



ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΜΟΥ
DEPUTY MINISTRY OF CULTURE

**FUNDING
PROGRAMMES
REGULATION
FOR THE
SUPPORT OF
CINEMATOGRAPHIC
FILMS**
DEPUTY MINISTRY OF
CULTURE

LEFKOSIA, 2021 - 2023

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INTRODUCTION

Cinema plays a particularly important role in shaping the identity of Europeans, both in relation to the common aspects that we encounter across Europe and in relation to the cultural diversity that characterizes our different traditions and our different historical past. Furthermore, like all audiovisual works in general, it is an essential factor for the sound functioning of our democracies, because of their significant influence on society.

A cinematographic work is a cultural product that also offers important opportunities for creating prosperity and employment.

The Treaty of Unesco and the European Union, defines audiovisual and cinematographic productions as a cultural product, and, on the basis of that wording, allows the provision of state aid for their production (Appendix III).

The Regulation's objective is to enhance and promote

cinematographic art and culture. It is fully in line with the European Union's cinema requirements.

Funding for cinematographic production is available from the annual budget of the Deputy Ministry of Culture Culture.

The Regulation of Funding Programmes for film support is based on Regulation (EU) no. 651/2014 of the Commission of the 17th of June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market, pursuant to Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) .

KEY OBJECTIVES

The current Regulation for Funding Programmes was drafted taking into account the following principles:

1. Encouragement of cultural diversity.
2. Support and dissemination of creative work.
3. Enhancing creative expression and freedom of expression.
4. Satisfying the needs of professionals in the field.
5. Encouraging co-producers.
6. Support of new filmmakers.
7. Providing the abilities required to develop modern technology.
8. Creating a framework which will strengthen aspects of the economy in general, and which will give impetus to new employment opportunities and professional skills, by providing incentives and funding, in order to develop a robust industry of filming/audio-visual media in the country.

9. Creating a useful, practical and productive tool for professionals in the field of cinema for the purpose of consolidating transparencies in selection procedures.

The Regulation for Funding Programmes provides for the support and development of the cinematographic production of Feature Films, Short Films, Documentaries and Animated Films, in all stages of creation/production and for supporting Cypriot producers to enter into agreements with foreign producers.

Furthermore, it supports the screening of Cypriot films in Cyprus and abroad, in an effort to approach the public through Cypriot cinema, to promote both Cypriot culture and the cinematographic creation. For the attainment of the above objects, the regulation makes provisions for supporting the production at all stages of a film: scriptwriting, production preparation, production, postproduction, and distribution of the work.

The Regulation shall automatically be adapted to all possible technological developments in the audiovisual sector.

The Regulation for Funding Programmes was approved by the European Committee on Cinema and European Committee for State Aid for the period **2021-2023** (31.12.2023), with the possibility for a 6 month extension).

G ENERAL CONDITIONS

1. This Regulation is a development and an improved version of the previous regulations which are abolished in their entirety.

2. An Announcement in the Daily Press and an Announcement in the official websites of the Deputy Ministry of Culture and of the Cultural Services for the submission of new proposals for the funding of cinematographic works is announced once a year, towards the end of May - beginning of June and the expiry date is towards the end of October of the same year. The relevant decisions on the results are notified approximately in the first quarter of the following year.

3. There may be more than one announcement within the same year, depending on the capacity of the budget concerned.

4. The following shall not qualify as beneficiaries:

I. Undertakings in difficulty as defined in Article 2, paragraph 18 of Regulation (EU) 651/2014.

II. Undertakings which are subject to an outstanding recovery order following a previous European Commission decision as provided in Article 1 (4) (a) of Regulation (EU) 651/2014.

5. Applicants must submit their Proposals in 4 bound copies and in electronic pdf format (in a single file) to the electronic address cypruscinema.gov@cytanet.com.cy. For printed material USB's must also be attached containing samples of previous works of the director and scriptwriter, and in an electronic form the electronic links must be attached. Copies shall not be returned.

6. The Deputy Ministry of Culture reserves the right to postpone the submission period and examination of proposals for the funding of cinematographic works if established that there is serious

financial or procedural inability to obtain the decisions.

7. The Deputy Ministry of Culture shall not participate in or sponsor television series or television programmes.

8. Proposals which evidently promote violence, racism, pornography or are insulting the religious feelings of the people, or contain obvious libel and encourage the use of drugs shall not be accepted.

9. MINIMUM LEVEL OF ACTIVITY IN CYPRUS

a. In cases of aid covering less than 31% of production costs, 50% of production costs must to be spent on the territory of the Republic of Cyprus.

b. If the aid covers over 31% of production costs, then the territorial requirement follows the rule of the 160% ceiling of the aid up to a maximum of 80% of production costs.

10. GENERAL PRE-SELECTION CRITERIA FOR FILMS (Cultural Test)

To qualify for pre-selection purposes the films must satisfy at least four of the following criteria:

- i. Filming must take place in Cyprus.
- ii. The language/s of the film must predominantly be in one or both the official languages of the Republic of Cyprus and/or in combination with other languages of the European Union.
- iii. The Project must be of high artistic specifications.
- iv. At least one of the central characters of the film must be associated with the Cyprus culture.
- v. The scenario upon which the film is based must be mainly written by a Cypriot scriptwriter or a scriptwriter who lives and works in Cyprus.
- vi. The main theme of the project must stem from contemporary or historical subjects relating to Cyprus and/or international civilization.
- vii. Must be an adaptation of an existing Cypriot literary work or

an original script and the theme must be on Cyprus.

- viii. It must be demonstrated that the film promotes the diversity of peoples' cultural expressions and multiculturalism.

The Proposal will then be judged according to the requirements of the Regulation as regards other sections of the same.

11. PRE-SELECTION CRITERIA – “DIFFICULT FILMS”

Difficult films are classified* as those films which are to be filmed in one of the two official languages of the Republic of Cyprus or in a combination of the two languages, and which satisfy at least 6 or more of the criteria referred to in paragraph 10 and relate to films:

- i. **Feature Low Budget Film:** (Fiction, Documentary, Animation).
- ii. **Feature Low budget Film up to €85.000.** (Fiction, Animation)

- iii **Short Length** (Fiction, Documentary, Animation).

**Announcement for Cinema/Section 5, Article 52, note 2, footnote 1, “Difficult” Films).*

12. INTENSITY OF FILM FUNDING.

For the purpose of calculating the intensity and eligible costs, all data used shall be calculated before the deduction of taxes or other charges.

Cumulation of aid from State or other European Union resources is permitted if it does not relate to the same eligible costs or when it relates to the same eligible costs but as a whole it does not result in exceeding the maximum or higher aid under Regulation (EU) 651/2014. In addition, aid granted under the Financial Programmes Regulation cannot be cumulated with any de minimis aid in respect of the same eligible costs if such cumulation would result in exceeding the expected aid intensity or amount of aid under Regulation (EU) 651/2014.

In accordance with Article 8 of the TFEU, all state aid, including aid from other government services semi-government organisations (filmmaking incentives) and Municipalities must not exceed the approved aid intensity in each category of film as shown below:

i. Feature Films / Intensified funding 50% up to and including 60%

In accordance with European Union Directives, the Competent Agency (in this case the Deputy Ministry of Culture) has the right to finance the films selected with an amount of up to 50% of their budget for Co-productions and up to 60% for cross-border productions funded by more than one member-state.

ii. Feature Films / Intensified funding up to 70% (Difficult Films)

Feature films may obtain funding for 70% of their budget if they fall under the category “difficult” films (See General Conditions, Note 11).

iii. Feature Films Low Budget/Intensified funding up to 80% - (Difficult Films).

It refers to those films whose total budget does not exceed 85,000 euros. (See Chapter F).

iv. Short Feature Films – Up to 80% (Difficult Films)

Short Films (including the Short Animated Film and Documentary Film) that meet the above criteria as mentioned in paragraph 11 can be subsidized for up to 80% of their budget.

13. LANGUAGE: Proposals for film funding shall be submitted in the Greek language. In the event where the language of the script is other than Greek, then producer shall be called upon to submit the synopsis of the film, a detailed summary (treatment), director’s approach, scenario, and the application, in the Greek language, and the remaining details in the English language. He/she should also state the language of the film, keeping in mind paragraphs 10 and 11 of the Regulation referring to the “General Conditions”. Turkish Cypriot

directors/producers are excluded and may submit their applications in the English language.

- 14.** All applications shall be examined by C.A.C. (Cinema Advisory Committee / APPENDIX I). For the approval of the Proposal and its promotion for final approval by the Competent Authority, the positive vote of the majority C.A.C. members is required.
- 15.** C.A.C. recommendations, as approved by the Competent Authority (APPENDIX I), are final and irrevocable.
- 16.** The Competent Authority’s decision is notified to all interested parties in writing, by a letter sent through registered mail and/or by fax or email. The letter must state the general grounds based on which the approval was granted.
- 17.** Interested parties must state in writing their intention to proceed with implementing the Proposal, **within forty days** from the written notification sent by the Deputy Ministry of Culture, taking into account that the commencement date of the deadline is the date the letter was sent by registered mail or was sent by fax or email. Failure to

- do so will automatically cancel the approval.
- 18.** Upon completion of the film, the Producer is obliged to submit a final Master DCP copy of the film in 35mm with the Cinema archives. The cost must be included in the initial budget.
 - 19.** The following digital technology production qualities are acceptable: HD 2K, 4K as well as 35MM, 16MM and in general anything that may include professional equipment
 - 20.** The amount of Funding provided by the Regulation is a desirable and expected amount that depends directly on the annual budget for the production of films, and the obligations of the state for productions which were approved in the previous years.
 - 21.** Funding of a project entails the granting to the Deputy Ministry of Culture a proportion similar to the amount of funding on its ownership and intellectual property rights. 10% of the state's share is allocated to the Producer, provided that the aid as a whole does not exceed the permitted rate of aid from the EU.
 - 22.** Approvals which are not materialised in accordance to this Regulation and the time schedule (except for reasons of force majeure) shall be automatically cancelled.
 - 23.** An applicant whose proposal has been rejected, has the right to resubmit his/her proposal the following year, provided that he/she will demonstrate that he has made drastic modifications and improvements. He/she must also submit a letter from the Producer documenting such changes.
 - 24.** Applicants are obliged to obtain and to be aware of the provisions of the Regulation on Funding before submitting an application for funding. The applications must comply with the provisions of the Regulation.
 - 25.** The C.A.C. Secretariat has the right to withdraw the proposals and not present the same to the Advisory Committee which do not comply with the requirements of the Regulation and/or were judged as being incomplete.
 - 26.** Filing of the application presupposes the acceptance of the Regulation in its entirety.
 - 27.** No Proposals shall be accepted for films which have already carried out shootings before the expiry of the deadline for the filing of the proposals referred to in the Announcement concerned. Proposals which fall into the category of Minority Co-Producers (Chapter E) are exempted. Also exempted is archival material which is necessary to document a film.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

1. No Proposal shall be accepted for any Funding Programme, if the Producer of the work has contractual disputes with the Deputy Ministry of Culture regarding the production of another film which was funded by the Deputy Ministry of Culture. Furthermore, any changes in the terms of the Agreement without the written approval of the Deputy Ministry of Culture shall result in disqualification of the next proposal for funding until final settlement. Provided that, the same persons cannot present themselves either as Directors or Scriptwriters in any other Proposal.
2. Upon signing an Agreement, changes in key factors of the Proposal (Scriptwriter, Director, Producer, Production Executive, Director of Photography and leading actors), important technical data (form and running time) including drastic changes to the script are possible only upon the approval of the Deputy Ministry of Culture. The Deputy Ministry of Culture is obliged to decide within three weeks from the date of receiving the application (in the event that filming has already begun, the Deputy Ministry of Culture is obliged to respond within 10 days from receipt of the relevant application). The Deputy Ministry of Culture will not accept more than three changes to the data provided in the Agreement signed, excluding the event of force majeure.
3. The same Producer cannot present before the Committee, either as pending or as a new proposal, more than four proposals in total. Short films, short documentaries and screenplay are excluded. Also excluded are cases of short length films, Short Script Documentaries which in addition to the rest, should not exceed three (3) in number. Exceptions also include the proposals for Minor Coproduction, which can be submitted throughout the year.
4. Provided that the four Proposals include those which come from Production Agencies in which the Producer participates as a founding member and/or as a shareholder.
5. A Director/Producer (in a dual capacity) whose proposal in accordance to the Agreement/Agreement signed with the State is still in progress, is not eligible to be funded for any other production as a Director / Producer, except when the production is at the stage of Development of a Film Production Plan.
6. A Feature film Director funded by the Deputy Ministry of Culture is not entitled to participate as a Director in another proposal in the same category of films, before the project is completed (final copy printed), in which he/she is taking part.
7. In cases of co-scriptwriting and co-direction, all stakeholders as aforesaid must comply with the provisions of the Regulation for the category for which the application is submitted, otherwise they shall be automatically disqualified.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

8. A Feature film scriptwriter must have written the script for at least one Short Film which must have participated in major international festivals.
9. When approval is granted for funding the production of a film, in order to proceed with the signing of the Agreement between the Deputy Ministry of Culture and the Producer, the entire production budget must be secured with lawfully acceptable documentation.
10. Once the Film is completed, the Producer submits the financial statement of the Production, drawn up by a reputable Audit Office. Such submission is compulsory and must be accompanied with a projection copy (see article 18 "General Conditions"), in the form the film has been shot (see article 19 "General Conditions"), for the Cinema archives and of the material used as referred to in the signed Agreement. Payment of the final instalment is made once all submitted data is inspected by the Deputy Ministry of Culture. The Accounts Department of the Deputy Ministry of Culture is obliged to respond within one month from submitting the receipts of payments for the production.
11. A Producer who has not proceeded with a Public Screening of the film in Cyprus within 2 years from the completion of the film (copy/Master DCP) which was funded by the Deputy Ministry of Culture, shall not be entitled to submit a proposal.
12. As regards International Co-Produced Feature Films, the statement of balance is drawn up in respect to the total cost of the Cypriot participation in the production. For the remaining Producers, a statement drawn up by a registered Audit firm of their own country confirming their participation or a confirmation from the State Operators will be acceptable.
13. The Deputy Ministry of Culture accepts the following remuneration for the main film stakeholders:
Producer's Percentage: not exceeding 8%,
Scriptwriter's: not exceeding 3%,
Directors" not exceeding 9%.
14. European producers may also be entitled to funding, if they are domiciled in a member-state of the European Union; their applications for funding may be submitted either through a Cypriot production company or through a permanent branch or office they maintain in Cyprus. Where neither of the above applies, the applicant must establish a branch/office as soon as he/she is notified of the approval for aid.
15. Agreements are signed only with Production Agencies in all cases except in the case of a first-time Short Film (Feature, Animated Film and Documentary) funded by the Deputy Ministry of Culture.
16. Any previous collaboration of the Producer and / or the Director with the State, namely the consistency and the professionalism in the cooperation with the Deputy Ministry of Culture and the good image created in the audiovisual industry as regards the way the project was carried out and completed, will be taken into account as a decisive advantage for the approval of their next film.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

CHAPTER A'

FUNDING FOR SCRIPTWRITING

Short Documentary
Feature Fiction Film
Animated Feature Film

FUNDING FOR SCRIPTWRITING

INTRODUCTION

1. This Regulation reflects the State's wish to support Film Production from the initial stages to the stage of scriptwriting which is one of the most important aspects of cinematographic creation.
2. This type of funding is aimed at Producers and Scriptwriters who wish to proceed with the Writing of a Script.
 - i. Feature Fiction Film
 - ii. Animated Feature Film
 - iii. Short Film (25')
 - iv. Developing research/scriptwriting in short, medium or feature documentaries. The Director is added to the list of eligible persons.
3. The Basic Principle of this type of funding is to ensure that scriptwriting moves forward to a film production.
4. Supporting Scriptwriting is recognised as part of the entire process in producing a Proposal. In the event that the script is approved for the production of a film, the amount granted by the Deputy Ministry of Culture for scriptwriting, is included in the entire amount approved for the Production.
5. The application must be submitted through a Producer or a Production Company.
6. Preference is given to scenarios of local interest, or that favour European reality with particular interest in Cyprus.
7. A Producer / Production Company submitting the application must have experience in organising the production of motion picture films (Short, Feature and Documentary, depending on the application submitted).
8. In the case of a Low Budget Feature film, the proposed director should have filmed at least two short fiction films (other than those filmed during his/her studies), and in the case of a High Budget Feature Film he/she should have at least a feature film that has been screened at two recognized/major festivals abroad at least and/or has secured international distribution.
9. The signing of the Agreement for scriptwriting must take place within forty days from the Producer's written response notifying the Deputy Ministry of Culture that he/she accepts the funding approval, otherwise the approval shall be cancelled automatically. An extension for the signing of the Agreement may only be granted if requested in writing to the Deputy Ministry of Culture, and in any event, it must not exceed two months.
10. The Producing Company/Producer must prove that it is supporting and organising the production for the benefit of the project as a whole and that its purpose is to effect the creator's vision.
11. Producers are urged to take into consideration the financial realities, as provided in this chapter, when working on the scripts and the production budget.

FUNDING FOR SCRIPTWRITING

PREREQUISITES

Candidates for scenario/scriptwriting funding must:

- i. **For a Low Budget Feature Film (60 – 110')**: have already written a script for a Feature Film shot into a film, and/or a script for two Short films shot into a film. The aid is granted under the prerequisite that the scriptwriter shall participate in a scriptwriting workshop and shall cooperate with a script advisor or adapter.
- ii. **For High Budget Feature Film (70 - 110')**: have already written a script for at least one Feature film on a theme that has been shot into a film, and which has been presented at an international Film Festival recognised by FIAPF. The aid is granted under the prerequisite that the scriptwriter shall participate in a scriptwriting workshop and shall cooperate with a script editor or adapter.
- iii. **For a Medium Length Documentary (50-60')**: have already written two scripts for documentaries which have been

shot into a film and have been broadcasted by a television channel transmitting across Cyprus or has secured another type of distribution outside Cyprus or has been included in the official programme of recognised Festivals (see Annex on definitions) and/or have received an award (one of the three is a necessary prerequisite).

- iv. **For a Feature Length Documentary (70 - 90')**: have already a script for a Feature Length Documentary, which has been screened by a television channel transmitting across Cyprus or a television channel abroad (one of the two is a necessary prerequisite). Furthermore, must have participated with a previous work in a major International Documentary abroad. An award for a previous film shall be considered as an advantage.
- v. **For an Animated Feature Film (70-90')**: have already written a script for an Animated Feature Film which has been broadcasted

either at an International Film Festival outside Cyprus, or have been broadcasted by television channel transmitting across Cyprus and/or a television channel abroad.

- vi. **For a Short Fiction Film (up to 15')**: The aid shall be granted under the condition that the scriptwriter shall participate in a scriptwriting workshop. In such a case the proposal must be submitted through a Production Agency/Producer.
- vii. **For a Short Fiction Film (up to 25')**: The aid shall be granted under the prerequisite that the scriptwriter shall participate in a scriptwriting workshop. In such a case the proposal must be submitted through a Production Agency/Producer.

FUNDING FOR SCRIPTWRITING

CONTENT OF THE APPLICATION

1. Statement of Participation signed by the Producer where required, in accordance to the above.
2. A letter from the Scriptwriter whereby the Producer is authorised to proceed with the submission of the application for funding.
3. A synopsis of the theme (1 page).
A preliminary script, between 10-15 pages, (treatment) of the proposed script for feature film and up to 3 pages for short films of 15 and 25 minutes.
4. A 5 minute scene of the script in full development and dialogues for feature films and 2 minutes for short film. In the case of Animated films 3 pages in Story Board.
5. Curriculum Vitae of the Scriptwriter and the Producer signing on behalf of the company, Company profile.
6. Detailed budget for the script funding plan. The budget must include the remuneration of the Script Editor and/or Scientific Consultant (in the case of the documentary) as well as the costs for attending seminars/workshops.
7. Comments from the Scriptwriter and Producer and, where possible, the Director.
8. Documentation for patenting the idea.
9. Planning of the participation in script writing workshops/seminars, cooperation with Script Editors.
10. Certificate of registration of the Production Company issued by the Registrar of Companies.
11. The Producer's previous work on an electronic link.

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Originality of the idea.
2. The possibility of developing the scenario of the theme.
3. Perceived narrative completeness.
4. The dynamic of the artistic adequacy and dramaturgy of the summary script submitted (treatment).
5. Scriptwriter's previous scriptwriting works.
6. Producer's previous works.
7. Capacity to cover financially a future Film Production Plan within the framework of the C.A.C. budget limits. Producers are urged to take into consideration the financial realities of this chapter in forming their scripts and the planning the budget of their production.
8. In the case of documentaries, the research plan and the editors with whom the producer and/or the director shall be cooperating with shall be taken into account.

FUNDING FOR SCRIPTWRITING

STATE'S FUNDING PARTICIPATION/ PROCEDURE

A necessary prerequisite for the signing of the Agreement for Feature Films is a written confirmation that the Scriptwriter shall cooperate with the Script Editor or shall participate in at least one recognised script workshop (or with a scientific collaborator in the case of documentaries).

For Short Films a necessary prerequisite is the participation in at least one script workshop and/or collaboration with a script editor. The Editor shall not have intellectual rights on the script.

1. **Maximum Amount of Funding for Fiction Feature Film:** up to €20.000. *(The budget must include the remuneration of the Editors and/or Workshops)*
2. **Maximum Amount of Funding for Feature Length Documentary:** up to €12.000.

(The budget must include the remuneration of the Editors and/or Workshops)

3. **Maximum Amount of Funding for Animated Feature Films** up to €15.000.
4. **Maximum Amount of Funding for Short Fiction Film and Short Documentary:** up to €4.000 *(The budget must include the remuneration of the Editors and/or Workshops)*
5. 40% of the approved amount shall be paid to the Producer upon signing the Agreement.
6. 30% is paid in between the presentation of proof of participation in workshops or the editor's payment.
7. 30% upon the script being studied and approved by C.A.C. and upon submission/approval of the actual costs. Where the script is passed on for further consideration, the payment is suspended until the new submission and final approval of C.A.C.

8. The maximum time to deliver a script is 12 months from the date of signing the Agreement. This time limit may be extended by three months, upon a decision of the C.A.C., under special circumstances.
9. If the script is not delivered to C.A.C. by the end of the expiry date, the Producer is obliged to return immediately the amount of the first instalment (50%) in full which he/she received upon signing the agreement. The Editor's fees and Script Workshop fees are excluded, provided relevant payment receipts are provided.

SCRIPT EVALUATION

The C.A.C. shall receive advice from the Three-Member Committee of Specialists (Sub-committee) to evaluate the completed scripts which have been submitted. Members of the sub-committee shall be selected from the cinema sector and approved (following a recommendation of the C.A.C.) by the Deputy Ministry of Culture. Their term of office shall be for a period of three years, with a right to be renewed for another term, The Script Sub-committee delivers its opinion in writing to the C.A.C. within 2 months from receiving the script, using its own grading system and recommends:

- i. Approval of proposals which are considered as significant.
- ii. Rejection of scripts.
- iii. Further work on the Script and re-submission within three months from the relevant briefing of the scriptwriter.

The responsibility for the final recommendation which will be sent to the Competent Authority, and to the applicant lies with the C.A.C.

The C.A.C. shall be responsible for drawing up the reasoning which will document its decision either for changes or for rejection of the script.

In cases where the script is referred for further processing, C.A.C. shall request a meeting with the scriptwriter/director and producer of the film (if any), in order to have the opportunity to develop their proposal and to exchange views, with the purpose to clarify various aspects of the proposal.

Referral for further processing of the script does not necessarily mean further funding from the State.

Approval for the funding of the script is not binding for the State in any way as regards the subsequent production stages.

CHAPTER B'

DEVELOPMENT OF A FILM PRODUCTION PLAN

Fiction Feature Film
Animated Feature Film
Documentary Feature Film

DEVELOPMENT OF A FILM PRODUCTION PLAN

INTRODUCTION

1. The aim of this programme is aiding Production in completing its data, financial, artistic and technical, in order to enable it to be implemented.
2. To this end the Deputy Ministry of Culture is examining proposals submitted by Producers for funding the Development of a Film Production Plan, in accordance with the terms and specifications described below.
3. The C.A.C. in its effort to assist the Producer in his/her effort to find co-producers and other collaborators, when recommending to the Competent Authority approval of the application, it states the amount to be made available for the Development, including the total amount it recommends to fund the film.
4. The amount to be approved for the film production shall be released to the Producer if and when the Production File has been finalised, submitted and approved, as provided for in this chapter.

5. The scripts submitted under this Chapter and which have not already been examined by the Script Sub-committee (see Chapter A – Funding for Scriptwriting), shall be sent to the Sub-committee concerned, which shall examine them and deliver its opinion to the C.A.C. before the previous consideration of the proposals. Feature Documentaries and Animated Films are excluded.

6. In order to rationalize and effectively meet the needs of production, funding in the Category of Feature Films is divided into High and Low Budget.

7. The application shall be submitted through the Production Agency.

8. On submitting the application the Producer, shall select the category and the funding programme in which the Proposal shall be part of, according to his/her wishes. For example, in the case of a request for funding the Development of a Film Production Plan, the Producer must state the category of funding in which

the film belongs (Low Cost, High Budget).

9. In the event that the Director is also the Producer he/she is obliged to appoint an Executive Producer upon submitting the application.

DEVELOPMENT OF A FILM PRODUCTION PLAN

CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

1. A Complete finalised script for a Fiction Film, a complete finalised script skeleton for a Documentary, a complete finalised Story Board for Animation Film are required.
2. The Proposed Producer/Production Agency shall:
 - i. In the case of funding the Development of the Production of a **Low Budget Fiction Feature** Development Plan the Producer or the Production Agency and/or the Production Executive submitting the Proposal must show previous work in the field of organisation and execution of film productions or a number of audiovisual fiction works.
 - ii. In the case funding the Production of a **High Budget** Development Plan the Producer or the Production Agency and/or the Production Executive submitting the Proposal must have experience in the organising of International Co-productions.
3. The Proposed Director:
 - i. In the case of funding a **Low Budget Fiction Feature Film Development Plan (60'- 110')**: the director must have already directed one fiction feature film which must have been screened by a television channel transmitting across Cyprus or a television channel abroad, or at least two short Film (over and above the films made during his/her studies). They must have been included in at least one recognised/ major International Film Festival abroad each one of them, and/or they have secured international distribution.
 - ii. In the case of funding a **High Budget Fiction Feature Development film (60'-110')**: the Director must have directed at least one Feature film with a story, which must have been screened by a television channel transmitting across Cyprus or a television channel abroad, or at least two recognised/major International Film Festivals, and/or has secured international distribution .
 - iii. In the case of funding an **Animated film Development Plan (60'-90')**: the Director must have directed two Short Animated films and/or one Animated Feature Film which has been screened by a recognised /major International Film Festival and/or has been screened by a television channel transmitting across Cyprus or a television channel abroad.
 - iv. In the case of funding the Documentary Film Development Plan (50'-60'): the Director must have already directed a Short or Feature Fiction film, and/or a Documentary 50-60' long, which has been screened by a television channel transmitting across Cyprus or a television channel abroad, (one of the two is mandatory), or have secured

DEVELOPMENT OF A FILM PRODUCTION PLAN

international distribution in web-based platform through an Agreement and/or in a major International Film Festival abroad.

- v. In the case of funding a **Feature Length Documentary Film Development Plan (60-90')**: the Director must have already directed a medium length Documentary 50-60' long or long length 60- 90', which has been screened on a television channel transmitting across Cyprus or a television channel abroad (one of the two is mandatory) international distribution in a web-based platform, under an Agreement, and/or in a major International Film Festival abroad.

4. Where the Producer is also the Director of the film he/she must, on submitting the proposal, appoint an Executive Producer who has proven experience in the Production and execution of Feature films

5. The Agreement for the Development must signed within 2

months from the day that the Producer is notified in writing by the Deputy Ministry of Culture regarding the approval for the funding. In default of doing so, the approval shall be cancelled automatically.

6. The expenses recognised by the C.A.C. for the Development are those related to attracting funding and co-producers, to cover the Production budget and not those associated with the Production. In particular, they are the following: typewriting, photocopies, translations, travelling, office expenses/salaries relating to the particular plan, legal coverage, reperaz, photography, video shooting for the requirements of the plan, participation in co-production workshops (pitching).).

7. If the research on the Production possibilities is not successful within 20 months from signing the Agreement with the State, the funding approval shall be revoked immediately. An extension for the signing of the Agreement may only be granted if requested in writing, and the same is approved by the Competent Authority. An extension may only be granted once.

8. Film Shootings Duration

- i. **A Low Budget Fiction Feature Film** must not exceed a total of 7 weeks of filming except where special reasons apply which must be specified in writing.
- ii. **A High Budget Fiction Feature Film** must not exceed a total of 11 except where special reasons apply which must be specified in writing. The total period including the termination of filming shall not exceed 18 months. .
- iii. For the categories **Feature Length Documentary and Feature Length Animated Film**, the duration of the filming and the technical process (for Animated Films), shall depend on the requirements of the Production but must not exceed 20 weeks.

DEVELOPMENT OF A FILM PRODUCTION PLAN

APPLICATION CONTENT

1. A statement of participation by the Producer (on a designated form).
2. Producer's curriculum vitae/ Company profile.
3. Certificate of Incorporation for the Production Agency.
4. Proposed Director's curriculum vitae.
5. Scriptwriter's curriculum vitae.
6. Brief summary of the proposed film (1-2 pages).
7. Detailed summary (treatment) up to 20 pages.
8. Director's approach.
9. A comprehensive final script for a Fiction film, a comprehensive skeleton script accompanied by an explanatory report regarding the research carried out for a Documentary, and for an Animated Film, a comprehensive Story Board.
10. The C.A.C. acknowledges that a script may be improved in the process, but shall not accept drastic changes to the already approved script. Where certain changes/improvements have been

made, the Producer is obliged to state the reasoning which led to such changes. In the event where the Script has not been already considered by the script sub-committee, the script is sent to it for their opinion.

11. Statement of Producer's intention.
12. Sample of previous works of the Director, Producer and/or Executive Producer.
13. Design of Development plan for finding co-producers (actions to be undertaken by the Producer).
14. Proof of patenting the proposal (Copyright).
15. Budget for Developing a Film Production Plan, which will include expenses directly linked with the particular plan for the film.
16. Summary of the budget for the film.

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. The originality in the conception and development of the film's theme, the aesthetics, adequacy of the dramaturgy and narrative proficiency of the script and the overall artistic dynamic and completeness of the draft summary submitted as well as how interesting is the director's approach.
2. Proposed Director's filmography.
3. Producer's previous work.
4. Producer's professional experience, the adequacy and the capacities of the Production Agency and Executive Producer.
5. The Director's and/or Producer's and/or Scriptwriter's previous participations in festivals and any awards received.
6. The public's response to their previous films.
7. The previous good cooperation between the producer and director with the State, namely the consistency and professionalism with which the cooperation with the Deputy Ministry of Culture was conducted and completed.

DEVELOPMENT OF A FILM PRODUCTION PLAN

8. The Committee's opinion as to the proposal's artistic and commercial potential as regards commercial success.
9. Projected possibilities in completing the funding of the Production.
10. In the case of Documentaries, the research plan shall be taken into account and the editors with whom the producer and/or director shall cooperate with.

STATE FUNDING/ PROCEDURE

1. The amount approved for the Production Development is the Deputy Ministry's participation in the total expenses paid by the Producer for the film's production and is documented through valid receipts.

2. MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF PARTICIPATION

The Maximum amount with which the Deputy Ministry participates in the funding of the Production Development Plan is:

- i. Up to €35.000 for a **Low Budget Fiction film**, depending on the design and the requirements of the particular Proposal. Producers are urged to take into consideration the financial realities as provided in this Chapter when developing their scripts and the production budget.
- ii. Up to €45.000 for a **High Budget Fiction film**, depending on the design and the requirements of the particular Proposal.
- iii. From €15.000 up to €35.000 for 50-60' long **Documentaries** or 60-90' long Documentaries depending on the requirements of each particular Proposal.
- iv. Up to €35.000 for **Animated films** up to 90' long.
- v. Up to €35.000 for **Animated films** from 60' to 90' long.

PROCEDURE

1. The amount approved for the Development of a Film is payable to the Producer as follows:
 - a) 50% of the State's participation is paid to the Producer immediately upon signing the relevant Agreement.

DEVELOPMENT OF A FILM PRODUCTION PLAN

- b) Then, 30% is paid once the cost receipts for the first payment are submitted.
- c) The remaining 20% of the amount is paid upon submitting the complete Production File and upon presenting valid receipts from a reputable audit firm and after the same are inspected by the Deputy Ministry of Culture .

2. Producers who have not completed the Production Development Plan within the fixed period set in the Agreement, and/or do not submit the complete Production File are not obliged to return the amount they have received up to that time, provided that they shall present valid receipts justifying and covering the deposit they have received. Provided that, they shall not be entitled to the remaining amount and also those Producers who do not present valid receipts are obliged to return the entire amount they have received.

COMPLETE PRODUCTION FILE

At the end of the research period and the completion of the production's obligations under the Agreement signed with the State and under the Conditions of the present Regulation, the Producer shall submit to the Secretariat of the C.A.C. the Complete Production File. The Secretariat examines the File in relation to the Agreement which was signed with the Producer and draws up a detailed report for the C.A.C.

The C.A.C. examines the Secretariat's report on the Complete Production File, submitted by the Producer and passes its opinion as to whether the file is Complete or there is missing information.

A complete Production File is deemed to be a file that contains the following:

1. Script synopsis (up to two pages).
2. Complete Final Script for Fiction films and Documentaries and Final Story Board for Animated Films with dialogues.
3. Film duration (see Appendix III "Definitions).

4. Duration of filming (see page 24 point 8 "*Film Duration*" – sub-chapter "Conditions for Participation" in the Chapter Development of a Film Production Plan)
5. Detailed complete budget for the production which, inter alia, must include:
 - a) Production insurance costs,
 - b) interpositive costs, a copy and whatever else may be required for a 35 mm copy; blow up costs in internegative 35mm and a copy if the film is shot in 16 super, costs for the production of a final copy – MASTER COPY DCP- if filmed using digital technology (for the cinema archives),
 - c) Costs for a complete international band, and
 - d) Film trailer and a television spot
6. Documentation evidencing Intellectual Property Rights from the beneficiaries, in the event where the script is based on pre-existing work (literary). The Producer is also obliged to obtain the intellectual property rights on the script. Intellectual property rights on music and archive material (music, visual and audio) which is to be used for

DEVELOPMENT OF A FILM PRODUCTION PLAN

- the film may not be required to be produced yet, however, the preparation for the submission of pre-agreement Agreements and the contacts for obtaining them must have been prepared. Furthermore, the cost must have been budgeted.
7. Payment of the 3rd installment in accordance with the Agreement will not proceed, unless a certification has been submitted for the protection of intellectual property rights (for cinema archives, visual, audio and music).
 8. Documentation of action taken to protect the Script, and Production Agreement for a cinematographic film between the Scriptwriter and the Producer.
 9. Agreement signed for the Production of the Film between the Director and the Producer.
 10. Documentation for having secured funds for 100% of the film's costs.
 11. Financial Plan.
 12. Agreements between Co-producers and Sponsors.
 13. Detailed distribution of expenses per Co-producer.
 14. Documentation for securing 50% of the film budget in cash, e.g. cash money secured by television channels, from pre-sale rights or users abroad and Cyprus or other valid financial sources and financial organisations (a bank account confirmation must be submitted).
 15. The following shall be accepted for the purpose of covering the remaining 50%:
 - i. Sponsorship or participation in the expenses covering the costs for hiring equipment.
 - ii. Work offers
 - iii. Capitalisation of the fees for Scriptwriters/Producer/Director/Actors/Director of Photography and other artists, up to 75% of the costs for Co-productions or 100% in the case of an entirely Cypriot Production
 - iv. Other sponsorships in cash or in kind (e.g. accommodation, meals etc.),
 - v. Contribution of own equipment or services.
 - vi. Deferral payment for salaries or services.
 16. Statements and participation certifications from 80% of the stakeholders and actors of the film.
 17. Film promotion plan/ Agreements with distributors, pre-sales (shall be considered as an advantage).
 18. Curriculum Vitae for Director, Producer, Executive Producer, Scriptwriter, and Production Agency (if not already submitted).
 19. In the event where the film's sponsors include Cinema Centres, semi-government organisation, similar State Institutions or other Official EU Agency, a confirmation letter of their participation in the Production will be acceptable.
 20. Any other additional documentation the Producer may deem useful for his/her File.
 21. The File must be submitted in 4 copies. Copies shall not be returned.

DEVELOPMENT OF A FILM PRODUCTION PLAN

TIME AND MANNER OF ASSESSMENT AND SELECTION

1. Applications for funding the Production Development Plan are examined at the same time together with all other applications (see General Conditions).
2. The complete Film Production File is examined upon its submission and provided it was submitted within the prescribed time as specified in this Chapter
3. C.A.C. reserves its right to call Producers and Directors to a meeting before taking any final decision regarding their work. (within 20 months from signing the agreement).

CHAPTER C'

PRODUCTION

Low Budget Fiction Film
High Budget Fiction Film
Short Fiction Film
Documentary Film
Animated Film

1

LOW BUDGET FICTION FILM

Maximum Budget
€850.000

INTRODUCTION

1. This type of funding is aimed at Producers who intend to organise the production of a Low Budget Fiction Feature Film.
2. The purpose of the funding is to develop the art of Cypriot cinema through the creation of cinematographic works with significant artistic and technical specifications.
3. Producers are urged to take into account the financial realities as these are provided in this chapter when developing their script and the production budget.

CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

1. The proposed Director must have directed at least one Feature Fiction film, or at least two Short films (in addition to the films made during his/her studies). The films must have been included in at least one recognised/major International Film Festival abroad each one, and/or have secured international distribution.
2. The Producer or the Production Agency and the Executive Producer submitting the proposal must have previous experience in the field of organising and executing cinematographic productions or a number of audio-visual fiction films and/or documentaries (including television series broadcasted across Cyprus) and/or documentary.

STATE FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION/PROCEDURE

The Agreement shall be signed:

- i. When the proposal has been financed for the Production Development Plan and the complete production file has been filed and approved.
- ii. When a proposal is submitted directly for funding the production, provided that the Script has been approved and that the Producer has submitted everything that is referred to in the Chapter on Development of Film Production Plan (Complete File).

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. The originality in the conception and development of the film's theme, adequacy of the script's aesthetics and dramaturgy, and the overall artistic dynamic and completeness of the draft summary submitted as well as the degree of interest as regards the director's approach.
2. The Producer's previous work/awards.
3. The Producer's previous work and the professional adequacy of the Production Agency and the Executive Producer. The Director's previous work shall be a determining factor for the selection of the proposal.
4. Participations in festivals and awards for the previous works of the Director, the Executive Producer, and the Scriptwriter.
5. The public's response on their previous works.
6. Expected response from the public and film festivals.
7. Expected response from the public and film festivals
8. The value of the artistic and technical potential of the production.
9. The actual and documented coverage of the financial plan of the production.

Maximum

Budget: €850.000

1. This amount includes the Producer's, Director's and Scriptwriter's fees and may be capitalised.
2. The Deputy Ministry's participation up to €595.000 or by a percentage of up to 70%, whichever is the lowest.

The amount of funding is approved taking into consideration the actual requirements of the Production, the plan's dynamic, the budget itself, support from the local and international market.

This type of funding includes possible previous funding for scriptwriting and the stage of Development of a Production Plan. The Deputy Ministry of Culture's ownership percentage is based on the total amount.

Except where the funds provided in the budget for the production of films or where there are season shootings or other similar special cases of filming the disbursement of the amount is carried out as follows:

PRODUCTION

- i. 30% upon signing the Production Agreement;
- ii. 50% one month before the commencement of the shootings;
- iii. 10% upon the commencement of the Postproduction;
- iv. 10% upon the submission of the finalised copy of the film with the Cinema Archives and the budget verification (See Special Conditions No.8).

Changes in the above percentages may be carried out only for the first three installments (points i, ii and iii) and only after serious documentation of the reasons (e.g. possibilities of the fund) in consultation with the producer.

2 HIGH BUDGET FICTION FILM

Maximum Budget: Open

INTRODUCTION

1. This type of funding is aimed at Producers who wish to proceed with the production of High Budget films, for which resources are required from abroad. This Chapter aims to constitute the basis for the creation of films with high artistic and technical specifications
2. Through this enhanced funding, a high financial specification film production may be developed, and the possibility for co-productions with other countries is further enhanced.

PRODUCTION

CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

1. The Production Agency, the Producer and/or the Executive Producer must have experience in International Co-productions.
2. The Director must have directed at least one Feature film, which has been screened at an International Film Festival abroad, and/or has secured international distribution.
3. Securing important co-production/s from abroad will count as an advantage for the proposal in relation to the other proposals submitted.

DEPUTY MINISTRY OF CULTURE 'S FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION/PROCEDURE

The Agreement may be signed when:

- i. the proposal has been financed for the Production Development Plan and the complete production file has been submitted and approved.
- ii. a proposal is submitted directly for funding the production, provided that the Script has been approved and that the Producer has submitted all relevant data that is referred to in the Chapter on Development of Film Production Plan (Complete File).

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. The originality in the conception and development of the film's theme, the aesthetics, the adequacy of dramaturgy and the narrative proficiency of the script and the overall artistic dynamic and completeness of the draft summary submitted, as well as how interesting is the director's approach.
2. The Director's previous works/awards.
3. The Producer's previous works and the professional adequacy of the Production Agency. The Director's previous work shall be a determining factor for the selection of the proposal. The producer must have experience in bilateral and/or international co-productions.
4. Participations in festivals and awards for the previous works of the Director, the Executive Producer, and the Scriptwriter.
5. The response of the public on their previous works.
6. Expected response from the public.
7. Expected response from the public
8. The value of the artistic and technical potential of the production.
9. The actual and documented coverage of the financial plan of the production.

Maximum Budget: Open
Priority shall be given to films with a budget up to €2.500.000.

1. This amount includes the Producer's, Director's and Scriptwriter's fees and may be capitalised.
2. Participation of the Deputy Ministry of Culture up to €850.000 or by a percentage of up to 70%, whichever is the lowest

The amount of funding is approved in accordance with the actual requirements of the Production, the plan's dynamics, the budget itself, and the support of the local and international market. This type of funding, includes the possible script editing and the development stage. The Deputy Ministry's ownership rate is calculated in accordance to the total amount.

Except where the budget for the production of the films requires otherwise, or there are season shootings or other similar special cases of shootings, the disbursement of the amount shall be as follows:

PRODUCTION

- i. 30% upon signing the Production Agreement.
- ii. 50% one month before the commencement of the shootings.
- iii. 10% upon the commencement of the Post-production.
- iv. 10% upon the submission of the final copy of the film to the Cinema Archives and the verification of the budget (see Special Conditions No.8).

Changes to the above percentages may be carried out only for the first three installments (points i, ii and iii) and only after serious documentation of the reasons (e.g. available funds) in consultation with the producer.

3 SHORT FILM FICTION FILM

INTRODUCTION

1. The principal aim of the programme is to serve as a springboard for the emergence of new film scriptwriters, film directors and technicians, without precluding the possibility of funding directors who have proceeded with the production of feature films, to return to short film production.
2. Proposals will be accepted which:
 - i. are not more than 15' long, and concern directors who are financed for their first-time Short Film over and above those filmed during their studies. The possibility to fund Directors who have proceeded with the Production of other film categories cannot be excluded.
 - ii. are not more than 25' long and concern mainly directors who are financed for their second Short film over and above those filmed during their studies. The possibility to fund Directors who have proceeded with the Production of other film categories films cannot be excluded.

MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF FUNDING

Taking into account the intention to drastically aid new artists, the Deputy Ministry of Culture finances a substantial part of the cost of the project by an amount of:

A) up to €30.000 for the first Short Film (up to 15') or with a percentage up to 80% whichever is the lowest (see also General Conditions, article 11).

B) up to €40.000 for a second Short Film (up to 25') or with a percentage up to 80% whichever is the lowest (see also General Conditions, article 11).

Proposals may also be submitted in the context of the programme Scriptwriting Development (see Chapter Scriptwriting Development).

CONTENT OF THE PRODUCTION FILE

1. Participation statement (designated form).
2. Director's curriculum vitae.
3. Scriptwriter's curriculum vitae.
4. Brief summary (synopsis) of the script (1 page).
5. Complete script.
6. Director's statement of intent.
7. Intellectual Property rights of the scriptwriter on the script.
8. Detailed complete Production budget which must, inter alia, include: a) a) production insurance costs, b) interpositive costs, a copy and anything else which may be required for a 35 mm copy. Blow up costs in internegative 35mm and a copy if the film is shot in 16 super, costs for the production of a final copy/ master DCP if filmed on digital technology (for the cinema archives), c) costs for a complete international band, and d) cinema trailer and television spot.
9. Documentation for obtaining Intellectual Property Rights from the beneficiaries. This includes cases where the script is based on pre-existing work (literary etc.). The Producer is also obliged to obtain the intellectual property rights on the script. Intellectual property rights on music and archive material (music, visual and audio) to be used in the film.
10. Agreement between the Producer

and the Director (in the case of a 2nd Short Film Agreement between the Producer and the Director (in the case of a 2nd Short Film

11. In any case, where there is no Producer, an Executive Producer must be appointed.

12. Design and time schedule of the Production.

13. Previous audiovisual works of the director.

14. Advertisements, company presentations and video-art shall not be accepted as previous work.

The file may also include the following optional data:

Letters for the participation of key contributors

Letters for the participation of actors

Letters indicating interest for funding the production

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Originality of the conception
2. Development of the script as regards dramaturgy.
3. The Directors' and Producer's skill to develop their idea in a restricted film duration.
4. Director's adequacy as regards dramaturgy, the degree of interest of the director's approach.
5. Director's previous work.
6. Proper financial planning for the implementation of the project.

PROCEDURE FOR THE APPROVAL OF PROPOSALS

1. All Agreements shall, without exception, be signed with Production Agencies except for the first Short Film (15') which is subsidized by the Deputy Ministry of Culture .

2. Upon examining the script and the Production File the C.A.C. decides the amount of the funding. If the proposal is subsequently approved by the Competent Authority, the producer shall be notified in writing of the amount of funding and the grounds based on which the approval was granted.

3. An Agreement signed within four months from the date that the Producer notifies the Deputy Ministry of Culture in writing that he/she accepts the funding.

4. A prerequisite for the approval is the full and documented coverage of the production budget, the submission of co-production Agreements, agreements with actors and contributing factors of the film etc.

5. Payment of the last installment is effected after the presentation of the film to the C.A.C., and upon submitting all

material which is deliverable together with the final copy of the film as provided in the Agreement and upon presenting receipts of the production costs from a reputable audit firm, which receipts will later be inspected by the Deputy Ministry of Culture.

Except in cases where the budget of the film production requires otherwise, or there are season shootings or other similar special shooting cases, the disbursement of the amount shall be carried out as follows:

- i. 30% upon signing the Production Agreement.
- ii. 50% one month before the commencement of the shootings.
- iii. 10% upon the commencement of the Postproduction.
- iv. 10% upon submitting the final copy of the film with the Cinema Archives and the verification of the budget (see Special Conditions No.8).

Changes to the above percentages may be carried out only for the first three installments (points i, ii and iii) and only after serious documentation of the

reasons (e.g. possibilities of the fund) in consultation with the Producer.

4

SHORT, MEDIUM LENGTH AND FEATURE LENGTH DOCUMENTARIES

INTRODUCTION

1. Documentaries are a category extremely important for preserving the memory and culture of peoples, as well as for disseminating them around the world. At the same time films, through their wide variety of expressions, reveal, inform, provide food for thought and awakens the audience to the current concerns of humanity. Through this programme, the State, by recognizing the importance of documentaries, enhances the same with a number of programmes.
2. The following Chapter describes the procedure for the funding of short, medium length and Feature films.
3. Proposals must be submitted by the Producer or the Production Agency.
4. The themes of the films must be somehow associated with Cyprus.

MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF FUNDING

1. **Deputy Ministry's participation in Short Length Documentaries:** The duration of the film must not exceed 40'. The aid amounts to €50.000 or a percentage of 50%, whichever of the two is the lowest.
2. **Deputy Ministry's participation in Medium Length Documentaries:** The duration of the film must not exceed 50-60'. The aid amounts to up to €80.000 or a percentage of 50%, whichever of the two is the lowest. *Proposals for medium length documentaries may be submitted to the Development of a Film Production Plan programme (see Chapter Development of a Film Production Plan)*
3. **Deputy Ministry's participation in Feature Documentaries** The duration of the film must not exceed 70' - 100'. or a percentage 50%, whichever of the two is the lowest. The film's duration must not exceed 30'. *Proposals for medium length documentaries may be submitted to the Development of a Film Production Plan programme (see Chapter Development of Film Production Plan).*

The final funding shall depend on the

PRODUCTION

production data and the form in which it will be filmed.

CONTENT OF THE PARTICIPATION FILE

A. For Films up to 30' long (Short Fiction, Short Animated Film and Short Documentary) :

1. Participation statement (designated form).
 2. Director's curriculum vitae.
 3. Producer's curriculum vitae.
 4. Scriptwriter's curriculum vitae.
 5. Brief summary (synopsis) of the script (1 page).
 6. Complete script plan.
 7. Director's statement of intent.
 8. Scriptwriter's Intellectual Property Rights on the script.
 9. Detailed full production budget which, inter alia, must include: a) production insurance costs, b) interpositive costs, a copy and whatever else may be required for a 35 mm copy, blow up costs in internegative 35mm and a copy if the film is shot in 16 super, costs for the production of a final copy/master DCP if filmed in digital technology (for the cinema archives), c) costs for a complete international band, and d) cinema trailer and television spot.
 10. Documentation for the Intellectual Rights from the beneficiaries. The
11. Planning and time schedule for the completion of the production.
 12. Previous audio-visual work of the Director
 13. Previous work of the Producer or Executive Producer for Feature documentaries.
 14. Production Agreement between the Producer, the Scriptwriter and the Director

Producer is obliged to obtain the intellectual property rights on the script, the music and the archive material (music, visual and audio) which are to be used in the film. If the Intellectual rights for music and archive material (music, audio and visual) which will be used in the film have not been obtained yet, evidence must be produced that preparation has been made and pre-agreements have been submitted. Otherwise the Producer is obliged to be pre-committed that he/she shall obtain the intellectual rights for the music and the archive material (music, audio and visual) which are to be used in the film. Furthermore he/she must have drawn up a budget for the cost where feasible.

The File may also include the following optional data:

PRODUCTION

- Letters for the participation of key contributors
- Letters for the participation of actors
- Letters indicating interest for funding the production

B. For Medium and Feature Documentaries:

All information and documents required in the Chapter Development of Film Production Plan for a Feature Film (Complete Production File). (Pages 26-28)

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Degree of interest, the originality and the film treatment of the theme.
2. Director's approach.
3. Adequacy of dramaturgy.
4. Aesthetic value of the proposed film.
5. Director's previous work.
6. Professional adequacy of the Producer and the capabilities of the Production Agency.
7. Proper financial planning for the project's implementation.

PROCEDURE FOR THE APPROVAL OF PROPOSALS

1. Once the C.A.C. has examined the Script and the Production File, it will decide on the amount of funding. If the proposal is subsequently approved by the Competent Authority, the Producer is notified in writing as to the amount of the funding and the reasoning behind the approval.
2. An Agreement is signed within four months from the date when the Producer or the Director accepts the funding and under the condition that evidence is produced that the budget of the production is fully covered, that Co-Production Agreements are submitted, and that agreements have been signed with the key contributors of the film etc.
3. Payment of the last instalment is effected when the film is presented to the C.A.C., once deliverable material, as provided under the Agreement and a final copy of the project's film is submitted, and upon presenting valid receipts for the production costs from a reputable audit firm, which later shall be inspected by the Deputy Ministry of Culture.

Except in cases where the budget of the film production requires otherwise, or there are season shootings or other similar special shooting cases, the disbursement of the amount shall be carried out as follows:

- i. 30% upon signing the Production Agreement.
- ii. 50% one month before the commencement of the shootings.
- iii. 10% upon the commencement of the Postproduction.
- iv. 10% upon submitting the final copy of the film for the Cinema Archives, as it has been agreed, and the verification of the budget after the presentation of the film to the C.A.C.

Changes to the above percentages may be carried out only for the first three installments (points i, ii and iii) and only after valid documentation of the reasons (e.g. possibilities of the fund) in consultation with the Producer.

5 ANIMATED FILMS

PRODUCTION

MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF FUNDING

INTRODUCTION

1. This Chapter of the film funding programme reflects the implementation of the Deputy Ministry's policy in the field of Short Animated Film or Feature length Animated Film.
2. It aims at developing Animated Films through the creation of projects with significant artistic, technical and financial specifications.
3. Proposals shall be accepted for the production of Animated Feature Films up to 90' long, and projects of Short Films the total duration of which does not exceed 15 minutes.
4. Agreements shall be signed with Production Agencies in all cases except in the case of a Short Animated Film which is subsidized by the Deputy Ministry of Culture .

- i. **Short Animated Film:** The Deputy Ministry's participation in short Animated films up to 15' long is up to €50.000 or a percentage of 80%, whichever of the two is the lowest. If this is a first film for the Director, the Production Agency it is not required to submit an application.
- ii. **Animated Feature Film:** The Deputy Ministry's participation for Animated Films for 60' to 90' long films amounts to €450.000 or up to 70%, when it falls under the "difficult films" category, and up to 60% when it is an international film, whichever is the lowest. This amount includes funding for the Development of a Film Production Plan, Scriptwriting and the creation of a short pilot film*

* Proposals for Animated Feature Films (60' - 90') may be classified under the Scriptwriting Programme (see Chapter A - Funding for Scriptwriting) and the Development of a Film Production Plan (see Chapter B – Development of a Film Production Plan).

PRODUCTION

1. The exact amount for funding the production of approved plans for films, shall be specified by C.A.C. according to the film's requirements. The following shall be taken into account:
 - i. The dynamics of the plan.
 - ii. The possibilities of the same being implemented.
 - iii. Support from the local or international market.
 - iv. Production requirements.
 - v. Techniques to be used.
 - vi. Budget
 - vii. Director's experience in the field of animation.
 - viii. Producer's experience and in particular in the field of animation.

PARTICIPATION CONDITIONS

1. The producer must have financially covered 30% of his/her production budget in order to be able to submit an application for the production of an Animated Feature Film.
2. 30% of the budget's covering may be attained in one of the following ways or a combination thereof:
 - i. Capitalisation of the remuneration of the Scriptwriter, Director and Producer, if the beneficiaries so wish;
 - ii. Cash money, secured either with the participation of a television channel or by pre-selling rights to users of the project, either in Cyprus or abroad, or from another reliable source of funding;
 - iii. Through the participation of funding organisations;
 - iv. Contribution of equipment or provision of services;
 - v. Deferral payments
 - vi. Sponsorships.
3. The Director and the Producer of the

proposed film must have experience in the production and direction of Animated Films.

CONTENT OF PARTICIPATION FILE

A. The Participation File for Short Animated Films must contain the following:

1. Participation statement (designated form).
2. Description of technique used.
3. Director's curriculum vitae.
4. Scriptwriter's curriculum vitae.
5. Complete script.
6. Complete story-board or 3 completed scenes of a 2' duration which demonstrate the technique to be used and a description of the technique to be used.
7. A complete presentation of the films characters, if any.
8. The Producer is obliged to secure the Intellectual Property Rights on the script, music and archive material (musical, visual and acoustic) to be used in the film, where this is feasible. Otherwise the Producer is obliged to pre-commit himself/herself that he/she will secure the intellectual rights for the music and the archive material (music, audio and visual) to be used for the film.

9. Detailed full production budget which, inter alia, must include: a) production insurance costs, b) interpositive costs, a copy and whatever else which may be required for a 35 mm copy, blow up costs in internegative 35mm and a copy if the film is shot in 16 super, costs for the production of a final copy /Master DCP if filmed on digital technology (for the cinema archives), c) construction costs for a complete international band, and d) cinema trailer and television spot.
10. Documentation for securing Intellectual Property Rights from the beneficiaries in the case where the script is based on a pre-existing film (literary etc.).
11. Planning and time schedule for the completion of the production.
12. Documentation for the ability to cover 30% of the budget.
13. Previous work of animated films of the director if it is a Feature film.

The file may also include the following optional data:

- Letters for the participation of artists and technicians

- Letters indicating interest for the funding of the production
- Letters of interest the distribution of the production

B. For Animated Feature Films (duration 60'to 90'): the Participation File must contain: all documents referred to in the Chapter on the Development of a Film Production Plan for a Feature Film (Complete Production file).

PRODUCTION

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Adequacy of the aesthetics and dramaturgy of the script and story-board including the originality of the conception of the idea.
2. The degree of interest in the technique to be used by the director.
3. Professional experience of the producer (in the proposals for Feature Films) in general and in particular in the field of animated films.
4. Professional experience of the Director.
5. Aesthetic value of the proposed project.
6. The value of the artistic and technical dynamics of the proposal.
7. The proper implementation of the financial planning of the film.
8. The extent of the association between the proposed animated film with the film market (distribution, television, video etc.).

PROCEDURE FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSALS

1. Upon examining the script and / or the Story Board including the Film Production File, the C.A.C. shall decide on the amount of the funding.
2. If the proposal is subsequently approved by the Competent Authority, the producer shall be notified in writing of the amount of funding and the grounds on which the approval was based.
3. An Agreement shall be signed within four months from the date that the Producer notifies the Deputy Ministry of Culture in writing of the acceptance of the funding, on the condition that he/she can prove that he/she can fully cover the budget of the production, and that he/she has submitted the agreements containing a list of the key contributors of the film etc..
4. Payment of the last installment is effected after the presentation and inspection of the film by the C.A.C. and upon submitting all material which is deliverable as provided in the Agreement, a final copy of the film in the form which has been agreed upon and upon presenting receipts of the

production costs from a reputable audit firm, and the same shall be later inspected by the Deputy Ministry of Culture.

Except in cases where the budget for film production requires otherwise, or there are season shootings or other similar special shooting cases, the disbursement of the amount shall be carried out as follows:

- i. 30% upon signing the Production Agreement.
- ii. 50% one month before the commencement of the shootings.
- iii. 10% upon the commencement of the Postproduction.
- iv. 10% upon submitting the final copy of the film as it has been agreed for the Cinema Archives and the verification of the budget after the presentation of the film to the C.A.C.

v.

CHAPTER D'

PROMOTION / SCREENING / DISTRIBUTION

For all Film Categories

INTRODUCTION

1. Given the support required to promote the film industry, State governments are implementing various programmes, which are further supported when their films are defined as 'difficult' by the EU, as in the case of Cyprus. Therefore, the Deputy Ministry of Culture is developing this programme for the dynamic reinforcement of the Cypriot film industry, and the efforts of the producer and the director for the screening of the film in cinemas.
2. Despite the short history of Cypriot cinematography, Cypriot film creators have proven their value with participations in many festivals and by receiving a large number of awards. A serious and comprehensive organisation in the screening of a film at a festival is essential, and this is the reason why the State supports such participations in the best possible manner, as these are also a great opportunity to promote our country.
3. Once the production of the film which has been funded by the Deputy Ministry of Culture is completed, the Deputy Ministry of Culture shall accept proposals from producers (directors in

the case of first-time Short Films) for the promotion of their films in the commercial network, their participation in Film Festivals and important film markets.

4. The proposals may be submitted immediately after film's presentation to the C.A.C. and the submission of a copy for the Archives.
5. The maximum intensity of the total state aid for the promotion, distribution and participation of the films in Festivals is set in accordance to the aid intensity that was or could have been granted for the production of the film, depending on the category it falls under (non-difficult films, difficult films).
6. This chapter sets the maximum intensity levels, which must not exceed, in the total funding for a film, the appropriate intensities, per film category.

PROMOTION/ SCREENING/ DISTRIBUTION

FEATURE FILMS

(Fiction, Animated Film and Feature Length Documentary)

SUPPORT OF THE PROMOTION

As a first step, A.C.F may recommend covering part of the expenditure for:

- i. A copy with English subtitles and costs for translation/subtitles;
- ii. A professional telecine, if required;
- iii. The production of a Demo
- iv. The creation of a number DVDs or USBs with English subtitles;
- v. The Webpage of the film;
- vi. A poster in Greek and in another foreign language;
- vii. Greek and foreign language leaflets/translations;
- viii. Photographs;
- ix. DCP screener in case it is requested at the Festivals;
- x. Anything else which may be requested for the promotion/screening of the film and which may be deemed reasonable by the C.A.C.

The Deputy Ministry of Culture subsidizes up to 80% of the costs for the above works and in any case no more than the amount of €17.000. Part of the material must be submitted to

the Deputy Ministry of Culture for the purpose of promoting the films.

SUPPORT OF DISTRIBUTION

1. In cases where a film production has secured a Commercial Screening in a movie theatre in Cyprus, the Deputy Ministry of Culture will subsidise the producer for promoting the film with an amount up to €34.000 which may amount to 100% of the costs of the eligible expenses when it comes to a “difficult” film and from 50% to 60% for the remaining cases.
2. Out of the above amount €1.700 is granted to the producer for each cinema hall, per week. The remaining amount is granted for radio and television advertisements, possible upgrading of a website, costs for an advertising Agency or a Public Relations coordinator, and for promoting the film through advertising on the radio, television, the press and the internet.
3. The Deputy Ministry of Culture shall also participate in overseas distribution costs, depending on its participation in the film’s production on the budget which has been submitted for distribution costs. In any event, regardless of the provision in the budget for distribution costs, the maximum participation of the Deputy

Ministry of Culture shall not exceed €20.000.

4. Before the Commercial Promotion of the film an agreement is signed between the Producer and the Deputy Ministry of Culture, which sets out the final percentage of the state’s royalties on the film (as this will be calculated from the final documented costs of the film), the duration of its promotion in the commercial network and/or the cinema hall/s in which it shall be presented, the ticket cost etc.

PARTICIPATING IN FILM FESTIVALS

1. Upon delivery of the final copy to the Deputy Ministry of Culture, the Producer submits a schedule for the submission of a request to participate in various International Film Festivals. The Deputy Ministry of Culture grants up to 1500 euro for postal services and the submission of the subscription fees to the festivals that will be co-decided with the Producer. The amount of 1000 ευρώ shall not exceed a total of 80% of the general costs for the submission of applications.
2. Thereafter, upon presenting an official invitation from a festival and a detailed budget for the expenses, a proposal for financial support of the Producer is forwarded for approval, for the best possible presentation of the film at the festivals where the film will be screened.
3. Costs which may be covered are as follows:

PROMOTION/ SCREENING/ DISTRIBUTION

- i. Printing a festival copy (with subtitles if required);
- ii. additional information material (in case what has already been printed is not enough or needs to be printed in another language);
- iii. expenses for a reception or dinner for journalists, actors, distributors and other stakeholders that will enhance the promotion of the film;
- iv. Advertisement of the film at the Festival;
- v. Transportation and accommodation of two film contributors;
- vi. Anything else which may be required for the promotion/presentation of the film which may be deemed reasonable by the C.A.C.

The aid may be changed depending on the importance of the Festival and the programme of which the film is part of.

4. 80% of the approval is granted immediately and the remaining balance upon submitting the necessary documentation for the costs to the Deputy Ministry of Culture.

5. In the event where a film is selected by the European Film Academy or the American Film Academy Awards (Oscars) the Deputy Ministry of Culture may cover additional expenses.

SHORT FICTION FILMS AND ANIMATED FILMS

Films which fall under this category are classified as difficult films and consequently the intensity of the aid for the promotion, distribution and the participation of films at a Festival, may be up to 80%

PROMOTION EXPENSES

1. Upon delivery of the final copy to the Deputy Ministry of Culture, the Producer will submit a schedule for the submission of an application to participate in various International Film Festivals. The Deputy Ministry of Culture grants up to 1000 euro for postal services and submission fees to the festivals that will be co-decided with the Producer. The amount shall not exceed 80% of the total expenditure for sending the material.
2. Thereafter, following the presentation of the film to the C.A.C., the same shall consider the proposals and shall recommend the funding of tasks for its screening in festivals, cinema halls

PROMOTION/ SCREENING/ DISTRIBUTION

or its promotion to the distribution network.

Funding may cover:

- i. Design and printing of a poster;
 - ii. Design and printing of promotional material;
 - iii. Translation of the material to be used for the promotion of the film;
 - iv. Translation of the film for the subtitles;
 - v. Integration of subtitles to the master copy of the film;
 - vi. Reproduction of subtitled digital DEMOs;
 - vii. Reproduction of photos;
 - viii. Anything else required for the promotion/screening of the film which may be deemed reasonable by the C.A.C.
3. Funding must not exceed €8.500 for both Short Film categories and for the Short Animated Film. Part of the material shall be submitted to the Deputy Ministry of Culture .
 4. In the event of the film participating in a recognised Festival, the Deputy Ministry of Culture may cover any additional screening costs (e.g. Airfares and part of the accommodation for the director or

other film contributors (up to two persons), or printing of a copy for the

Festival or other material if required). Funding shall not exceed 80% of the costs.

DISTRIBUTION EXPENSES

In order to encourage movie theatre managers to screen Cypriot short films prior to the screening of a feature film, an amount of up to €3,500 may be granted for the screening of each short film for a period of three months. The request must be submitted by the theatre manager together with the agreement with the Producer for the granting the right to screen the film with the Producer.

In the event where the film secures its screening in a movie theatre/s for three months, the Deputy Ministry of Culture will cover 80% of the costs for printing the necessary copies. And an amount up to €500 as a reasonable consideration for intellectual property rights to the Producer, provided that it will be submitted together with an application from the Producer and the Agreement with the movie theatre manager.

SHORT AND MEDIUM LENGTH DOCUMENTARY

EXPENSES FOR THE PROMOTION/DISTRIBUTION - FESTIVALS

The intensity of the aid for the promotion, distribution and the participation of difficult films (documentaries) at a Festival, may amount up to 80%.

1. Upon delivery of the final copy to the Deputy Ministry of Culture, the Producer submits a schedule for the submission of an application to participate in various International Film Festivals. The Deputy Ministry of Culture grants up to 1.000 euro for postal services and submission fees to the festivals that will be co-decided with the Producer.
2. Thereafter, following the presentation of the film to the C.A.C., the same shall consider the proposals and shall recommend the funding for its screening in festivals, cinema halls or its promotion to the distribution network.

Funding may cover:

- ix. Design and printing of a poster;
 - x. Design and printing of promotional material;
 - xi. Translation of the material to be used for the promotion of the film;
 - xii. Translation of the film for the subtitles;
 - xiii. Integration of subtitles to the master copy of the film;
 - xiv. Reproduction of subtitled digital DEMOs;
 - xv. Reproduction of photos;
 - xvi. Anything else required for the promotion /screening of the film which may be deemed reasonable by the C.A.C.
3. Funding should not exceed €8.500 for a short and medium length documentary.

PROMOTION/SCREENING/DISTRIBUTION

4. If the film is participating in a recognised Festival, the Deputy Ministry of Culture may cover any additional screening costs (e.g. airfares and part of the accommodation for the director or other film contributor (up to two persons), the printing of a copy for the festival or any other material if required).

5. Funding must not exceed 80% of the costs. All the aforementioned shall depend on the form in which the film is shot and how the film shall be screened.

CHAPTER E'

MINORITY PARTICIPATION OF A CYPRIOT CO-PRODUCER

MINORITY PARTICIPATION OF CYPRIOT CO-PRODUCER

INTRODUCTION

The programme applies exclusively to the category of Feature Fiction Films and Documentaries of a 60' minimum duration.

The following Films qualify for participation:

A. International Co-production Works, from member-states of the Council of Europe or countries with which Cyprus has signed a bilateral agreement, in which the Cypriot co-producer shall participate with a minimum percentage of 10%.

B. Co-productions with third countries who have ratified the European Convention on Cinematographic Co-productions, where the Cypriot Co-producer may participate with a minimum percentage of 5%.

(Note: Once the European Convention on Cinematographic Co-Production is ratified (Rotterdam 30.1.2017) the aforementioned rates shall be amended in order to be in line with the above Convention).

The Cypriot nationality may be granted, in accordance to the European Convention on Cinematographic Co-productions or other inter-state conventions, to the aforesaid films, in line with the procedure specified in such conventions.

The application is submitted to the Cultural Services (Cinema Department) through a Cypriot Producer **three to four times** a year, during the months of February, May, July and November, and shall be examined always depending on the available budget for financing Cinematographic works.

Requests shall be examined by the competent Committee, which shall notify the results within 2 months from the date of submission.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. The application is submitted by the Cypriot Co-producer.
2. The application must meet at least three of the eligible costs (cultural test) criteria.
3. The maximum State participation in cash may amount up to €120.000 and cannot exceed 25% of the total budget of the film.
4. The maximum State participation shall be determined according to the financial capabilities of the Fund for Film Production.
5. The amount approved shall be spent in Cyprus, in the following manner:
 - 100%, for provision of services
 - 140%, for shootings which will be carried out in Cyprus.
6. The number of Cypriot contributors participating in the film's production or the days of filming in Cyprus shall constitute the basic prerequisite according to which the intensity of aid shall be determined. In the case of

MINORITY PARTICIPATION OF CYPRIOT CO-PRODUCER

shootings taking place in Cyprus, the minimum duration provided is one week.

7. Eligible expenses are defined as those which are related to the production, post-production, purchase of other services **within Cyprus** such as: accommodation, meals (restaurants, catering etc.), travelling, permits for filming, remuneration for Cypriot contributors, constructions, hiring costs for decoration purposes (props), hiring machinery and equipment, airfares and shipping costs (paid to a Cypriot company registered in Cyprus), hiring costumes, telecommunications, professional services and postproduction services and/or other audiovisual services from local service providing companies as well as local technical and artistic staff.
8. Upon approval of the application, a schedule of up to 6 months is fixed for the Cypriot Producer for submitting all the final supplementary documents required for the completion of the production file. The shootings shall begin 2 months after signing the relevant Agreement.
9. The Cypriot producer shall sign a relevant Agreement with the State which will prescribe the percentage of ownership rights of the Cypriot Group (Producer, other Co-producers and the Deputy Ministry of Culture) and the percentage of royalties on each one of the films.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (Cultural test)

The proposal shall be deemed as eligible if satisfying at least 3 of the eligibility criteria set out below:

1. The main theme of the script must be based on contemporary cultural, social, political, historical, religious and mythological issues relating to Cypriot, European or International Civilization.
2. At least one of the key characters of the film must be related to the Cyprus, European or International civilization, history, society, political life, religion or mythology.
3. The script or the main theme of the film must be based on an adaptation of an existing significant Cyprus, European or International literary work.
4. The script or the main theme of the film must focus on Cypriot, European or International tradition and customs.

MINORITY PARTICIPATION OF CYPRIOT CO-PRODUCER

5. The film must reflect important Cyprus, European or International Values such as cultural diversity, equality, minority rights, tolerance, ecological protection, family and cultural traditions.

Applications blatantly advocating violence, racism, pornography, that offend the religious beliefs of people, contain libel and encourage the use of substances SHALL NOT BE EXAMINED.

PRODUCTION FILE

If 3 of the above criteria are met, the Cypriot Producer submits the relevant file to the Deputy Ministry of Culture to be examined prior to the filming of the film and within one of the three submission periods announced by the Deputy Ministry. The Folder should contain the following documents:

1. Complete Final Script for Fiction films and Documentaries, final Story board for Animated Films. If the above are not filmed in the Greek language they must be submitted with an English translation.
2. Synopsis, detailed summary (treatment) of the film, director's and producer's note translated into the Greek language.
3. Documentation for securing the Intellectual Property Rights from the beneficiaries, in the event where the script is based on an existing work (literary).
4. Evidence of a deed protecting the intellectual rights of the script.
5. Securing the property rights of the script.
6. Agreement for the production of a film between the Scriptwriter and the Producer.
7. Agreement for the production of a film between the Director and the main (delicate) producer of the film.
8. Sample of previous work of the Director or the Production Agency.
9. Documentation for securing at least 50% of the total costs of the film.
10. Agreements with Co-producers and Sponsors. In the event where the film's sponsors include Cinema Centres, similar State Institutions or Other Official EU Agency. A letter confirming their participation in the Production is acceptable.
11. Financial Planning of the Production.
12. Full analysis of the financial schedule of the production budget per Group.
13. Detailed Production Budget which must, inter alia, include a) insurance costs for Cyprus, b) production costs for a final copy (35mm or DCP if digital technology is used for the Cinema Archives).
14. Detailed distribution of expenses to be carried out in Cyprus (type and amount of expenditure).
15. Co-production pre-agreement which will evidence the participation percentage of the Cypriot producer

MINORITY PARTICIPATION OF CYPRIOT CO-PRODUCER

and his/her participation in the film's ownership (copyright).

16. List of Cypriot contributors and technicians who will take part in the production.
17. Any additional information which the Producers deems fit to submit for upgrading his/her file.
18. The application must be submitted in 4 copies and electronically in a PDF format. Copies shall not be returned.

If the Proposal is approved by the Deputy Ministry of Culture, a time limit of 6 months is allowed for submitting all the final supplementary documents and the agreements required for signing the Co-production Agreement with the Government and the Cypriot Producer.

In the event where the Proposal is rejected, the reasoning behind the rejection shall be notified to the Cypriot Producer.

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. The originality in the conception and development of the film's theme, the aesthetics, the adequacy of dramaturgy and the narrative proficiency of the script and the overall artistic dynamic and completeness of the draft summary submitted, as well as how interesting is the director's approach.
2. The proposed Director's filmography.
3. The Scriptwriter's previous work.
4. The professional experience of all Co-producers.
5. The Cyprus Production Agency's adequacy and capabilities.
6. Participations in festivals and awards for the previous works of the Director, the Executive Producer, and the Scriptwriter.
7. The response of the public on their previous works.
8. The profile of the Co-producers.
9. Previous good cooperation of the Cypriot Producer with the Government, namely the professionalism and diligence in demonstrated in carrying out and

completing the cooperation with the Deputy Ministry of Culture.

10. Previous participation of the Cypriot Producer in minority co-productions with other countries will be taken into account during the evaluation process by the Deputy Ministry of Culture.
11. The potential, at the Commission's discretion, for commercial and artistic success of the Proposal.
12. Guaranteeing the distribution of the film.
13. The projected possibilities for completion of the funding of the Production.
14. The total number of shooting days in Cyprus, with a minimum number of days being 7 (one per week).
15. The number of Cypriot technicians or artists who will work for the production concerned.

MINORITY PARTICIPATION OF CYPRIOT CO-PRODUCER

STATE'S FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION

The amount of funding is determined by the Deputy Ministry of Culture depending on each particular case, and on the level of contribution of the Cypriot participation in artistic and technical staff, the number of shootings which will take place in Cyprus and documented costs in Cyprus (workshops, post-production, equipment etc.) always in conjunction with the Selection Criteria.

Maximum state participation in cash may amount to €120.000 and cannot

exceed 25% of the total budget of the film.

1. The amount of funding must be spent in Cyprus, in the following manner:
 - 100%, for the provision of services
 - 140%, for shootings which will take place in Cyprus.
2. If the Proposal is approved a letter is sent to the Cypriot Producer regarding the approved amount informing him/her so.
3. A period of up to 6 months is allowed for submitting the evidence for the entire amount of funding. If all the
4. Once all the supplementary documents required are submitted then the Co-Production Agreement is signed with the Cypriot Producer.
5. Shootings must begin no later than 2 months after signing the relevant Agreement.
6. Payments to the Cyprus Producer shall begin upon signing the Co-production Agreement.
7. Funding is granted in three phases:
 - above are not submitted within the above 6 month time limit, the approval shall be suspended automatically.

MINORITY PARTICIPATION OF CYPRIOT CO-PRODUCER

i. Signing of the Agreement:

10% upon signing the Co-production Agreement with the Cypriot Producer.

ii. First day of shootings or commencement of operations: 50%

iii. Film completion: 40% after the audit of expenses incurred in Cyprus, based on valid receipts in the name of the Cypriot Co-producer for the specific project, and upon their final approval by the Deputy Ministry of Culture Accounts Department. In addition, the Cypriot Producer must submit a digital projection copy for the

Archives of the Cultural Services with Greek subtitles or / digital subtitle file with Greek subtitles.

8. Presentation of the Accounts to the Government shall be in respect to 100% of the amount of funding, as regards the provision of services, and 140% as regards the shootings in Cyprus. The Government reserves its right on property and exploitation of the film through the Cypriot Production (Cyprus Group).

CHAPTER F'

FUNDING OF MICRO-BUDGET FEATURE FILM

Intensities up to 80% - (Difficult Films)

FUNDING OF MICRO-BUDGET FEATURE FILM

INTRODUCTION

The main purpose of the Programme is to subsidize more feature films, so that there is an ongoing production of films, which is very important, both as regards creatively and in terms of development, for the continuous flow of employment for professionals of this sector in all fields. Furthermore, the programme aims to improve the quality of scripts and their successful adaptation to very low budget conditions. Finally, young directors are given the opportunity to have at least one feature film in their resume, and older ones to produce a film in a short period of time without having to wait long for the next high budget film.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

If the budget of a feature film does not exceed 85,000 euro and the language of the film is in one of the 2 official languages of the Republic of Cyprus, and the director or the film itself is considered to be directly related to the Cypriot culture and civilization, then the particular application may be approved directly for production and shall be funded at a rate of 80% by the C.A.C., namely with a maximum amount of 68,000 euros

Furthermore:

- Such applications are examined by the C.A.C. and are approved within 3 months from the date of the application.
- Approved applications must be completed and a final copy must be

delivered within 12 months from their approval.

- The application may be submitted without going through a production agency, however in such a case an executive producer must be appointed.
- A Director who is associated with another funding scheme, has the right to apply also for this programme.
- The percentage of state property ownership in the film is 80%.

CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION, SELECTION CRITERIA, SIGNING THE AGREEMENT, PAYMENT OF INSTALLMENTS

All conditions and regulations of the programme regarding low budget feature fiction films shall apply.

ANNEXES

ANNEX I

Competent Bodies

1. The Deputy Minister Culture is the Competent Authority which decides on and approves the recommendations made by the Cinema Advisory Committee with regard to funding films.

All amounts which relate to the promotion and distribution of films are exempted.

The responsibility for the development of a film production and the implementation of this regulation, lies with the Deputy Ministry of Culture since 2004 (Council of Ministers Decision no.56.767). The Deputy Ministry of Culture shall be presiding the C.A.C., shall operate the Secretariat, draw up the minutes and submit the C.A.C.'s recommendations to Deputy Ministry of Culture. Furthermore, it is also responsible for signing agreements with producers, supervising and safekeeping the

contracts, and in general for managing all correspondence with the producers and other parties concerned and associates. Finally, the Director General of the Deputy Ministry of Culture has the right to approve an amount of up to €60.000 for each proposal without referral to the Deputy Minister of Culture.

2. The Cinema Advisory Committee which was set up in 1994 by decision of the Council of Ministers (no. 40.698) is the competent advisory body and is responsible, on the basis of their know-how and experience on films, to study scripts and proposals and to advise the Government on supporting cinematographic productions.

Following a number of decisions of the Council of Ministers, the members of the C.A.C. are the following:

- A Representative of the Cultural Services (President)
- A Representative of the Ministry of Finance
- A Representative of the Cyprus Union of Directors
- A Representative of the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation
- A Representative of the Ministry of Energy, Commerce, Industry and Tourism
- Four honorary members appointed by the Council of Ministers.

The members of the Cinema Advisory Committee (C.A.C.) are appointed by the Council of Ministers, upon the recommendation of the Deputy Minister of Culture, for a term of four years, with a right to renew

the said term for an additional four year period.

No person whose proposal has been approved and is in the process of film production may participate in the C.A.C, or who has any contractual or financial matters pending with the Deputy Ministry of Culture concerning films that have been approved by the Deputy Minister of Culture. Furthermore, the provisions of the General Principles of Administrative Law must be met. C.A.C. decisions are taken on a simple majority. In the event of equality of votes, the Chairman of the Committee has a casting vote.

ANNEX II

Definitions:

For the purposes of this Regulation:

1. Programme means the framework of technical, artistic and financial characteristics which must be met by the film proposal plans, so that their producers are entitled to submit an application for funding.
2. Film means an audio-visual film, for the production of which the process of chemical or electronic recording of images has been used for the purpose of presenting the film to the public.
3. Feature Fiction Film means a film from 90 to 110' long.
4. Short Film means a film the length of which does not exceed 15'.
5. Animated Film means a Short Film (up to 15') or a Feature Film (from 60 to 90') which narrates stories through the art of animation.
6. Documentary means a Short Film (from 25 -30') or a Feature Film (from 50 to 60' or up to 90'), the main characteristic of which is the representation of reality.
7. Script Development is the programme under which the Producer and / or Scriptwriter is supported in his effort to write and improve the script.
8. Development of Film Production Plan (international term: development) is the programme under which the Producer is supported in order to achieve the financial and other conditions required to commence the production of the film.
9. Difficult Films: as these are defined in the General Terms/ Paragraph 11.
10. A Producer is the natural or legal person who has obtained the intellectual property rights on the film to be produced, he/she raises the funds required and is responsible for the financial and organizational responsibility to complete his/her production.
11. A Co-producer is the natural or legal person who participates in the production of the film by financing the same and obtains part of the property rights of the film.
12. Delegate Producer – in the case of co-producers- is the natural or legal person who has full contractual authority by all co-producers of a film to organise and complete his/her production.
13. Financial Contributor is the natural or legal person who financially supports the production of a film, obtains property rights or exploitation rights, but has no organizational responsibility during the production phase.
14. An Executive Producer is the natural or legal person to whom the Producer assigns the execution of a planned production of a film and who is remunerated by him/her, has no property rights on any film and is not responsible for financing the production.
15. A Production Agency or Producer is a Film Production or other audio-visual material company registered in Cyprus which has proven production experience in filming or audio-visual work, over

and above the individual productions of its shareholders.

16. For documentaries the term script refers to an extensive skeleton of a script and/or a script.
17. Recognised Festivals are Festivals which are included in the list of internationally recognised Festivals FIAPF (International Federation of Film Producers Association).
18. A First Short Film is specified as the first film submitted for funding by the Deputy Ministry of Culture.

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