



APPLICATION GUIDELINES

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1 Introduction

1.1 What is Screen Flanders?

Screen Flanders is a programme implemented by the Government of Flanders **for the economic support of audiovisual works**. It aims to put Flanders on the international audiovisual map by improving its appeal to foreign productions and strengthening its competitive position relative to other regions.

By spending a portion of their budget in the Flanders Region, productions can receive **up to EUR 400,000 in funding**. In return, they agree to return percentage of earnings to Screen Flanders. In other words, Screen Flanders support is neither a grant, in the sense that nothing is expected in return, nor a loan, in the sense that repayments are automatically due. Repayments are due only if and when earnings are received.

You decide how much support to apply for, based on the amount and type of expenditures you intend to make in the Flanders Region and the general quality of the application. Do bear in mind that applications are assessed in comparison with other projects submitted.

In other words, Screen Flanders uses a **competitive format**: periodic calls to submit applications for support (also known as calls for proposals) are issued, according to a predetermined budget. A jury assesses the applications according to an established set of criteria and in relation to the other proposals. There are a number of conditions that must be satisfied by the applicant, the project and planned expenditures.

Assessments also take into consideration the correct completion of the application. Applications must be **complete and submitted on time**. They must also satisfy the conditions of admissibility and contain the compulsory attachments.

These guidelines provide information on how your Screen Flanders application should be submitted and how it is processed. The introduction includes a description of the legal framework by which Screen Flanders is governed, as well as a call for sustainable film production. The 'Support Applications' section sets out all the information you need to submit as part of your application, and the 'Support Award' section provides information of relevance once the support has been granted. The deadlines for calls are listed at www.screenflanders.be.

Screen Flanders is managed by VLAIO (Flanders Innovation & Entrepreneurship), assisted by the VAF (Flanders Audiovisual Fund). The Screen Flanders team (at VLAIO and VAF) is happy to assist with any problems you may have in completing the application. As our office can become very busy in the run-up to a deadline, we do recommend that you contact us in good time. Please see the final section of these guidelines for contact details.

File information is exchanged with VAF within the framework of the Screen Flanders support measure. The staff of VLAIO and VAF are required to respect the confidentiality of the data. The information exchanged will always be related to support requests received or with respect to the audiovisual sector. If you would like additional information on our privacy policy, you can contact us or see the following link: www.vlaio.be/nl/privacybeleid.

Good luck!



1.2 Legal Framework

1.2.1 European

A government is not free to provide unlimited support as subsidies are considered to distort the market. European law however recognises the need for support as well as exceptions to the rule.

General Block Exemption Regulation

- Regulation (EU) no. 651/2014 of the Commission of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty
- **describes the framework for cultural exception from which Screen Flanders operates**

1.2.2 Flemish

National and regional regulations must adapt to European laws. The following decrees have been passed in Flanders:

Screen Flanders Decree

- decree of the Government of Flanders of 8 December 2017 on the allocation of aid for audiovisual works of the type feature-length fiction, documentary or animation film, or animation series
- **Sets out the leading principles of the measure**

Ministerial Decree Screen Flanders

- ministerial decree concerning implementation of the decree of the Government of Flanders of 8 December 2017
- **Refines a number of points**

Ministerial Decree Calls

- ministerial decree concerning implementation of article 33 of the decree of the Government of Flanders of 8 December 2017
- **Sets the deadlines and budget for calls in a given year**

Where reference is made to other laws and regulations, these apply to specific documents only and are stated explicitly in the text.



1.3 Sustainable filmmaking and inclusion

In 2013 Flanders became a pioneer in sustainable filmmaking, in part because of the work of the Flanders Audiovisual Fund (VAF). Screen Flanders wishes to join this movement by making its expertise in sustainable production and its guidelines, tools and best practices available. Supported projects can also request coaching from the VAF sustainability coordinator or follow an online inspiration session if desired. Although you are under no obligation to do so, we strongly recommend that you follow the sustainability guidelines. By making conscious sustainability choices, the audiovisual sector can make an effective contribution that positively impacts both the environment and the production budget.

For more information on this initiative, see the website of the Flanders Audiovisual Fund (VAF) (in Dutch).

The Flanders Audiovisual Fund (VAF) also cooperates and supports research on inclusion in the audiovisual and game sector. We encourage attention to this theme through Screen Flanders. More information about this subject is available (in Dutch) via <https://www.vaf.be/voor-de-sector/inclusie>.



2 Funding Applications

Applications for support must satisfy a number of conditions relating to both the applicant and the project. The eligible expenditure is also subject to a series of criteria.

2.1 Who can apply for support?

The applicant must satisfy the following conditions:

- the funding applicant is a company of the type listed in Article 3.1° of the decree of 16 March 2012
- the applicant is an audiovisual production company
- the applicant has a seat of operations and can demonstrate continuity of operations in Belgium
- the applicant is an independent producer according to the definition of the Decree of 27 March 2009 concerning radio broadcasting and television and any successors thereof

The [Flemish Media Decree](#), as recently amended at the proposal of the Flemish Government, has significantly revised the definition of an 'independent producer'. The VRM (Flemish Media Regulator) has been designated by the Media Decree to verify a producer's status and publish a list of dependent and independent producers on its website. This list will be compiled and published annually by the VRM. The VRM may supplement the list in the interim at the individual request of producers, provided that the required documentation is supplied.

To submit a support application to Screen Flanders, applicants must give a statement on honour (through the online application) to the effect that they are independent in the sense defined by the Flemish Media Decree, and must be able to demonstrate on the date of the grant award that they have taken all necessary steps to be published on the VRM list as independent.

- no administrative authority exerts a dominant influence over the applicant's policy:

A suspicion of dominant influence exists where an administrative authority controls, directly or indirectly, 50% or more of the funding applicant's capital or voting rights. An applicant can refute this suspicion if it can be demonstrated that no dominant influence exists. The matter will be resolved by ministerial decision.

- On the date on which the aid application is submitted, the aid applicant is not an undertaking in difficulty and is not in the process of recovering aid granted¹

Under European rules, no aid may be granted to an undertaking which, at the time of the aid application, is in difficulty according to certain theoretical parameters. The relevant information is available from [the agency website](#), where a model can be used to calculate the parameters. For more information on how this applies to your organisation, see appendix 13, Explanatory notes on UID audit, downloadable from www.screenlanders.be > Downloads.

We recommend that the parameters, and certainly those for the current financial year, be monitored regularly to ensure that support is not refused for this reason. Please remember that while you may not consider your production company to be in difficulties, the parameters could indicate otherwise.

- the applicant isn't in the process of recovering aid granted

¹ See artikel 19 of the Besluit van de Vlaamse Regering van 26/02/2021 tot wijziging van besluiten over de ecologiepremie, de strategische ecologie-investeringen, de strategische transformatiesteun, de Screen Flanders, ecologisch en veilig transport, de kmo-portefeuille/groei subsidie, de compensatie indirecte emissiekosten, het ondernemerschap, de bedrijventerreinen, bedrijfencentra/doorgangsgebouwen en EFRO, wat betreft de aanpassingen aan de nieuwe vennootschapswetgeving en de voorwaarden voor ondernemingen in moeilijkheden



- the applicant is not in default and has no legal proceedings pending which could prevent completion of the project

2.2 For what type of projects?

To receive support, an audiovisual work must satisfy the following conditions:

- it is a feature-length fiction, documentary or animation film, or a fiction, documentary or animation series. A series must consist of at least three episodes

A **fiction film** is an audiovisual, largely live action creation involving mostly fictional characters and events.

A **fiction series** is a fiction film in the form of a series, with a maximum of 13 episodes that present an on-going story. A fiction series is eligible if it concerns an international co-production in which the total Belgian share, as indicated by the rights to the revenues (specified in the co-production deal memo or the co-production contract) and by the financing (specified in the attached financing plan), is less than 50%. If the total Belgian share is higher than 50%, the series is only eligible if the total production budget amounts to more than four million euros and there is both a local and an international market potential. International market potential must be demonstrated through a written commitment (LOC) from an international sales agent or distributor, or a foreign broadcaster (presale or co-production). Soaps, telenovelas, sitcoms, web series and experimental series are excluded.

A **documentary film** is a scripted non-fiction film that presents a treatment or interpretation of reality, based on the personal involvement of the maker, with an intrinsic long-term value. This therefore excludes films aimed at providing information or that are merely descriptive, such as a corporate film, a didactic film, a report, a human-interest programme, a purely scientific documentary, a contribution for the news or for a current affairs programme.

A **documentary series** is a documentary film in series form. A documentary series qualifies if the episodes tell an on-going story.

An **animation film** is an audiovisual project in which the production process essentially uses single-frame techniques, ranging from the filming of puppets, objects and/or drawings (e.g. animated cartoons) to more digital, computer-animated techniques.

An **animation series** is an audiovisual film in series form, in which the production process essentially uses single-frame techniques, ranging from the filming of puppets, objects and/or drawings (e.g. animated cartoons) to more digital, computer-animated techniques.

- it has a length of at least 60 minutes
- at least EUR 250,000 in qualifying expenses (excluding VAT) are incurred in its production (see 'For what expenses can I apply?')
- it is submitted before the first day of principal photography/animation:

The **first day of principle photography** is the first day of the main recordings or main animation (with the exception of tests and pilot episodes). For hybrid projects where live action recordings and animation images are combined, this is the first day of the recording in the primary technique. This is the technique that is most important both artistically and financially within the project.

- at the time of application, you are able to demonstrate that 50% of the financing of the project has already been secured (see 'Application Procedure')
- it satisfies at least three (in the case of animation) or four (fiction and documentary) of the following cultural values, also known as the **cultural test**:



- the script is mostly set in Flanders, in Belgium, in another member state of the European Economic Area or in a member state of the European Free Trade Association
- the director or script writer resides in Flanders, in Belgium, in another member state of the European Economic Area or in a member state of the European Free Trade Association
- one of the lead actors or three of the supporting actors have a link with Belgian culture
- at least one of the leading characters has an association with the Belgian culture
- the original script is mostly written in, and the leading characters express themselves in, one of the official languages or regional dialects of Belgium
- the script is an adaptation of an original literary work or inspired by another creation known for its cultural interest
- the audiovisual work has art or artists as its main theme
- the audiovisual work is mostly about historical figures or events
- the audiovisual work generally addresses social themes relevant to Belgium or another member state of the European Economic Area or European Free Trade Association, and have a topical, cultural, social or political aspect
- the audiovisual work helps bring about a reassessment of Belgian or European audiovisual heritage
- it was submitted no more than once previously and received no support when last submitted

An audiovisual work that was submitted in response to an earlier call and that has essentially the same characteristics is considered a **resubmission**.

- The total state support maximum percentages are respected

The total state support shall amount to no more than 50% of the total production budget for the project. This percentage rises to 60% for co-productions that receive funding from more than one member state of the EU and that involve producers from more than one member state, and to 75% if it concerns a difficult audiovisual work:

- in the case of fiction and animation: a low-budget project (where the total budget is below EUR 2,500,000), début project, youth project, author's project, Dutch-language project or project based on a subject that touches on Flemish cultural identity or Flemish cultural patrimony and heritage, or which is based on a Dutch-language work
- for documentaries of notable artistic or cultural value

Please note! The **total state aid** is not restricted to aid from a particular member state. It covers aid from all government authorities, including the Belgian Federal Tax Shelter.

The following works do not qualify for support:

- works that incite hatred or racial prejudice
- works that disrupt public order or good conduct
- advertising and information, entertainment, news or sports programmes



2.3 For what expenses?

2.3.1 The general principles

Screen Flanders support does not apply to all costs. Eligible expenses are those that are:

- Invoiced and paid in the spending period:

The **spending period** starts on the day the support application is submitted, i.e. the date of the file's online submission and registration under a file number, and closes 18 months (in the case of fiction and documentary) or 24 months (in the case of animation) after the call ranking decision. It is thus entirely independent of production planning. The spending period is defined clearly in the written decision you receive when support is granted. It may be extended, provided that reasons for the extension are given and accepted and that the extension is requested before the original spending period ends.

- Invoiced by a VAT paying company which has a registered office, seat of operations and demonstrable continuity of operations in the Flanders Region, and are paid in the Flanders Region:

The purpose of Screen Flanders is to support the Flemish audiovisual sector. As the direct beneficiary of the support, the producer has a responsibility to choose genuine Flemish companies that play a structuring role in that sector. In other words, shell companies, which provide little in the way of actual activity in the Flanders Region, will be refused. Hence the requirement that, in addition to a registered office, there has to be a seat of operations and, therefore, actual activity in the Flanders Region. But, as every situation is different, a definitive checklist to establish the unequivocal existence of a seat of operations would be impossible to compile. **Be critical, then, when selecting suppliers on a cost eligibility basis.**

- Invoiced directly to the applicant

The mere re-invoicing of costs will therefore be refused.

- Incurred to ensure completion of the audiovisual work in question
- Incurred in respect of (im)material goods or services related to the audiovisual sector
- Realistic and competitive in terms of price

Extremely high rates may be refused.

- Exclusive of VAT
- Marked as an 'eligible expense' in the list below



Expense type	Eligible expenses (if all conditions are satisfied)	Ineligible expenses (non-exhaustive list)
Above-the-line expenses (*)		
Development (such as location hunting, casting, etc.)	x	
Script and rights	x	
Music (including copyrights)	x	
Directors	x	
Lead actors	x	
Below-the-line expenses (**)		
Production and administration teams	x	
Direction crew	x	
Camera crew	x	
Sound crew	x	
Animation and CGI crew	x	
Set decoration crew	x	
Costume and make-up crew	x	
Electricians and grip	x	
Extra personnel (security, police, fire department...)	x	
Supporting roles (supporting actors, extras, animals, etc.)	x	
Stunts and special effects during filming	x	
Camera equipment (including equipment truck)	x	
Lighting equipment (including equipment truck)	x	
Grip equipment (including equipment truck)	x	
Sound equipment	x	
Rent of studios and warehouses	x	
Equipment for animation and CGI	x	
Expenses relating to production office, post, land line and mobile telephone, couriers and other administrative expenses and office equipment		x
Set decoration materials	x	
Costume and make-up materials	x	
Trailers (cast, costume and make-up)	x	
Films, negatives and photos	x	
Sound recording media, production and post-production	x	
Production laboratory	x	
Recording expenses	x	
Location rental	x	
Transportation expenses, including travel expenses for crew, rental of production vehicles, purchase of fuel, taxis, miscellaneous vehicles, etc., during production and post-production		x
Hotel expenses, during production and post-production		x
Restaurant expenses, during production and post-production		x



On set catering	x	
Post-production crew	x	
Film editing crew	x	
Sound and mixing team	x	
Sound studios	x	
Editing units	x	
Visual effects in post-production	x	
Laboratory for post-production	x	
Office expenses (such as those for the post-production office)		x
Promotional costs, insofar as these are borne by production		x
Website		x
Financial costs		x
Legal costs		x
Language versions	x	
Insurance policies, such as film insurance, public liability, etc.		x
Other expenses		
Contingency		x
Overhead		x
Producer's fee	x	

(*1) 'Above-the-line' expenses are those that are fixed before production commences. These expenses are not performance related. In other words, there is no margin to factor in for contingency.

(*2) 'Below-the-line' expenses are those that vary according to performance (number of shooting days, editing days, etc.). A margin for unforeseen circumstances can be factored into these expenses (this is done under the 'contingency' heading).

Invoices and receipts for expenses must be kept in a separate and transparent set of accounts that can be produced for inspection (see 'Inspection'). Each item of expenditure must be listed in the approved budget for the project (see 'Payment').

2.3.2 Other restrictions

There are several other restrictions to bear in mind.

Affiliated organisations

In the case of collaborations with affiliated organisations, only the costs quoted in the budget submitted with the support application will be accepted.

Affiliated organisations are undertakings that satisfy one of the following criteria:

- the company applying for support holds direct or indirect voting rights or capital in the service provider
- the service provider holds direct or indirect voting rights or capital in the company applying for support
- the service provider and company applying for support have at least one business manager, director, employee or shareholder in common
- the business managers, directors or shareholders of the company applying for support and the company providing the service are related to each other as spouses, as blood relatives in the second degree or as cohabitants



Additional documentation must be provided for these invoices from affiliated organisations. Preferably, the standard hourly rate should be quoted for labour costs (see 'Labour costs' below). If equipment is hired from affiliated organisations, the depreciation schedule from the accounts must be included.

Computer equipment

These costs are not eligible unless they relate to costs incurred explicitly for visual effects and computer animations used in the actual project.

Invoices

Invoices must always be drawn up in accordance with prevailing laws and contain the following details:

- the word 'invoice'
- date and invoice number
- name and address of the issuer and co-contractor, or company name and legal entity
- bank account number
- VAT number or company registration number
- name of the audiovisual work to which the goods or services relate
- date of the taxable event (when the service was provided) or delivery date
- detailed description and quantity of the goods delivered (stating the prevailing market hire price per hour/day and number of hire hours/days) or services rendered (stating the prevailing market hourly rate and the number of hours), as well as the information needed to establish the transaction type and VAT rate
- price (split per transaction or classification if more than one rate of VAT applies)
- amount of VAT due (per rate where relevant)
- statement of the reason for exemption if the invoice item is not subject to VAT
- date and place where the invoice was generated
- reference to previous invoices if several invoices or documents are generated for the same transaction
- general terms and conditions. (Though there is no requirement to give your general terms and conditions, we do recommend that you include them on the back)

In some cases, additional statements need to be attached to the invoice:

- 'VAT deferred', if the VAT is payable by the co-contractor
- 'invoice issued by buyer', in the case of self-billing
- 'VAT exempt on the grounds of article...', if the transaction is VAT exempt. The legal basis for the exemption must be described in detail
- Specific statements required under prevailing legislation (sale of art objects, antiquities, motor vehicles, travel bureaus, used goods)

Please note: receipts and expense statements do not meet the conditions to qualify as an invoice and therefore cannot be accepted.



Producer's fee

The eligible 'producer's fee' is limited to a maximum of 7.5% of the eligible above and below-the-line expenses if the funding applicant has a seat of operations in the Flanders Region. The co-producers may include no more than the amount to which they are entitled under the co-production contract. Please note: payments to all (co)producers, irrespective of form or name, must be listed under item 92-00.

Investments

The rules on investments apply in the case of purchases (such as motion-capture equipment, computer generated visual effects, camera, lighting, grip in truck, electric generator in truck, etc.).

Only investment depreciation by a funding applicant with a seat of operations in the Flanders Region, required specifically for the project, are eligible, in proportion to the period and degree of use in the spending period. Prevailing accounting standards must be applied in this case.

Supporting documents must be provided in the form of the original investment invoice, the depreciation table and the declared use of the product in the framework of the audiovisual work.

Leasing

If an investment is leased, it is not the global sum of the leasing contract that is eligible, but the monthly repayments of the investments specifically needed for the project, in proportion to the period and degree of use in the spending period.

Labour costs

Only the labour costs for directly involved personnel who are on the payroll of applicants with a registered office and seat of operations in the Flemish Region are eligible, and in proportion to the time spent on the project. It is preferred that labour costs are calculated as the standard hourly rate multiplied by the number of hours worked on the project. It is therefore essential that a record be kept of the number of hours spent on the project by each employee.

Standard hourly rate?

The standard hourly rate (SHR) is a measure that takes account of holidays, sick days, training days and so on in addition to earnings. There is no need to a keep a record of days off as these are automatically factored in. The SHR is fixed as follows for each employee: gross monthly salary (full time) of the employee in question at the beginning of the project x 1.2%. The gross monthly salary is always calculated for a full-time position at 38 hours/week.

Example

An animator works part time (20 hours/week) for a part-time gross salary of EUR 1,500.

The SHR is $1,500 \times 38/20 \times 1.2\% = \text{EUR } 34.20$.

For 150 hours the eligible labour cost is: $34.20 \times 150 = \text{EUR } 5,130$.

If a registration system is used to allocate personnel as expenses, proof of labour costs may be derived from this. A statement on honour that these data are correct will be required from the funding applicant.



Employee home address

Please note! The employee's home address cannot be used as a criterion. This is because there can be no discrimination according to place of residence under European rules.

Transport, travel, accommodation and restaurant expenses

Transport, travel, accommodation and restaurant expenses are not eligible. However, employee expenses covered by official sector agreements in the joint committees are eligible. These relate specifically to expenses payable by the employer, such as commuting expenses and compulsory fixed allowances. Allowances for actual transport, travel, accommodation, restaurant and parking expenses are not eligible. These rules are also applicable to temporary labour.

Music

Original music by Flemish artists (composers, musicians and recording) is eligible in full. Eligible expenses related to music of non-Flemish origin, invoiced and paid in the Flanders Region, are limited to 12.5% of the clearance rights.

Participations and deferred payments

Participations and deferred payments can be listed as financing elements in the financial plan, but do not qualify as eligible expenses.

For participations, always keep in mind the principle of Fair Pay. A too high proportion of participations by (artistic) crew members is not desirable and not viable long-term. It is anything but certain that your project will make enough profit to pay out any amounts at a later stage. You can also find more information about the principle of Fair Pay in the social charter for the Flemish media sector (in Dutch): <https://www.mediarte.be/nl/dossiers/ arbeids-voorwaarden-in-de-av-en-de-digitale-sector/andere-overeenkomsten-in-de-av-en-5>.

Catering on set

The service aspect of catering is an eligible expense, but not the consumables. If the invoice does not differentiate between the two elements, 50% will be accepted as an eligible expense. Purchases of food at a bakery, sandwich shop, chip shop, supermarket, etc. are not eligible.

Expenses to be documented for VAF support

Expenses, which need to be documented to qualify for VAF support, cannot be subsidised. However, expenses to be documented in the framework of the Belgian Federal Tax Shelter can be subsidised, provided they are eligible for Screen Flanders support.

Expenditures in the context of corona prevention

Of the additional expenditures resulting from the corona measures, only those related to personnel and services are eligible, not the purchase of products. These expenditures must meet the general principles for eligible costs and further limitations as outlined above.



2.4 Support

The maximum support per project is EUR 400,000. You decide how much support you apply for on the basis of your eligible expenses and the general quality of the application. Although the assessment covers many aspects (see 'Application Procedure'), the relationship between support and eligible expenses or '**leverage**' is an important criterion.

However, the support is restricted by the following rules:

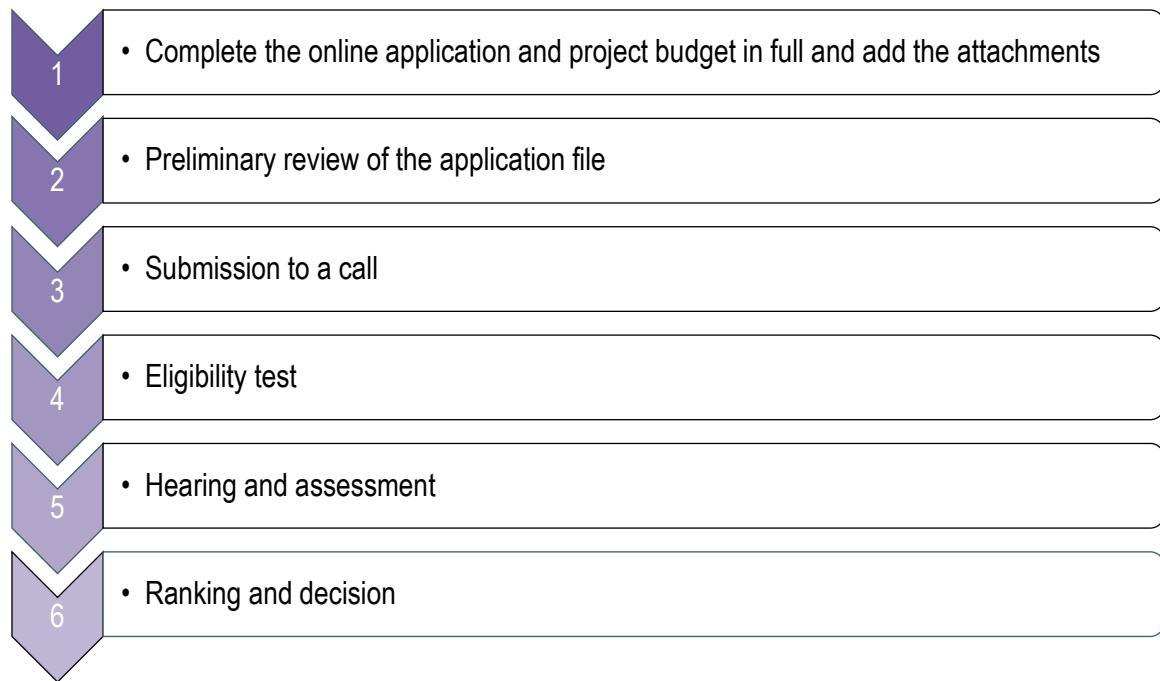
- the support shall be no more than the amount of eligible expenses. In other words, the degree of financial leverage must be at least 1;
- the total state support granted to the project (See 'For what type of project can I apply?').

Repayable?

The aid is granted in the form of advances repayable on net receipts. In this context '**repayable**' means that you are under an obligation to make repayments if earnings are made, but under no obligation if earnings are not made. It also means that the repayments are independent of the level of support. The repayments could turn out to be lower, but could also turn out to be higher than the amount of aid granted (see also 'Repayment Obligation').



2.5 Application procedure



2.5.1 Complete the application form and project budget in full and add the attachments

Application form and project budget

You can submit a digital application through the pink button on the web page www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/screen-flanders. The online application will take you through nine steps, and all requested information must be completed and attachments provided where necessary. Before commencing your application, please read the user manual ([Gebruikershandleiding](#) in Dutch). It explains, screen by screen, what details should be entered or uploaded. This will help you prepare your application effectively.

As part of the online application, you must also provide the bank account number for the applying company and upload a bank certificate. Be sure to request this from your bank in advance.

The application consists of the following steps:

- Company
- Contact
- Requirements
- Audiovisual work
- Cultural assessment
- Financing
- Income
- Appendices
- Statement on honour

The project budget, consisting of an expenditure list and details of the expenditure headings, must reflect the financial situation of the entire project. It must contain a detailed and realistic estimate of all expenditure, whether that expenditure qualifies for support or not.



The full financing plan must be submitted as part of the online application.

Please note! The application and project budget cover the **(co-)production as a whole**, not simply the Flemish, Belgian or eligible part.

The project budget contains the **production budget**. Promotional costs such as, but not confined to, Prints & Advertising (P&A), must be eliminated from the financing and expenses of the project budget.

Confirmed funding

At the time of applying for aid, 50% of the total production financing must be confirmed. A (Flemish or non-Flemish) funding element cannot be described as confirmed until a document, dated and signed by all the parties, is attached showing that the other party agrees to award the sum in question to this specific project and that the term of duration, if one exists, has not expired. Letters of intent and letters of commitment are acceptable as proof of available funding.

Requests for instalments (see 'Payment') must be made on the basis of funds definitively acquired. This is evidenced by contracts signed and dated by all parties or implementation agreements mentioning the project by name and the amount. Letters of intent do not, therefore, qualify as proof of funds definitively acquired.

Please note! The following are most certainly not viewed as funds definitively acquired:

- emails
- automatic aid, i.e. aid awarded once certain conditions are satisfied, unless there is written confirmation from the aid granting authority to the effect that the sum in question will be transferred to that specific project
- a statement by the co-producer, in a co-production contract, to the effect that it agrees to provide certain funds, except deferments in the overheads and producer's fee

Expenditure

The expenditure is divided over three columns:

Eligible for Screen Flanders support

these are structural expenses in the Flanders Region that are eligible for Screen Flanders support

Flemish Community, ineligible for Screen Flanders support

these are expenses in the Flemish Community but not eligible for Screen Flanders support, such as expenses incurred before or after the spending period and expenses to be proven for the VAF



Ineligible non-Flemish

these are expenses not incurred in Flanders and therefore not eligible for Screen Flanders or VAF support. They concern expenses in the French-speaking Community or the Walloon Region of Belgium, or abroad

Contingency and overheads

The total budget may only contain contingency of up to 10% of the below-the-line expenses and overheads of up to 7.5% of the total above and below-the-line expenses.

Compulsory attachments

To give a comprehensive overview of your project you must include several attachments in your online application. These are uploaded in the penultimate step of the online application and are an integral part of the application.

Standard templates for required attachments such as Appendix 1 (Additional Information), Appendix 3 (Project Budget), Appendix 13 (UID audit) and Appendix 16 (Recouptement Statement) can be downloaded from the Screen Flanders website under Downloads.

We give a list of **compulsory (unless stated otherwise)** attachments below.

No.	Attachment
1	Additional questionnaire on the audiovisual work (Annex 1 file). For completion using the template provided on the www.screenflanders.be website.
2	Synopsis (+/- 1 A4 = minimum 400 words)
3	Project budget (projectbegroting) For completion using the Excel template provided on the www.screenflanders.be website. This project budget consists of a list of all expenditure and details of the expenditure headings. Both the list of expenditure and the detailed expenditure headings must be completed in the Excel template provided.
4	Statement of intent from the producer as to the choice of project, the production and funding approach, placement in the market and the impact of the project on the Flanders Region. The statement must contain at a minimum the following information on the audiovisual work: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• impact on the (Flemish) production company;• impact on the Flemish audiovisual sector;• impact on the film crew;• impact on the Flemish providers of technical services;• impact on Flanders as an audiovisual and production region and as a region in general;



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> in the case of projects already supported by the Flanders Audiovisual Fund (VAF): impact and added value of additional support via this application.
5	Statement of intent from the author or scriptwriter as to the choice of subject, the chosen approach or perspective, form, structure, style and visual approach to the story
6	Statement of intent from the director as to the choice of subject, the style, the structure and the visual approach
7	<p>Description of the audiovisual work or script.</p> <p>The project description depends on the genre of the audiovisual work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Animation</u>: the beginnings of a storyboard, design of characters, decor, mood boards and a description of the techniques used, with a fully written script in case of an animated feature. In case of an animated series a fully written script of the first episode and at least two additional episodes and, in the case of 13 or more episodes, at least five synopsises of episodes other than those referred to above and at least five pitches other than the above. <u>Documentary</u>: a detailed visual plan, content and structure, a detailed script if possible <u>Fiction</u>: a fully written script <u>Fiction series</u>: preferably fully written scripts of the whole series, but at minimum the full scripts of a third of the number of episodes, in combination with treatments of all other episodes. For series with six or fewer episodes: at least three scripts, in combination with treatments of all other episodes.
8	Character descriptions and choice of the cast.
9	<p>Co-production contract(s) with all co-producers</p> <p>The co-production contract(s) (+ annexes) with all co-producers as indicated in the application form. If these are not yet available, at least a signed deal memo must be supplied with mention of the distribution of the rights and revenues and, if applicable, the reserved territories.</p>
10	<p>Proof that the film rights have been acquired</p> <p>Where an adaptation, remake or IP, format or franchise is concerned: proof that filming rights have been acquired (in the form of a valid current option or contract) plus one physical or digital copy of the original work (novel, play, ...) and documentation on the IP, franchise or format in question (moving pictures or otherwise)</p>
11	<p>Copyrights or author agreements (director and scriptwriter)</p> <p>The agreements or (deal memos) related to these rights and performances (e.g. director and script writer).</p>
12	<p>Distribution agreement(s)</p> <p>Provide here the distribution contracts, that are <u>not</u> part of the financing plan.</p>
13a	<p>Group structure:</p> <p>Group structure for completion using the 'Group Structure' template (Template Groepsstructuur provided on the www.screenflanders.be website</p>
13b	Consolidated annual accounts of the foreign parent company (if applicable)



13c	Enterprise-size and financial-distress calculator For completion using the 'Rekenmodule ondernemingsgrootte en onderneming in moeilijkheden' template provided on the www.screenflanders.be website. This template must include the group structure with percentages. Give the balance-sheet total, turnover and FTEs for each partner and affiliated enterprise. Finally, including the requested UID details for each affiliated enterprise in the group.
14	Video materials related to the audiovisual work (optional)
15	Financial estimate of the national distribution and international sales and possible returns for your production company and Screen Flanders, supported by a substantial note as to the saleability of the project or a marketing plan (based on USP, story, director, cast, target audience, results of original work (commercial success of a book or the original film) and the results of previous films by the director or producer, or comparable films).
16	Recoupment statement signed by the main producer and the producer applying for support (standard form available from the www.screenflanders.be website)

Other attachments which you believe will support your application can be added under section 14.

Contracts and agreements added as attachment will only qualify if they are **dated and signed by the parties involved**. Annexes to agreements must also be attached (e.g. finance plan, budget, recoupment plan, etc.). When using digitally signed documents, the preferred method is to use digital signatures with certificate-based digital IDs.

Everything in Dutch?

Synopses, notes of intent and character descriptions must be submitted in Dutch. Scripts may be submitted in Dutch, French or English, but Dutch is preferred. Articles of association, CVs, contracts and documents with regard to funding may be submitted in Dutch, French or English.

If these documents are not drawn up in one of those three languages, then per document, a translation of at least the most important passages - **not too limited** – must be added in Dutch.

In the application file you can also propose an alternative to the usual recoupment position (see 'Repayment obligation') if this arrangement improves the position for Screen Flanders. Some funding models may undermine the conventional Screen Flanders recoupment position. Extreme caution is applied to such proposals. One can only deviate from the regular position if a higher position than the pro rata share is offered. The pro rata position in first rank, however, remains the norm and we advise applicants not to deviate from this.

2.5.2 Preliminary review of the application file

Although it is not required to request an intake or a preliminary review of your application file, we **highly recommend** that you do so. It can result in very useful information, such as whether or not a given source of financing will be considered as confirmed. The aim is to give every project a favourable starting position.



2.5.3 Submission to a call

Applications can only be submitted digitally between the opening date of a particular call and the deadline for that call, by midday. Documents will not be accepted after the submission date and, once submitted, files cannot be adapted.

The first call of the year is launched in accordance with the provisions outlined in the Ministerial Decree on Calls (see 'Legal Framework'). Ensuring calls for that year open the day after the submission deadline for the previous call.

Submission

The submission must be done according to the procedure on this website:

<https://www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/screen-flanders/aanvraagprocedure>

2.5.4 Admissibility test

An application is admissible if the conditions have been fully satisfied. Use the following checklist to ensure the file is complete:

- have all the conditions relating to the support applicant been satisfied?
- have all the conditions relating to the project been satisfied?
- has the project budget been completed in the Excel template?
- have the online application and project budget been fully and correctly completed?
- do all documents relating to funding viewed as available (or at least 50% of the total budget) satisfy the conditions for confirmed funding?
- have all contracts, agreements and annexes in attachments been signed?
- are all the required attachments included?

VLAIO will inform you whether or not your application is admissible.

2.5.5 Hearing and assessment

You can come and explain the project during a hearing. The jury, composed of at least four people with the same number of representatives of VLAIO as representatives of the VAF, can adjust the request for support (for example, refusing expenses, imposing additional conditions, reducing the support amount) in order to optimally utilise the public resources. Where expenses are rejected, the support will be proportionally adjusted. If the jury adjusts the support downwards it will also adjust the eligible expenses in accordance with the degree of financial leverage presented in the application.

The jury then assesses the application against the following qualitative and quantitative criteria:

- **The social and cultural added value of the audiovisual work in terms of the quality and appeal of the script (10 points)**
- **The actors involved in the audiovisual work (10 points):**
 - a) the professionalism and track record of the applicant
 - b) the quality and appeal of the cast and director
- **Efficiency and output (30 points):**
 - a) the commercial strengths of the co-production contract



- b) the signed distribution guarantees (as set out in the financial plan)
- c) cost-effectiveness of resources used
- d) the feasibility of the audiovisual work's production given the resources available
- e) the quality of the distributors and the presold territories
- f) the free territories (being territories that generate income in the event of a sale)
- g) the chances of a financial return and the repayment capacity

- **Effectiveness and outcome (50 points):**
 - a) the amount of eligible expenditure in the Flanders Region or the degree of financial leverage created
 - b) impact of the audiovisual work on the (Flemish) production company
 - c) impact on the Flemish audiovisual sector
 - d) impact on the film crew
 - e) impact on the Flemish providers of technical services
 - f) impact on Flanders as an audiovisual and filming region and as a region in general
 - g) In the case of projects already supported by the VAF: impact and added value of additional support via this decision

2.5.6 Ranking and decision

Projects are ranked in descending order according to their overall score.

Please note! To receive funding, a project must achieve more than 60 points, and the budget must allow full allocation of the - possibly corrected - amount.

Does the budget exceed the approved amount of support and is another call due in the same year? If so, the surplus is added to the budget for the next call.

VLAIO will notify you of the decision as soon as possible, whether positive or negative. Your company will receive a formal decision in the eBox Enterprise, which also shows the parameters, obligations and any additional conditions for the project if support is granted. Notification is also sent by email to the designated contact person listed in the online application to show that the decision is available in the applicant company's eBox Enterprise. The legal representative of the company can view the decision there.



3 Support Award

3.1 Payment

The support is awarded *intuitu personae* and cannot be transferred to another beneficiary without VLAIO's written approval.

The support is paid in three instalments according to the following schedule. These instalments are paid, provided you have requested the instalment from VLAIO and submitted all the relevant information. Send your request to your VLAIO account manager, whose name is mentioned in the decision of support allocation or to screenlanders@vlaanderen.be. For support granted from the first call of 2024 onwards, payment requests can only be made online. You will need to upload the required attachments with each payment request for one of the instalments. A step-by-step guide on how to request payment for an instalment online can be downloaded from www.screenlanders.be. You can only request the next instalment online once the previous one has been processed and approved.

Requests for instalments must be made within 12 months of the end of the spending period.

A first instalment of 40% is payable once you demonstrate that at least 80% of the total funding and at least 50% of the Belgian Federal Tax Shelter investment have been **definitively acquired**. The following documents must be enclosed at a minimum:

- the updated detailed financing plan reflecting the current state of affairs
- all signed contracts and agreements
- the amendments form (if amendments were made) (see 'Compulsory reports')
- the co-production contract

Documents in support of **financing definitively acquired** may be provided in the form of dated contracts or implementing agreements mentioning the project and signed by all of the parties. Letters of intent will not therefore suffice as documents in support of financing definitively acquired (see also 'Application procedure').

A second instalment of 30% is payable once the applicant demonstrates that the production has started, by means of a call sheet on the first day of shooting (fiction and documentary) or a report of the first day's animation (animation).

A third instalment of 30% is paid when the expenses that are eligible for support have been fully paid. In addition, you must include the following documents at minimum (see also 'Inspection' below):

- the final project budget, showing the definitive state of affairs and accounting for any rejected amounts
- contracts demonstrating any remaining financing
- The auditor's report drawn up by an external registered auditor in which the final amount of both the Flanders-based and the non-Flanders-based expenditures and the funding are stated and confirmed, including whether all credit notes have been deducted.
- the amendments form (where applicable) (see 'Compulsory reports')
- the supplier list: an export in Excel from the analytical accounting with all expenditures eligible for Screen Flanders. This overview must contain the following elements: cost item, billing date, invoice number, name or CBE number of the supplier and amount. For projects that have also received VAF support, Flanders-based non-eligible expenditures should also be included in the overview.



Before payment of this final instalment, VLAIO must also have ascertained that:

- all conditions set out in the Screen Flanders decree, the Screen Flanders ministerial decree, the ministerial decree of the Calls and the decision of support allocation have been satisfied
- amendments, if any, have been reported, justified and accepted (see 'Compulsory reports')
- all deliverables have been delivered to VAF (see 'Compulsory Reports')
- the final recoupment plan, correctly prepared and signed by the main producer, has been delivered (with the recoupment percentage confirmed in the inspection report).

3.2 Inspection

During the inspection process, VLAIO may request information and documents required to verify the elements of the decision to grant support. The findings of this inspection, along with any other remarks (such as ex-post infringements of eligibility) will be documented in the inspection report.

Inspections normally take place after a request for the third and final instalment but may also be initiated at the VLAIO's discretion. During the inspection, the original invoices and proof of payment must be presented. These documents must be detailed and listed in an Excel file, named the 'suppliers list', and will include at least the sequential number referencing the analytical accounting records and a clear distinction between eligible and ineligible invoices. This list is exported from the analytical accounting system.

See also 'For what expenses ?' for an overview of the expenses eligible for Screen Flanders support.

3.2.1 Combination with VAF support

If VAF support has also been awarded to the project, further coordination can be done with VAF and the inspection for both support mechanisms can be done together by both an agency inspector and a VAF inspector.

3.2.2 Inspection findings

The inspection report is sent to the account manager who then processes the file. This may lead to any of the following outcomes:

- more eligible expenses in relation to the support allocation: support granted in full (a higher eligible figure cannot lead to a higher amount of support)
- fewer eligible expenses in relation to the support allocation, but more than EUR 250,000: pro rata reduction of the amount of support
- less than EUR 250,000 in eligible expenses: support withdrawn and reclamation of the amounts already paid
- other elements not satisfied: support withdrawn and reclamation of the amounts already paid

Based on the inspection, the final recoupment percentage will also be determined (see below 'Repayment obligation') and you will have to provide the final recoupment plan signed by the main producer.



3.3 Repayment obligation

VLAIO receives a percentage of all net receipts generated through the exploitation of the audiovisual work, the '**recoupment percentage**', as of the first euro in net receipts, in first rank and at the same time as the other financiers. This percentage is set provisionally by the jury and included in the decision of support allocation.

Recoupment percentage = support / financing definitively acquired for the audiovisual work

Repayment is entirely independent of the support amount and must conform to the approved recoupment scheme (see 'Payment'). If earnings are low, the repayments may be lower than the support received, while if earnings are high, the repayments may be higher than the support received.

When is the recoupment percentage adjusted?

Please note! The recoupment percentage is set by the jury and is only adjusted at a later date if the accepted total budget (secured financing) falls (recoupment percentage rises) or the aid is reduced, withdrawn or reclaimed (recoupment percentage falls). The recoupment percentage cannot fall as the result of a higher total budget.

What are the **net receipts**?

Net receipts are all earnings from the exploitation of the audiovisual work in Belgium and abroad, including earnings from cable and private copyrights and merchandising, that do not fall under the funding of the total cost of the audiovisual work, with the exception of the reserved rights and territories of the other producers and financiers.

The following costs may be deducted from these earnings:

- tax paid to public administrations, levies on foreign earnings, the rights paid to copyright associations and the share for theater operators
- promotion and distribution expenses involved in releasing the audiovisual work, including the making of copies, as well as the expenses involved in dubbing and subtitling the versions for festivals. These expenses must be in reasonable proportion to the sales market or production expenses for the audiovisual work
- the distribution provision and sales commissions according to prevailing international standards (if the producer applying for support acts as a sales agent, a commission of max. 15% on sales will be accepted)
- the collection account fee
- the minimum guarantees, provided they were used to finance the project
- court costs relating to sums to be collected

Deferred payments and participations cannot be deducted from the earnings.

Please note! In the event that the project is overfunded, the overfunded portion will also be viewed as earnings to which the recoupment percentage applies.

Monitoring

VLAIO will monitor net receipts for a minimum of 5 years and a maximum of 15, depending on the earnings generated. You must keep detailed information on all revenue and expenditure, known as the 'exploitation account', (see also 'Compulsory reports').



The exploitation account for the previous calendar year must, on 31 March of each year, be sent to VLAIO starting by the year following that of the first public screening. **For the first 5 years you must present these documents at your own initiative, even if there is no income for Screen Flanders.** After the first 5 years, you need only do so at VLAIO's request. If these settlements are not submitted annually, VLAIO may reclaim the entire amount of support provided.

The **first public screening** is the first public screening at home or abroad, including festivals and premières.

Within 30 calendar days of submitting the exploitation account, you will pay any amounts owing to account number BE 65 3751 1174 5796 belonging to Flanders Innovation & Entrepreneurship (VLAIO), Simon Bolivarlaan 17 bus 331, 1000 Brussel, quoting the application file number and the title of the project.

This obligation expires for those territories for which there is a Collection Account Management Agreement that includes Screen Flanders as a beneficiary **and for which Screen Flanders receives statements and entitlements directly from the Collection Account Manager (via screenlanders@vlaanderen.be)**. When drawing up a Collection Account Management Agreement, it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the information required in order to include Screen Flanders as a beneficiary party is passed on and that the required recoupment position for Screen Flanders is guaranteed.



3.4 Compulsory reports & elements

The following elements must be reported to VLAIO, unless it is explicitly stated that they are to be reported to VAF.

Opening and closing credits: all language and region versions are to be reviewed by VAF prior to the first public screening.

Collection account agreement: where a collection account is used, Screen Flanders will be added as a beneficiary - not as a signatory - and the Collection Account Agreements signed by all parties will be provided as and when available.

Co-production contract: all amended versions and the definitive version are to be provided (if these versions have not already been provided) as and when available.

Deliverables: during production, and immediately after completion of the master, several elements are to be supplied to VAF (Katrien De Hauwere). The full list is available at www.screenflanders.be. These deliverables are separate from deliverables in the case of support from VAF.

Exploitation account: An annual overview of income and expenditure resulting from the exploitation of the audiovisual work must be submitted by 31 March each year, commencing for the year after the first public screening on your own initiative (see also 'Repayment obligation').

Defaults and legal proceedings: every direct or indirect default or legal case relating to the project and naming the beneficiary or a third party must be reported immediately.

Production milestones: milestones such as the start of principal photography or the première screening must be reported to VAF (Katrien De Hauwere) immediately, once known. Communications issued by Screen Flanders may be based on these dates.

Stoppage: any stoppage of the project must be reported immediately to VLAIO. Support will be withdrawn in the event of a stoppage, and the amounts paid may be reclaimed. Be aware that support, which has been awarded but not paid cannot be recuperated. Support awarded to one project cannot be used for another project, whether for the same production company or other production companies.

Amendments: All substantial changes must be reported as soon as they are known, by means of the amendments form available on www.screenflanders.be. For applications as of 2024, the online application will allow you to include any major changes when applying for various instalments.

- every change in the total budget in excess of 10%
- every change in or between expense items of more than 10%
- all other changes likely to affect the quality of the project or of importance to the application, such as the title, start of principal photography, date of first screening, changes in co-production, lapse of spending period, changes in presales and minimum guarantees by which the audiovisual work is funded, change of beneficiary/contact's seat of operations.

Only approved amendments will be accepted by the inspection.



3.5 Communication obligations

In the titles of the audiovisual work and in all promotional and advertising material and/or publications and/or information material (including press kits and releases) paid for by the (co-)producers the support of Screen Flanders must be mentioned explicitly, irrespective of the language of communication, the territory of distribution, the form (print, electronic), the storage device or the medium (cinema, television, DVD, etc.).

The opening credits must state '**Supported by Screen Flanders**' in a prominent and legible manner, in letters of at least equal point size to those of the (co-)producer(s) and/or co-financiers who contributed equivalent funding.

End credits must state:

'Supported by Screen Flanders, an initiative of VLAIO in collaboration with VAF.'

Other languages?

'Met de steun van Screen Flanders, een initiatief van VLAIO, in samenwerking met het VAF.'

'Avec le soutien de Screen Flanders, une initiative du VLAIO en coopération avec le VAF.'

or an analogous statement in the language of the credits

A legible Screen Flanders logo must also be placed in a prominent position in the opening and closing credits and be of a size equivalent to the logos of the (co-)producer(s) and/or co-financiers who contributed equivalent funding or the media partners. If the credits do not show any logos at all, this obligation ceases to apply and a text mention will suffice.

All (language or regional) versions of the opening and closing credits must be submitted to VAF (Katrien De Hauwere) for approval.

Screen Flanders-logo

The Screen Flanders logo and guidelines relating to its use can be downloaded in several file formats at www.screenflanders.be > Downloads >Logos.



3.6 Follow-up-checklist

File processed by:

Who	When	To	OK?
(Generally) before the production			
Decision of support: read thoroughly			
Provide shooting schedule	once available and with first instalment	VLAIO	
Request instalment 1	once 80% of the total budget and 50% of the Belgian Federal Tax Shelter sum are confirmed	VLAIO	
During and post-production (generally):			
Report amendments	as soon they are known, using the amendment form or when requesting the various instalments online	VLAIO (or online)	
Provide co-production contract	once an update or the definitive version is available	VLAIO (or online)	
Report production milestones	once known	VAF (Katrien De Hauwere)	
Provide deliverables	once available	VAF (Katrien De Hauwere)	
Provide opening and closing credits	once available and definitely before the first public screening	VAF (Katrien De Hauwere)	
Request instalment 2	after first day of principle photography	VLAIO (or online)	
Arrange collection of account management agreement	the fully signed version, as soon as this is available	VLAIO	
Request instalment 3	once all eligible expenses have been made and at the latest 12 months after the end of the spending period	VLAIO (or online)	
Produce the exploitation-account for the previous calendar year	at the latest on 31 March of each year (as of the year following the first public screening) and pay any amounts due within 30 days Year of first public screening + 1 Year of first public screening + 2 Year of first public screening + 3 Year of first public screening + 4 Year of first public screening + 5	VLAIO	



4 Information and contact persons

All of the relevant information is available at www.screenflanders.be.

For more information, please contact VLAIO (Flanders Innovation and Entrepreneurship) or the VAF (Flanders Audiovisual Fund).

You can get in touch by telephone at the numbers below or address your email to screenflanders@vlaanderen.be

Contact persons at VLAIO:

- Miek Geiregat – Tel. 02 553 06 42
- Lynn De Vlieger – Tel. 02 553 37 17
- Leslie De Voogt - Tel. 050 32 50 43

Contact persons at VAF:

- Katrien Maes – Tel. 02 226 06 38
- Katrien De Hauwere – Tel. 02 226 06 42

Please contact Katrien Maes if you would like to discuss your application in advance (see 'Application procedure'). We strongly recommend doing so to ensure that your application covers the required funding and eligible expenses and contains all relevant documentation.

In the event of a dispute the original Dutch version of the Screen Flanders procedure manual shall apply.

