



Public Broadcasting Services Limited

Media Release

FilmMalta: call for proposals

1. Objectives

PBS, in collaboration with Arts Council Malta, is issuing a call for proposals for the production of two full-length feature TV films to be aired on TVM and TVM2; and eventually marketed internationally.

The aim of the call is to incentivise the development of original, quality-driven work on the public broadcasting station, support the creation of new and innovative feature-films while striving to bring them to the attention of audiences overseas.

2. Initiative

The call is divided into two as follows:

Strand 1: the script of a tv film based on a pre-selected literary work. In this call, the PBS Board has selected the novel *Il-Hajja taż-Żgħożija* by Lino Spiteri on the basis of its thematic relevance and the fact that the novel forms part of the Maltese syllabus.

Strand 2: the script for an original TV film, preferably based on a literary work in Maltese.

The highest ranking script from each strand will be recommended for funding.

3. Budget

The budget allocated for this yearly initiative is EUR200,000 covering the production of two selected projects.

The budget allocated may cover up to 80% of the total project cost while not exceeding the allocated sum.

The Funding Body reserves the right not to distribute all the funds available.

4. Time-frames

Issue of call:	Early November 2016
Application deadline:	26th January 2017

Evaluation:	February 2017
Pitching sessions:	February 2017
Project Implementation:	March 17 – December 17

5. Eligibility criteria

The initiative will support the production of full-length TV films in Maltese produced or commissioned by independent audiovisual production companies licensed to operate in Malta and aired on TVM and TVM2 while appealing to a universal audience.

Proposed works must qualify as difficult audiovisual works and applications will only be submitted for evaluation if they achieve 80% or more in the test that determines whether the proposed work can be defined as a difficult audiovisual work according to the following criteria:

- Audiovisual work whose original version is in the Maltese language (40 marks)
- Audiovisual work which besides the local limited distribution may prove worthy of interest to foreign markets (25 marks)
- Audiovisual work is low budget not exceeding a total production budget of EUR250,000 (10 marks)
- Audiovisual work is considered commercially difficult because of its subject matter, experimental nature and/or because it represents a very high level of creative risk (15 marks)
- Audiovisual work is directed/produced or authored at least by a first time or second time director/producer/script-writer (10 marks)

6. Ineligible projects

- advertising, corporate and/or promotional films;
- projects including and/or promoting political propaganda;
- projects promoting violence, racism and pornographic content and content violating the Maltese Constitution;
- projects already receiving production and development funding under the Malta Film Fund;
- projects commencing before the submission of application

7. Eligible applicants

The funding is aimed at audiovisual companies that are registered in Malta under the Malta Financial Services Authority Act, Chapter 330 of the Laws of Malta. Applicants must be registered as an audiovisual/media company at the time of submission of their applications. VAT registration is obligatory for all applicants.

The applicant company and/or director/s of the applicant company must provide proof of having produced or co-produced audiovisual works that were distributed in the last five years.

8. Eligible costs

The eligible direct costs are identifiable as specific costs directly linked to the production of the work such as:

- 1) costs of personnel and talent working under an employment contract with the applicant and assigned to the project, comprising actual salaries plus social security contributions and other statutory costs included in their remuneration, provided that these costs are in line with the applicant's usual policy on remuneration or, where applicable, its partners. Production services provided by the broadcaster, are either charged to the project or considered as a contribution towards co-funding;
- 2) rental costs of equipment supplied by external contractors, required for the production of the project, provided that they are identifiable and assigned to the project; costs of consumables and supplies, provided that they are identifiable and assigned to the project;
- 3) subsistence allowances;
- 4) costs of travel;
- 5) costs related to the marketing and promotion of the project;
- 6) contributions in kind (not exceeding 5%);
- 7) non-deductible value added tax ("VAT").

9. Ineligible costs

- 1) return on capital;
- 2) debt and debt service charges;
- 3) provisions for losses or debts;
- 4) interest owed;
- 5) doubtful debts;
- 6) exchange losses;
- 7) costs declared by the beneficiary and covered by another grant of the Government of Malta or the European Union;
- 8) contributions in kind (exceeding 5%);
- 9) excessive or reckless expenditure;
- 10) costs incurred before the start of the eligibility period;
- 11) costs incurred by a co-producer who will not be a co-beneficiary of an agreement in case of selection;
- 12) indirect producers' fees and contingencies;
- 13) costs incurred before submission of application.

All costs eligible for funding under this scheme must be necessary and reasonable for the completion of the project and consistent with the principles of sound financial management and accounting practices.

10. Selection of projects

The call is competitive and only one project from each strand will be selected.

The selection will be based on the following criteria:

1. Portfolio (20 marks)

This criterion will consider the quality of the applicant's portfolio/show reel and the relevance to the proposed work.

2. Concept (40 marks)

This criterion will consider the quality of the treatment provided and the level of audiovisual aesthetic proposed. It will also consider how the concept of the work presented is relevant and compelling as well as the clarity of the presentation proposed.

3. Development (10 marks)

This criterion will consider the level and quality of pre-production development already executed.

4. Production (20 marks)

This criterion will consider the production capacity and readiness of the applicant to successfully produce the proposed work. It will also consider the quality and relevance of the creative team involved.

5. Budget (10 marks)

This criterion will consider the effectiveness and clarity of the proposed budget.

11. Procedure for the selection of proposals

Applications must be submitted by the 26th January 2017 (noon). The Funding Body will not be accepting proposals after the deadline.

Applicants will receive a written acknowledgement of receipt. Applications that do not include all the requested material as specified in the guidelines will be considered ineligible and will not be processed further. Only completed applications will be examined in the next phase and rated according to the specified award criteria of these Guidelines, with a final score calculated.

Eligible applications will be assessed by an evaluation team appointed by the PBS board.

The evaluators will present an assessment on each of the proposed projects indicating the relevant rating awarded and a pitching session may be organised for all candidates. All information received through the call for applications shall be kept confidential and will not be disclosed to any third party. Evaluators are obliged to withdraw from the evaluation process if they have personal or professional association with any of the submitted projects and/or might provide grounds for conflict of interest.

12. Mandatory application presentation

The application package should include the following

- A copy of the complete application in digital format
- Mood Board
- One-page synopsis
- Treatment (up to 15 pages outlining the story)
- Excerpt of the script
- Bio notes of key contributors to the project
- Evidence of ownership of rights for proposed project or contract of acquisition/transfer of rights

13. Submission of application

Applications are to be submitted to the PBS secretariat at Creativity Hub, St Luke's Road, G'Mangia by 26th January 2017 at noon.

14. Evaluation procedure

This initiative is competitive and will be evaluated according to the established and outlined criteria. As specified above, each criterion is allocated a number of specific marks. In order to be considered for funding, projects have to obtain an average of at least 50 marks. Only one project out of those presented will be selected. Therefore obtaining 50 marks or more does not automatically mean that you will be awarded the funds.

15. Communication of results

The results will be communicated on the day indicated in these Guidelines. Together with the covering letter, the applicant will also receive a copy of the evaluation form indicating the reasons leading to the Evaluators' decision, according to the fund criteria.

Distribution Rights

PBS will have 100 percent of the local broadcasting rights. However, since the project also entails a concerted effort by PBS and the beneficiary to market the film internationally, if and when the film is commercially accepted to be screened outside the Maltese territory, the rights are to be divided 30 percent for PBS; and 70 percent for the Beneficiary.

Payment procedures

The disbursement plan will be determined by the PBS in consultation with the beneficiaries.

16. Reporting obligations

Once the Grant Agreement has been signed, the beneficiary may not make substantial changes to the project related to the artistic, economic or technical aspects of the project, unless these are presented in writing and accepted by the Funding Body.

The beneficiary is under the obligation to provide updates and summary reports as requested at different stages throughout the project. The Funding Body may alter or withdraw a grant if the change in the project is not considered in line with the initial proposal, or if it is not informed of the changes within a reasonable time.

17. Complaints

All complaints will be treated confidentially.

Grounds for complaints

Applicants can make a complaint regarding:

Procedural anomalies and irregularities during the submission and evaluation process in terms of the procedures stipulated in these guidelines and regulations.

Complaints cannot be made concerning:

- The Government's policies and procedures;
- The merits of the application in terms of the criteria stipulated in these guidelines and regulations.

Only applicants may file complaints concerning their project.

Filing a complaint

Complaints must be made in writing and must be as clear as possible. The complaint must state the grounds and the reasons for the complaint, providing a detailed explanation and justification supported by relevant documentation or testimonials as to why the complainant deems that irregularities were committed in the procedure/s stipulated in these guidelines and regulations and in standard good governance rules and regulations governing the public sector. Complaints need to be made to the Chair, PBS within two (2) working days of receipt of your result. You will normally receive a reply to your complaint within ten (10) working days from the Funding Body. The decision at the end of the complaint process shall be final.

For more information contact:

Mr John Bundy, CEO at PBS, Creativity Hub, 75, St Luke's Road, G'Mangia.

8th November 2016