

CALL FOR PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE PRESENTATION IN 2025 OF THE SERIES CO-PRODUCTION DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

I. INTRODUCTION

The Council of Europe Pilot Programme for Series Co-productions is a three-year initiative aimed at enhancing the geographical and thematic diversity of audiovisual storytelling by supporting international co-production practices through financial aid for independently produced high-quality series. This programme is administered 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 Countries¹, enabling beneficiaries in those countries to apply.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On 1 April 2022 in Strasbourg, Ministers of Culture expressed² 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. This initiative takes the form of a pilot programme with funding provided through the Council of Europe's Voluntary Contributions system.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANISATION

The Council of Europe is an international organisation with the goal of upholding human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe. It is headquartered in Strasbourg, France. The Council of Europe is the main human rights organisation in Europe, founded in 1949, it brings together 46 member states including all 27 European Union member States, with a population of approximately 675 million as of 2023.

¹ [Donors - Pilot Programme for Series Co-Productions \(coe.int\)](https://go.coe.int/L3yd3)

² "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>

II. OBJECTIVES AND MODALITIES OF THE CALL FOR PARTNERSHIPS

The Council of Europe seeks up to three applicant entities that organise series co-production markets or similar professional events to host the Series Co-production Development Award. The selected events will sign a partnership agreement for one edition in 2025, with no financial compensation from the Council of Europe.

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE SERIES CO-PRODUCTION DEVELOPMENT AWARD (SCPDA)

- SCPDA is a grant awarded within the framework of professional events dedicated to international series co-production projects (drama series, docu-series, animated series) of up to 10 episodes and 600 minutes (700 minutes for animation).
- Eligible for the award are: Independent production companies from Eurimages member states³, with plans to involve at least one other independent⁴ production company from a different Eurimages member state.

2. BUDGET AVAILABLE

- Total Budget: € 150.000 (3 x €50.000)
- Awards: Up to three partnerships proposals for events to host the €50.000 SCPDA in 2025.
- Purpose: Facilitate independent producers' access to series development funding and foster creative collaboration for future co-productions.

³ [Eurimages' Member States - EURIMAGES \(coe.int\)](https://eurimages.coe.int/)

⁴ Independent production companies must be majority owned and continue to be majority owned, either directly or indirectly, by nationals of the Eurimages member states. Legal entities which are not able to show the composition of their shareholding are not eligible. A production company is considered independent when less than 25% of its share capital is held by a single audiovisual media service provider or less than 50% where several audiovisual media service providers are involved. Independence and ownership are verified up to the third level above the applying company.

III. REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS

1. ELIGIBILITY:

- Non-profit organisations, commercial entities, public institutions, publicly owned companies established in a Contributing Country⁵.
- Legal entities authorised to enter into a partnership with the Council of Europe.

2. EVENT CRITERIA:

- Must have existed for at least two years.
- Should take place annually in a Contributing Country for at least two consecutive days.
- Aimed at professionals in the audiovisual industry from at least five Eurimages member states⁶.
- Must have a gender equality policy and a sustainability awareness strategy.

IV. REQUIREMENTS FOR AWARD HOSTING

1. SELECTION OF PROJECTS

- Event's line-up: From the total event's line-up of selected projects, at least 25% of eligible projects, with a minimum of five projects.
- Gender Balance: Ensured in the project selection process.
- Awarding: Selected eligible projects should be presented in a manner that facilitates an exchange between the jury members and the presenting team, conducted in English through one-to-one meetings.

2. JURY

- Composition: At least three members, including one Council of Europe staff member and two industry professionals.
- Gender Balance: Ensured within the jury.
- Conflict of Interest: Jury members must sign a declaration⁷.
- The jury will select the winning project based on its artistic quality⁸, the potential impact of the SCPDA on the project's development, and its prospects for becoming and remaining an international co-production involving at least two Eurimages

⁵ [Donors - Pilot Programme for Series Co-Productions \(coe.int\)](https://coe.int)

⁶ [Eurimages' Member States - EURIMAGES \(coe.int\)](https://coe.int)

⁷ Template provided by the Council of Europe

⁸ Materials required by the event for the submission or presentation of the projects such as pitch deck, bible, and any other relevant materials.

member states. Sustainable measures to reduce the environmental impact of the project's development and co-production will be considered.

V. PUBLICITY AND AWARDS CEREMONY

- Visibility: Event organisers must ensure visibility of the SCPDA in promotional materials and publish the prize visuals.
- Awards Ceremony: Organisers should produce a diploma and provide professional photographs of the event.

VI. PARTNERSHIP SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Applications will be assessed based on:

| | |
|---|-----------|
| A. References/Track record and experience | 50 |
| Prominence <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 |
| Quality of Professional Actions <i>The calibre of organised workshops, meetings, training sessions, and other professional activities related to the development, production, and distribution of series.</i> | 15 |
| Market Outreach <i>The reach and influence of the industry event within Contributing Countries and Eurimages member states.</i> | 10 |
| Editorial Line and Achievements <i>The editorial direction of the industry event and the outcomes or achievements attained.</i> | 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 |

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

VII. 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.

VIII. CONTENT OF THE PROPOSAL

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

1. A declaration relating to the exclusion criteria duly completed and signed (see Appendix I);
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;
3. A description of the professional event and its main activities (maximum 5 pages) indicating:
 - i. a description and a history, including its location, frequency and date;
 - ii. the existence of workshops, meetings, training or other professional events in the audiovisual industry;
 - iii. international aspects, geographical scope, countries involved and their number in the co-production market;
 - iv. the public and professionals targeted by the co-production market, including a description of its editorial line;
 - v. gender equality policy and, if appropriate, its diversity and inclusion policy
 - vi. sustainability strategy.
4. A description of the proposal to host and organize the Council of Europe Series Co-production Development Award (maximum 5 pages) indicating:
 - i. project selection criteria and method;

- ii. criteria and method for selecting jury members;
- iii. method of presentation of the projects (one-to-one, pitches...);
- iv. communication vis-à-vis the public, the industry and the Council of Europe;
- v. logistics and organisation of the co-production market (including gender equality policy, and, if appropriate, its diversity and inclusion policy and sustainability strategy);
- vi. working language(s).

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

PROVISIONAL CALENDAR

| Phases | Indicative timing |
|---|----------------------------|
| Publication of the call | 03.09.2024 |
| Deadline for submitting applications | 19.09.2024 17:00 CET |
| Information to applicants on the results | October – November 2024 |
| Signature of the partnership agreements | November 2024 – March 2025 |
| Implementation period | January – December 2025 |

ANNEXE 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).

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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Contact Information

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