

HOW TO COPRODUCE WITH

BULGARIA

AGRIAN



НАЦИОНАЛЕН ФИЛМОВ ЦЕНТЪР
BULGARIAN NATIONAL FILM CENTER



HOW TO COPRODUCE WITH

State support for international co-productions for which foreign co-producer's funding is available, is granted after a competition announced by the Bulgarian National Film Center (BNFC).

The following types of films are supported:

- a feature or animated film lasting more than 70 minutes;
- a documentary film lasting more than 60 minutes;
- a short film lasting less than 40 minutes;
- feature series lasting from 6 to 14 episodes, each lasting more than 40 minutes of pure program time;
- documentary series lasting from 6 to 14 episodes with a duration of each episode over 40 minutes of pure program time;
- animated series with a total duration of not less than 24 minutes.

Eligible Applicants

- **The following applicants are eligible** for state support under the international co-production support scheme:
 - Independent producer registered in the register at the BNFC, who does not have any outstanding obligations to the agency and/or outstanding public obligations to the national budget, as well as director's project who does not have any unfinished subsidized film of the same type.

II. Eligible Projects

- Cross-border productions and films that are produced under co-production conditions with countries – signatories to the Council of Europe Convention on Cinematographic Co-production, and with other countries with which the Republic of Bulgaria has entered into agreements in the field of film industry and audio vision;
- **The funding for the project ensured by the foreign co-producer originates from international, national or regional fund** or institution and/or television broadcaster with national coverage on the territory of the foreign co-producer's country.

The share of the Bulgarian producer in the project budget is not less than 10 percent for bilateral co-production and not less than 5 percent for multilateral co-production.

III. Scope of Financial Support

The intensity of state support for the production of international co-productions is in the amount of **up to 60 percent** of eligible costs for films and **up to 50 percent** for series, for that portion of them, which is relevant to the **Bulgarian participation**.

All used data are summed before the deduction of taxes and other fees.

At least 75 percent of the Bulgarian state support for production of films and series should be spent on the territory of Bulgaria.

IV. Evaluation of International Co-Production Projects/Procedure

The international co-production projects are subject to evaluation at **two stages**.

The first stage comprises the evaluation by National Artistic Commission. Upon successful completion of the first stage and

admission of the international co-production for funding (by virtue of order of the executive director), the project automatically (within 30 days) proceeds to the second stage – evaluation by Financial Commission.

First stage:

Each project applying for state support under state aid scheme is evaluated as a cultural product in accordance with:

- 1.** Its cultural, artistic and creative features focusing on the originality of the topic, the artistic value of the screenplay, used creative methods of film narrative, dramaturgic structure, main characters, director's explication and/or visual concept, the creative potential of the project within the context of the European cultural diversity;
- 2.** Its audience potential and the capacity for cultural impact;
- 3.** The correspondence among the screenplay, proposed artistic and creative solutions and the economic justification of proposed budget;
- 4.** The justification of the financial plan and the production strategy;
- 5.** Ex officio evaluation by the agency in accordance with criteria defined in the Act implementing regulations, based on:
 - a)** the experience and professional achievements of the producer and the director, the recognition of their previous works by the audience;
 - b)** at least 7500 realised paid admissions in the country and abroad of previous full-length feature film;
 - c)** distribution of full-length feature films in at least 25 percent of the operating theaters countrywide;
 - d)** official selection or awards from festivals of A or B Category;
- 6.** Distribution schedule and project marketing;
- 7.** Promotion of Bulgarian culture, public development, historic heritage, traditions and tourism capacity.

Second stage:

Financial evaluation is carried out within one month of the enforcement of the order for admitted projects.

The Financial commission reviews:

1. Film or series production project by taking into account:
 - a) the correspondence among the proposed budget, the workbook (only for feature films), the financial plan, the schedule of the project and submitted contracts and/or offers for provision of services;
 - b) the correspondence between the financial plan and the contract or other documents ensuring its implementation;
 - c) the correspondence between the co-production agreement and the detailed consolidated budget verifying the level of cost coverage by each of the co-producers;
 - d) the producer's remuneration, which may not exceed the director's remuneration, allowing increases of up to 15 percent upon submission of the relevant reasoning;
 - e) draft budget.

The financial commission carries out expert evaluation and based on justified decision suggests to the executive director the amount of the grant for each individual project.

V. Support Agreement

After the enforcement of the order of the executive director of the Agency determining the amount of funding of winning projects, **within 18 months** the applicants file an application to enter into state support agreement for international co-production, with enclosed documents that verify the provision of project funding.

NB

All foreign language documents enclosed to the application should be submitted with Bulgarian translation certified by a sworn translator.

VI. Schedule of Competition Sessions

• BNFC announces 4 competition sessions per year to support films and 2 sessions for series.

Total amount for 2024 is approx. BGN 3 100 000 (approx. 1 600 000 EUR).

	First Session		Second Session		Third Session		Fourth Session	
Type of projects	Submission Deadline	Decision-making	Submission Deadline	Decision-making	Submission Deadline	Decision-making	Submission Deadline	Decision-making
Fiction films	19.01.2024 (Friday)	23.02.2024 (Friday)	01.03.2024 (Friday)	31.05.2024 (Friday)	19.07.2024 (Friday)	23.08.2024 (Friday)	02.09.2024 (Monday)	29.11.2024 (Friday)
Fiction Series	08.03.2024 (Friday)	26.04.2024 (Friday)	02.08.2024 (Friday)	23.10.2024 (Wednesday)				
Documentary films	19.01.2024 (Friday)	23.02.2024 (Friday)	08.03.2024 (Friday)	26.04.2024 (Friday)	19.07.2024 (Friday)	23.08.2024 (Friday)	09.09.2024 (Monday)	25.10.2024 (Friday)
Documentary Series	15.03.2024 (Friday)	03.05.2024 (Friday)	09.08.2024 (Friday)	01.11.2024 (Friday)				
Animated films	19.01.2024 (Friday)	23.02.2024 (Friday)	15.03.2024 (Friday)	19.04.2024 (Friday)	19.07.2024 (Friday)	23.08.2024 (Friday)	16.09.2024 (Monday)	18.10.2024 (Friday)
Animated Series	22.03.2024 (Friday)	10.05.2024 (Friday)	16.08.2024 (Friday)	08.11.2024 (Friday)				



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