

CO-PRODUCTIONS – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

January 2017

1. INTRODUCTION

South Africa has co-production treaties with nine countries, namely:

- Germany
- UK
- Ireland
- France
- Canada
- Australia
- Netherlands
- Italy
- New Zealand

The benefit of producing a project under a co-production treaty is that it is regarded as a national film in the co-producing countries, giving each producer access to finance and incentives available in their own country for such projects.

2. KEY CRITERIA

The details of each treaty should be considered, but the following are the common themes across them:

- Each Co-Producer should contribute a minimum of 20% of the total budget
- Each Co-Producer's artistic and technical contribution should be in proportion their financial contribution
- Filming must take place in one of the co-producing countries, unless otherwise authorised
- Only personnel who are citizens or permanent residents of one of the co-producing countries may participate in the project, unless otherwise authorised. In the case of EU countries, EU citizens meet that requirement.
- Third party or third country participation is permitted, subject to certain restrictions

3. EVALUATION

In South Africa, the National Film and Video Foundation (NFVF) is the competent authority responsible for administering the co-production approval process.

The technical and creative contribution of each Co-Producer is of particular importance in their evaluation process. There needs to be proportionate South African representation across the following groups:

3.1 Technical contribution

- The main group consists of:
 - Writer

- Director
- Production Designer
- DoP/Cinematographer
- Editor
- Composer
- The second group is as follows:
 - Art Director
 - Post-production Co-ordinator
 - 1st AD
 - 2nd AD
 - Second Unit Director/DoP
 - SFX/Stunts Co-ordinator
- The third groups is the balance of the heads of department

3.2 Cast

- Lead Cast
- Supporting Cast

Another relevant consideration is the level of non-treaty participation in the project. As a general rule, the NFVF will only allow a maximum of three third country participants across the key technical and creative roles.

4. APPLICATION PROCESS

4.1 Advance ruling

A preliminary application must be made at least 30 days before the start of principal photography. In practice however, since the advance ruling must accompany the application for provisional approval to the Department of Trade & Industry for the production incentive, the application should be made as early as possible. Once the advance ruling has been issued, projects have six months in order to begin principal photography.

Documents to be included at advance stage include a draft or complete co-production agreement, full chain-of-title information, a detailed production budget and schedule, a finance plan and a temporary credit list.

4.2 Final Ruling

The application for a final ruling is made once the project is complete, accompanied by a DVD copy and the final audited cost report.

A similar list of documentation is required at final ruling stage, except the final documents will be submitted in each case. Once the assessment is completed, the NFVF makes a recommendation to the Department of Arts and Culture to grant a final ruling.

FOR ANY FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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