **7**

1. Definition 7

2. General objective 7

3. Eligible organisations 7

4. Implementation period 7

5. Budgetary requirements 7

6. Funding conditions: 8

7. Reporting requirements: 8

V. HOW TO APPLY? **8**

1. Documents to be submitted 8

2. Questions 10

3. Deadline for submission 10

4. Change, alteration and modification of the application file 10

VI. EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE **10**

1. Exclusion criteria: 10

2. Eligibility criteria: 11

3. Award criteria 12

VII. NOTIFICATION OF THE DECISION AND SIGNATURE OF PARTNERSHIPS AND GRANT AGREEMENTS.....14

VIII. INDICATIVE TIMETABLE 14

HOW TO APPLY?

APPLICATIONS SHALL BE SUBMITTED VIA THE ON-LINE APPLICATION SYSTEM.

APPLY ONLINE

- Applications must be received **before 24 November 2026 (at 5pm CET)**.

I. INTRODUCTION

This call for proposals is launched in the framework of the Pilot Programme for Series Co-productions.
The Pilot Programme for Series Co-productions is a cultural funding programme by the Council of Europe, home of Eurimages, to support cultural and linguistical 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.

II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On 1 April 2022 in Strasbourg, Ministers of Culture expressed 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.

Through that call, 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 Grant Agreement with the Council of Europe for up to one edition, to be held in 2027.

This Call consists of three distinct measures:

1. Series Co-Production Development Awars (SCPDA) – Partnership measure
2. Series Co-Development Lab (SCDL) – Grant award measure
3. Culture on Screen (COS) – Grant award measure

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.

III. BUDGET AVAILABLE

The indicative available budget under this call for proposals is €225 000 (two hundred twenty-five thousand Euros). The Council of Europe intends to select 3 organisations for hosting the *Series Co-Production Development awards (SCPDA)* worth €50 000. It also intends to award 3 grants of a maximum amount of €15 000 each for *Series Co-Development Lab (SCDL)* and 4 grants of a maximum amount of €7 500 each for *Culture on Screen (COS)*.

Subject to availability of funds and extension of the Project initial duration, the Council of Europe reserves the right not to award all available funds, and/or to redistribute the available funds in a different manner depending on the project proposals received and on the outcome of the call.

IV. REQUIREMENTS

A. Series Co-Production Development Award (SCPDA)

1. 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.

2. General objective

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

3. Eligible organisations for partnership

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

4. Eligible beneficiaries for receiving the hosted award

Independent production companies from Eurimages member states.

5. Implementation period

The professional coproduction markets or industry platforms where the Award will be given should take place between 1 January and 31 December 2027**.**

6. Requirement for Hosting the SCPDA

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

A- 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).

B- 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

C- 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

B. Series Co-Development Lab (SCDL)

1. Definition

The *SCDL* is a grant award 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.

2. General objective

To strengthen early-stage co-development, reinforce the role of producers, and foster cross-border cultural co-operation among creative teams.

3. Eligible organisations

Organisations legally established in a Contributing Country, implementing training initiatives, workshops or labs for audiovisual professionals, and authorised to enter into a grant award agreement with the Council of Europe.

4. Implementation period

The implementation period of the projects should start on the day of the deadline for submission of applications (24 November 2026) and shall not extend beyond 31 December 2027**.**

Reporting requirements shall be completed on 31 January 2028 **at the latest**.

Only costs incurred during the implementation period are eligible to be covered by the Council of Europe's grant. As regard projects started prior to the date of submission of the applications, or prior to the date of signature of the grant agreement, only those costs incurred after the date of submission of the grant application could be eligible (provided the agreement concerned so provides).

5. Budgetary requirements

Applications shall be accompanied by a draft budget (See Template Budget). The maximum contribution to be financed by the Council of Europe shall not exceed € 15 000 (fifteen thousand euros). The estimated budget must be consistent, accurate, clear, complete, and cost-effective, in light of the activities proposed.

Each Grantee shall also be required to contribute to the project either by way of its own resources or by contribution from third parties. Co-financing may take the form of financial or human resources, in-kind contributions or income generated by the action or project.

Eligible costs may include human resources and travel expenditure, as well as other expenditure and services such as publications, research, translation, and costs relating to conferences, seminars, and visibility activities.
Office items (supplies, furniture, and equipment) shall not be considered as eligible costs.

6. Funding conditions:

The funds for each grant should in principle be distributed as follows:

- 75 % will be paid to the Grantee;
- the balance will be paid to the Grantee based on actual expenditures incurred, and after the presentation and acceptance by the Council of Europe of the final narrative and financial reports for the Grant implementation.

7. Reporting requirements:

- **narrative reporting** requires a full narrative report on the use made of the grant and a copy of the register of the persons present during each of the activities, including names and signatures of participants;

- **financial reporting** requires in particular a statement in the currency in which the Grant Agreement will be concluded (Euros or local currency), in English, stating the payments made for the implementation of the activities, certified by the responsible financial officer of the Grantees, accompanied by "appropriate original supporting documents" (see below). The Council of Europe reserves the right to ask for summary translations of invoices into English. If for legal reasons the original documents must be retained by the Grantees, certified copies must be submitted with the financial statement.

"Appropriate original supporting documents" refers to signed contracts, invoices and acceptances of work (for all transactions), payment authorisation for all transactions should also be provided in case the Grantees use such practice, and reliable evidence of payment (authorised payment order and bank statement).

As regards round tables / conferences, presenting "appropriate original supporting documents" requires presentation of a programme indicating the title, dates, venue, and agenda of the event; the names of persons facilitating the event, the contracts with the owner of venue of the event (e.g. hotel) for the rent of premises, food and beverages of participants, invoices from the owner of the venue of the event for the above services, and a report on the results of the event (see narrative reporting above).

As regards consultancy services, presenting "appropriate original supporting documents" requires presentation of evidence of the outputs produced, contracts with experts and consultants containing a specific description of services to be carried out, invoices produced after the works have been performed and delivered (the specialities of the consultants shall correspond to the nature of activities for which they are contracted).

As regards travel fees / lodging of experts and participants, presenting "appropriate original supporting documents" requires presentation, where relevant, of contracts with a travel agency for travel fees and lodging, invoices of the travel agency indicating destinations, dates, ticket costs, and names of the travelling persons, a programme of the event indicating the names of the experts and signed lists of participants.

The above description is not comprehensive. Any doubt regarding the interpretation of the notion of "appropriate original supporting documents" should lead the Grantee or the Lead Grantee in case of a consortium to consult the Council of Europe.

C. Culture on Screen — Public Promotion of Series Co-Productions and Values-Based Works (COS)

1. Definition

COS is a grant award 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.

2. General objective

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

3. Eligible organisations

Organisations legally established in an Eurimages member state, implementing professional or public-facing audiovisual events including components dedicated to series, and authorised to enter into a grant agreement with the Council of Europe.

4. Implementation period

The implementation period of the projects should start on the day of the deadline for submission of applications (24 November 2026) and shall not extend beyond 31 December 2027**.**

Reporting requirements shall be completed on 31 January 2028 **at the latest**.

Only costs incurred during the implementation period are eligible to be covered by the Council of Europe's grant. As regard projects started prior to the date of submission of the applications, or prior to the date of signature of the grant agreement, only those costs incurred after the date of submission of the grant application could be eligible (provided the agreement concerned so provides).

5. Budgetary requirements

Applications shall be accompanied by a draft budget (See Template Budget). The maximum contribution to be financed by the Council of Europe shall not exceed € 7 500 (seven thousand five hundred euros). The estimated budget must be consistent, accurate, clear, complete, and cost-effective, in light of the activities proposed.

Each Grantee shall also be required to contribute to the project either by way of its own resources or by contribution from third parties. Co-financing may take the form of financial or human resources, in-kind contributions or income generated by the action or project.

Eligible costs may include human resources and travel expenditure, as well as other expenditure and services such as publications, research, translation, and costs relating to conferences, seminars, and visibility activities.

Office items (supplies, furniture, and equipment) shall not be considered as eligible costs.

6. Funding conditions:

The funds for each grant should in principle be distributed as follows:

- 75 % will be paid to the Grantee;
- the balance will be paid to the Grantee based on actual expenditures incurred, and after the presentation and acceptance by the Council of Europe of the final narrative and financial reports for the Grant implementation.

7. Reporting requirements:

- **narrative reporting** requires a full narrative report on the use made of the grant and a copy of the register of the persons present during each of the activities, including names and signatures of participants;

- **financial reporting** requires in particular a statement in the currency in which the Grant Agreement will be concluded (Euros or local currency), in English, stating the payments made for the implementation of the activities, certified by the responsible financial officer of the Grantees, accompanied by "appropriate original supporting documents" (see below). The Council of Europe reserves the right to ask for summary translations of invoices into English. If for legal reasons the original documents must be retained by the Grantees, certified copies must be submitted with the financial statement.

"Appropriate original supporting documents" refers to signed contracts, invoices and acceptances of work (for all transactions), payment authorisation for all transactions should also be provided in case the Grantees use such practice, and reliable evidence of payment (authorised payment order and bank statement).

As regards round tables / conferences, presenting "appropriate original supporting documents" requires presentation of a programme indicating the title, dates, venue, and agenda of the event; the names of persons facilitating the event, the contracts with the owner of venue of the event (e.g. hotel) for the rent of premises, food and beverages of participants, invoices from the owner of the venue of the event for the above services, and a report on the results of the event (see narrative reporting above).

As regards consultancy services, presenting "appropriate original supporting documents" requires presentation of evidence of the outputs produced, contracts with experts and consultants containing a specific description of services to be carried out, invoices produced after the works have been performed and delivered (the specialities of the consultants shall correspond to the nature of activities for which they are contracted).

As regards travel fees / lodging of experts and participants, presenting "appropriate original supporting documents" requires presentation, where relevant, of contracts with a travel agency for travel fees and lodging, invoices of the travel agency indicating destinations, dates, ticket costs, and names of the travelling persons, a programme of the event indicating the names of the experts and signed lists of participants.

The above description is not comprehensive. Any doubt regarding the interpretation of the notion of "appropriate original supporting documents" should lead the Grantee or the Lead Grantee in case of a consortium to consult the Council of Europe.

V. HOW TO APPLY?

1. Documents to be submitted

The applications may be submitted in English. A French version may be provided in addition.

Applications for support shall be submitted via the online application system, complemented by the following mandatory information, and supporting documents to be uploaded on the application system:

- Declaration of exclusion criteria (section of the application form)
- 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 partnership with the Council of Europe if it is a public authority;
- A description of the professional event and its main activities (maximum 5 pages) indicating:
    - a description and a history, including its location, frequency and date;
    - the existence of workshops, meetings, training or other professional events in the audiovisual industry;
    - international aspects, geographical scope, countries involved and their number in the co-production market;
    - the public and professionals targeted by the co-production market, including a description of its editorial line;
    - gender equality policy and, if appropriate, its diversity and inclusion policy
    - sustainability strategy

- ***Series Co-production Development Award*****:** A description of the proposal to host and organise the Council of Europe SCPDA shall include:
    - project selection criteria and method;
    - criteria and method for selecting jury members;
    - method of presentation of the projects (one-to-one, pitches…);
    - communication vis-à-vis the public, the industry and the Council of Europe;
    - logistics and organisation of the co-production market (including gender equality policy, and, if appropriate, its diversity and inclusion policy and sustainability strategy);
    - working language(s).

- ***Series Co-Development Lab*****:** A description of the proposal shall include:
    - pedagogical concept and structure of the co-development initiative, including learning objectives, methodology and planned stages of the training;
    - criteria and method for selecting participants, ensuring regard for cross-border collaboration, gender balance, diversity and inclusion;
    - composition, expertise and selection method of tutors, mentors and trainers involved in delivering the lab;
    - description of the activities aimed to reach the objectives, including workshops, group sessions, individual consultations or residencies, and the expected outcomes for participants;
    - communication strategy vis-à-vis the professional community, the industry and the Council of Europe, ensuring appropriate visibility of the SCDL support ;
    - 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;
    - working language(s).
    - a provisional budget (See Template budget);
    - a financing plan.

- ***Culture on Screen*****:** A description of the proposal shall include:
    - 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;
    - criteria and method for selecting speakers, moderators and contributors, ensuring regard for gender balance, diversity, inclusion and cross-border representation;
    - 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;
    - communication and outreach strategy vis-à-vis the public, the audiovisual industry and the Council of Europe, ensuring appropriate visibility of Culture on Screen;

- logistical and organisational arrangements, including venues, scheduling, technical requirements, and the implementation of gender equality, diversity, inclusion and sustainability measures;
- working language(s).
- a provisional budget (See Template budget);
- a financing plan.

Applications that are incomplete will not be considered. Proposals must be written in English. A French version may be provided in addition.

2. Questions

General information can be found on the Council of Europe website.

Other questions regarding this specific call for proposals must be sent at the latest on 19 November 2026 in English and shall be exclusively sent to the following address: pilot.series@coe.int .

3. Deadline for submission

The proposal shall be submitted exclusively online via the dedicated platform: https://coepilotseries.smapply.io/

Applications must be received **before 24 November 2026 (at 5pm CET).** Applications received after the above-mentioned date will not be considered.

4. Change, alteration and modification of the application file

Any change in the format, or any alteration or modification of the original application file, will cause the immediate rejection of the application concerned.

VI. EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE

The projects presented will be assessed by an Evaluation Committee composed of at least two external experts and one staff member of the Council of Europe.

The procedure shall be based on the underlying principles of grant award procedures, which are transparency, non-retroactivity, non-cumulative awards, not-for-profit, co-financing and non-discrimination, in accordance with Rule 1374 of 16 December 2015 on the grant award procedures of the Council of Europe.

The applicants, and their projects, shall fulfil all of the following criteria:

1. Exclusion criteria:

Applicants shall be excluded from the grant award procedure where they or, in the case of legal persons, their owner(s) or executive officer(s):

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 judgement with res judicata force, finding an offence that affects their professional integrity or constitutes a 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 the country where they are established;

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 included in the lists of persons or entities subject to restrictive measures applied by the United Nations Security Council or the European Union.

The Council of Europe reserves the right to ask applicants at a later stage to supply the following supporting documents:

- for the items set out in paragraphs a), b), c) and f), an extract from the record of convictions or failing that an equivalent document issued by the competent judicial or administrative authority of the country where the applicant is established, indicating that these requirements are met;

- for the items set out in paragraph d), a certificate issued by the competent authority of the country of establishment;

2. Eligibility criteria:

a) Eligibility of applicants

i. SCPDA

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

ii. SCDL

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

iii. COS

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

b) Eligibility of events

i. General requirements

- have existed for at least two years;
- take place annually in a Contributing Country (SCPDA and SCDL) or Eurimages member state (COS);
- 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.

ii. Specific requirements

- **SCPDA**
  The event shall be a professional co-production market or industry platform dedicated to facilitating and presenting international series projects.
- **SCDL**
  The event shall be a structured training initiative, workshop or lab dedicated to co-development and/or collaborative series creation.

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

Multiple applications for the same action are not allowed and shall lead to the exclusion of all applications concerned.

3. Award criteria

SCPDA – Applications will be assessed based on:

A. References/Track record and experience	**50**
Prominence *The significance of the industry event, the quality of its positioning compared to similar activities, and its European/international dimension added value*.	15
Quality of Professional Actions *The calibre of organised workshops, meetings, training sessions, and other professional activities related to the development, production, and distribution of series.*	15
Market Outreach *The reach and influence of the industry event within Contributing Countries and Eurimages member states.*	10
Editorial Line and Achievements *The editorial direction of the industry event and the outcomes or achievements attained*.	10
B. Proposal to host a Series Co-production Development Award	**50**
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
C. Final score = A+B	**100**

SCDL - Applications will be assessed based on:

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

COS- Applications will be assessed based on:

A. Conceptual quality	**50**
Relevance and Clarity of Proposed Activities *The quality, thematic clarity and professional relevance of the proposed round tables, panels, conferences, podcasts or think tanks.*	20
Contribution to cultural diversity and democratic dialogue *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.*	15

Cross-border relevance *The presence of international perspectives and participation from professionals or stakeholders representing several Eurimages member states.*	15
B. Organisational and communication capacity	**50**
Experience in hosting public-facing or interactive contributive events *The organisation's track record in delivering high-quality events, debates or public activities in the audiovisual sector.*	20
Communication and outreach strategy *The strength and effectiveness of the communication and outreach plan targeting industry professionals, stakeholders and wider audiences, ensuring visibility of Culture on Screen.*	15
Quality of Planning and Logistics *The adequacy and professionalism of the logistical and organisational arrangements to deliver the proposed activities.*	10
Gender Equality, Diversity and Sustainability Measures – *5 points* *The inclusion and credibility of measures relating to gender equality, diversity, inclusion and environmental responsibility.*	5
C. Final score = A+B	**100**

- 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.

VII. NOTIFICATION OF THE DECISION AND SIGNATURE OF PARTNERSHIPS AND GRANT AGREEMENTS

On completion of the selection process, all applicants will be notified in writing of the final decision concerning their respective applications as well as on the next steps to be undertaken.

The selected Applicants will be invited to sign a Partnership or a Grant Agreement, formalising their legal commitments**. Potential applicants are strongly advised to read the draft contract, in particular its requirements in terms of payment and reporting.**

VIII. INDICATIVE TIMETABLE

Phases	**Indicative timing**
Publication of the call	9 November 2026
Deadline for submitting applications	24 November 2026
Information to applicants on the results of the award procedure	December 2026
Signature of the grant agreements	January 2027
Implementation period	24 November 2026- 31 December 2027

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