

The European Series Development Award

A joint initiative by the Council of Europe Pilot Programme for Series Co-Productions and European Broadcasting Union Fiction Expert Group

Call for Projects – Co-Production Development Award for Drama Series

The Council of Europe, home to Eurimages, through the Pilot Programme for Series Co-Productions and in partnership with the European Broadcasting Union Fiction Expert Group, invites applications for development support dedicated to drama series intended for international co-production. The initiative aims to strengthen independent storytelling, enable collaborations across borders, and contribute to cultural, democratic and educational needs in Europe's audiovisual landscape.

1. Eligibility Requirements

Applicant

- Must be the initiating producer of the series.
- Must be a production company (distinct from a media service provider) established in a Council of Europe member state.

Project

- Audiovisual work in the form of series (only fiction);
- Minimum 3 episodes, maximum 10 episodes, with a total running time not exceeding 600 minutes;
- Open to any genre and any 16+ target audience.
- Proof of interest from a public service media organisation—holding membership of the EBU, in the applicant's country of establishment;
- A clear ambition to structure the project as an international co-production with at least one producer from another Council of Europe member state and involvement of at least one additional public service media organisation holding membership of the EBU.

Materials to be provided

- Trade registry extract of the applicant company
- Declaration of exclusion criteria (section of the application form)
- Pitch deck presenting concept, positioning and narrative elements;
- Producer's note outlining vision, development and financing strategy;
- Development budget detailing the use of the awarded grant;
- Development schedule and potential deliverables¹;

¹ Depending on the stage of development of project, the deliverables could include a bible, script(s), production budgets, casting, locations etc

- Proof of interest from the public service media organisation in the applicant's country of establishment.

2. Decision Making Process

- Applications must be submitted through the dedicated platform of the Pilot Programme for Series Co-Productions.
- EBU Fiction Expert Group members will review all applications and establish a shortlist of five projects according to their internal procedures.
- The shortlisted projects will be invited to present their proposals to a jury composed of:
 - one representative of the Council of Europe
 - one representative of the EBU Fiction Expert Group
 - one professional with recognised experience in series co-production.

3. Evaluation criteria for the award

Projects will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- Suitability for international co-production, including narrative potential and production strategy.
- Level of interest expressed by EBU Fiction Experts Group.
- Efficiency and feasibility of the development budget.
- Relevance to cultural, democratic or educational needs of society, as aligned with the values of the Council of Europe and EBU.

4. Award

- The total available amount is €50 000
- The jury may allocate the full amount to one project or divide it among two projects.
- A grant award agreement will be signed with the Council of Europe. It includes a three month first look opportunity for any public service media organisation holding membership of the EBU.
- Deliverables due within 12 months from the signature of the grant award agreement in line with the provided development schedule.

Calendar:

Phases	Place	Dates
Public announcement	Gothenburg, TV Drama Vision	27-28 January 2026
Submission window	Online	13 Feb - 18 March 2026
EBU Fiction Expert Group applications first review	Series Mania, Lille	21 March 2026

EBU Fiction Expert Group pre-selection	Online	27 March - 8 May 2026
Jury review / final selection	Online	11 May - 5 June 2026
Results announcement		June 2026