# NL **FILM FONDS**

# **Regulations for Netherlands Film Production Incentive Scheme**

High-End Series & Single Episode (on the basis of annex to regulations)

1 August 2022 version

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## **Regulations for Netherlands Film Production Incentive Scheme**

Netherlands Film Production Incentive scheme

The Board of the Stichting Nederlands Fonds voor de Film [Netherlands Film Fund],

In view of the stipulations in the Algemene Wet Bestuursrecht, (Dutch General Administrative Law Act),

In view of Article 10, paragraph 4, of the Wet op het specifieke cultuurbeleid (Dutch Cultural Policy (Special-Purpose Funding) Act),

with the approval of the Minister of Education, Culture and Science of 28 June 2022,

decides as follows:

#### - definitions -

#### Article 1

For the purpose of these regulations the following definitions are used:

Animated series: a television series that uses an artificial technique in which, by playing

different static images sequentially, the illusion of movement is created,

with a net duration of at least 100 minutes, spread over several episodes, each of at least 10 minutes, with a continuing story and in a limited series (season), or of at least three minutes in the case of a

series for children aged six or under;

Board: the board of the Fund;

Diversity & inclusion code: the code of conduct aimed at an equal and accessible cultural sector for

makers, producers, workers and public, as published on the Fund's

vebsite; '

Completion bond: the insurance that guarantees that the film production will be completed

and delivered on the (budgetary) conditions stipulated in the insurance policy in question, or that - if the production were to be halted - the

production costs incurred so far will be refunded;

Documentary series: a non-fiction television series of cinematographic quality with a net

duration of at least 120 minutes, spread over several episodes, each of at least 40 minutes, with a continuing story line and in a limited series (season), which highlights an aspect of reality in which the director's own vision is given shape with the creative use of cinematic means in a

personal style;

Drama series: a television series of cinematographic quality in the fiction genre that

enriches the supply of series through its production values and artistic quality and is primarily intended for television/VOD broadcast, with a net

duration of at least 120 minutes, spread over a minimum of three episodes, with a continuing story and in a limited series (season). In the case of a series for children aged 12 or under a net duration of at least 100 minutes spread over a minimum of three episodes with an episode

duration of at least 10 minutes applies; \*

End operator: market participant that makes film productions and derivatives thereof

and other audiovisual works publicly available through screenings in cinemas or film theatres, public or commercial broadcasting channels or on the basis of a revenue model of subscriptions, advertisements or

transactions: \*

Fair practice code: the code of conduct for running a business and working in the arts,

culture and creative industry, as published on the Fund's website; \*

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Film distributor: a legal entity that engages in business activities on a continuous basis,

with the main objective being the distribution and exploitation of film productions in cinemas and via other distribution channels. At the time of the application the legal entity will have been based and operational in the Netherlands, a Member State of the European Union or a State that is a party to the Agreement in respect of the European Economic Area, or in Switzerland, for a minimum period of two years prior to the

application:

Film plan: the applicant's plan for the realisation of a cohesive whole of activities

consisting of the financing, realisation and exploitation of a film

production or television series;

Film production: an animated series, or a documentary or a feature film, realised in the

form of an international co-production or otherwise and primarily

intended for cinema release;

Film professional/film company: a natural person or company with sound knowledge and experience in

the area of film production or television series;

Financial & Production Protocol of the Incentive: the protocol containing specific financial and production

requirements the Fund imposes in these regulations on film productions

under the Incentive;

the Fund: Stichting Nederlands Fonds voor de Film [Netherlands Film Fund];

Cultural governance code: regulatory framework for good governance and supervision in cultural

organisations, as published on the Fund's website; \*

International co-production: a cross border film production in the form of an animated series,

documentary or feature film, primarily intended for cinema release, in which the Netherlands is one of the countries of origin of the coproducers, and which meets the criteria of the Council of Europe Convention on Cinematographic Co-Production or meets the criteria of the bilateral agreements for film productions between the Netherlands and other states, or the agreements signed between the Fund and other

film funds aimed at international co-production;

And in the case of television series an internationally financed drama, documentary or animated series, primarily intended for television/VOD broadcast in two or more countries where the Netherlands is one of the countries of origin of the co-producers and which (i) either qualifies as a 'European production' as referred to in Article 1, paragraphs 1 to 4, of the European Directive on audiovisual media services or (ii) falls under the scope of a bilateral co-production convention concluded by the

Netherlands:

Qualification test: the overview of production costs listed in the appendix with these

regulations that qualify as eligible costs for a contribution on the basis of

these regulations, and the conditions on which they qualify:

Majority (co-)producer: a producer of a majority film production to be released in Dutch cinemas

and/or film theatres, which invests risk capital, is the main responsible party and has the majority decision-making authority and which has raised (or will raise) the majority of the financing for the film production which in the case of television series is a production company of a television series intended for television/VOD broadcast primarily in the

Netherlands; \*

Majority film production: a national or international film production where the Dutch producer is a

majority (co-)producer and the composition of the artistic team means

that the film production can be regarded as Dutch;

Media company: a legal entity engaged in distributing or having distributed audiovisual

media content to the general public or parts thereof; \*

Minute price: total production costs per broadcast minute;

Minority co-producer: a production company of a national or international co-production to be

released in Dutch cinemas and/or film theatres, which invests risk

capital but has limited decision-making authority and responsibility, i.e. primarily for the Dutch part of the film production, and which has contributed (or will contribute) a minority of the financing for the film production which in the case of television series is a production company of a television series intended for television/VOD broadcast in countries such as the Netherlands;

Minority co-production: an international film production in which the Dutch producer is a minority

co-producer;

Non-theatrical release: all possible methods of distributing a film production, with the exception

of via cinemas and film theatres, but in any case including distribution on DVD and Blu-ray, via television, Video On Demand, pay per view

and online distribution channels;

Disclosure: the disclosing of a film production by means of exhibition or by means of

distribution of the television series by, for example, but not limited to,

television/VOD broadcast;

Open orders: production costs that have not yet been invoiced

Bridging loan: a guaranteed financial loan for the creation of a film production that is

made available by a third party during the entire production period from which production costs are pre-financed whilst waiting for the funders'

payment deadlines;

Picture lock: the final cut of the film production or television series as determined by

the producer and director, based on which the further editing will take

place;

Points system:

Producer: the natural person who legally represents the production company and

has the final policy, operational and editorial responsibility within the

production company structure;

Production costs: the costs involved in realising a film production or television series; Production company: a legal entity that engages in business activities on a continuous basis,

with the main objective being the production and exploitation of film productions and/or media productions. At the time of the application the legal entity will have been based and operational in the Netherlands, a Member State of the European Union or a State that is a party to the

Agreement in respect of the European Economic Area, or in

Switzerland, for a minimum period of two years prior to the application; the points system included in the appendix with these regulations, used to determine whether the application is eligible for a contribution and to determine the order in which applications are eligible for a contribution

based on these regulations; \*

Reference film: film production with a production budget of at least 500,000 euros with a

cinema release in the Netherlands; \*

Reference series: a television series of a majority (co-)producer in the same category and

minute price; \*

Television series: a high-end animated, documentary or drama series, including a single

episode, primarily intended for television/VOD broadcast, whether or not

created in the form of an international co-production;

Single episode: one (1) individual episode that forms part of one (1) series of a

television series consisting of several episodes;

Grant: the claim to financial resources, provided by an administrative body with

a view to specific activities of the applicant, other than as payment for

goods or services supplied to the administrative body;

Television/VOD broadcast: the linear communication to the audience, by wire or wirelessly, of a

television series over an open television channel of a media company or the non-linear provision of the television series by a media company in such a way that the television series is accessible to a wide audience, with or without payment, as part of a broader catalogue of media supply

at a time and place chosen by the consumer:

Broadcast copy: the information carrier suitable for television/VOD broadcast on which

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the television series is recorded in its final form, broadcast quality and

length;

Implementation agreement: the agreement between the Fund and the recipient of the grant as

referred to in Article 4:36 of the Dutch General Administrative Law Act for the purpose of execution, following the decision to award this

grant. \*

## - purpose and applicability -

## Article 2

- This scheme is aimed at promoting a healthy film production environment in the Netherlands and reinforcing the international competitive position of the Dutch film industry. The grants made pursuant to this scheme are intended to increase the attractiveness of the Netherlands for both majority and foreign television series, so increasing the production activity of creative and technical film professionals and film companies in the Netherlands. This scheme is also intended to promote the development of film talent in the Netherlands and stimulate the diversity, quality and distribution of television series.
- 2. These regulations apply to grants made by the board for contributing to the production costs of television series with a cultural value that are primarily aimed at television/VOD broadcast and that have been demonstrably spent in the Netherlands.

# - grant caps, budget allocation & budget reservation -

## Article 3

- 1. The board will determine a grant cap for each calendar year and each application round; a grant cap can be set for international co-productions and a grant cap for television series that cannot be classed as international co-productions and for different categories of television series.
- 2. The grant cap will be published in the Staatscourant (Dutch Government Gazette) and announced on the website of the Fund: <a href="https://www.filmfonds.nl">www.filmfonds.nl</a>
- 3. Applications that meet the eligibility conditions for a grant will be ranked on the basis of the points system.
- 4. The board will award the applications that meet the conditions in the order of the ranking referred to in the previous paragraph, until the grant cap for the application round in question has been reached.
- 5. If a grant cap is not sufficient to award all the applications that meet the requirements of these regulations in a calendar year or application round the board will reduce the grant of the application that is last in the ranking to an amount that will not exceed the grant cap. The remaining applications that meet the requirements of these regulations will be rejected when the grant cap has been exceeded. The application that is only partially awarded as a result of the grant cap being exceeded and the remaining applications that meet the requirements of these regulations and that are rejected as a result of the grant cap being exceeded can be resubmitted in a subsequent application round for the shortfall amount.
- 6. Any unallocated funds within the available grant budget in a particular application round will be added to the grant budget for the next application round. Any unallocated funds within the available grant budget in the last application round of the calendar year will be added to the available grant budget for the next calendar year.
- 7. A grant will be made on the condition that the Minister has made sufficient funds available.

#### - cultural criteria and state assistance percentages -

## Article 4

1. To be eligible for a grant within the meaning of these regulations the television series, without prejudice to any stipulations in European state support legislation, must meet at least **three** of the

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## following characteristics:

#### drama series:

- a. the script on which the television series is based takes place mainly in the Netherlands, or in another member state of the European Union, or in a state that is a party to the Agreement with respect to the European Economic Area, or in Switzerland;
- b. the director or scriptwriter is based in the Netherlands, or in another member state of the European Union, or in a state that is a party to the Agreement with respect to the European Economic Area, or in Switzerland:
- c. at least one of the lead actors or two of the supporting actors has/have a special connection with the Dutch culture based on the script;
- d. the original script on which the television series is based is largely written in the Dutch language and the lead actors mostly speak the Dutch language:
- e. the script is based on an original work of literature or is inspired by a work protected by copyright;
- f. the main theme of the television series is art or incorporates one or more (performing) artists;
- g. the television series addresses historical persons or events;
- the television series addresses current social or cultural themes that are relevant to the Netherlands;
- i. the television series contributes to the cross border promotion of prominent Dutch locations;
- j. the television series contributes to the accessibility and cross border promotion of the Dutch or European film culture and its diversity.

#### animated series:

at least three of the characteristics listed under drama series, on the understanding that instead of the word 'script' the word 'story board' can be read and instead of 'scriptwriter' also 'the designer of the story board', plus:

The characteristic referred to under a.) also applies if the story board on which the television series is based establishes a recognisable link with one of the countries referred to under a). The characteristic referred to under c.) also applies if the main characters have a special connection with the Dutch (film) culture.

The characteristic referred to under i.) also applies if a prominent Dutch location is animated in such a way as to render it recognisable.

## documentary series:

at least three of the characteristics listed under drama series, on the understanding that instead of the word 'scenario' the word 'documentary script' can be read and instead of 'screenwriter' also 'the writer of the documentary script' and that the 'persons' referred to in characteristic c, can also be portrayed persons.

- 2. A television series that has received a grant from another (Dutch) administrative body and/or the Fund can only receive such a grant amount to the extent that the total government assistance does not exceed 50% of the production costs.
- 3. For an international co-production within the meaning of Article 1 that is financed by more than one EU member state, the percentage of government assistance referred to in the second paragraph cannot exceed 60% of the production budget.

# - applicant requirements -

## Article 5

- 1. Applications on the basis of these regulations are made by a production company.
- 2. The applicant must be legally represented by a producer who, calculated from the moment of the application, has, as a producer been the main responsible party for the production of at least one majority television series (reference series) in the Netherlands, a member state of the European Union or a State that is a party to the Agreement on the European Economic Area, or in Switzerland. At the time of the application the producer in question must have been a copolicymaker and (co-)shareholder of the applicant for a period of two years or more. The

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reference series must have been primarily disclosed through television/VOD broadcast in the Netherlands. An applicant for a contribution for television series must also meet the requirements laid down in this paragraph if it has a track record with film productions that meets requirements laid down in this paragraph. \*

- 3. Not eligible for a grant are:
  - a) a media company;
  - b) an applicant in which a media company has such direct or indirect control or actual influence that this media company can largely determine the applicant's policy or has significant influence over the content of the applicant's policy and/or the television series.

## - application requirements -

#### Article 6

- 1. An application can only be submitted using an application form made available by the Fund.
- 2. The application form must be completed truthfully, completely and in line with the guidelines mentioned in the explanations accompanying the application form and the Financial & Production Protocol of the Incentive, accompanied by all the required appendices.
- 3. Application forms can be accessed at www.filmfonds.nl.
- 4. The board will process the applications in fixed application rounds each year. The closing dates of these application rounds will be published on the website of the Fund www.filmfonds.nl.
- 5. An application submitted after the closing date will be considered in the next application round.
- 6. If the board finds that an application is incomplete the board will give the applicant the opportunity to complete the application within five working days. If the applicant is unable to complete his application by the deadline, the application will not be considered. If the application has been completed and submitted by the deadline the initial submission date will count as the date of application.
- 7. An application must be submitted to the board. The board will make its decision on the application no later than 13 weeks after the closing date of the application round in question.
- 8. Insofar as the applicant has requested a grant to cover the budgeted production costs from other Dutch or foreign administrative bodies as well, the applicant must mention this in the application, stating the administrative body in question and the status with respect to the evaluation of this application or these applications.
- 9. Insofar as the applicant has requested or received financing to cover the budgeted production costs from Dutch or foreign private parties as well, the applicant must mention this in the application, stating the parties in question and the status of this financing.
- 10. With the application the applicant will submit a declaration guaranteeing that his financial position prior to the application, the ratio of available resources and current financial commitments, does not constitute a threat to the stability and solvability of the applicant and is not realistically expected to do so. The application should be accompanied by recent annual accounts for the applicant, no more than two years old, to substantiate the declaration. In addition, the applicant will, if the application relates to a national or international co-production, submit a similar declaration for each of the producers involved, including, for each of them, a recent extract from the local Chamber of Commerce.
- 11. With the application the applicant will submit the declaration(s) of the media companies responsible for television/VOD broadcast and/or third parties that have committed themselves to the television series unconditionally and in writing with respect to the financing, television broadcast, release or exploitation. The applicant must also provide full information about the (underlying) contracts.
- 12. With the application the applicant will submit a declaration guaranteeing that he and any other producers involved have (an exclusive option on) the exclusive filming and exploitation rights for the television series and, in the event of an international co-production, that the exploitation and screening for at least the Netherlands is guaranteed.
- 13. With the application the applicant will submit a written explanations showing the extent to which the television series that is the subject of the application demonstrably contributes to the realisation of the objectives referred to in Article 2, first paragraph.

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- 14. With the application an applicant must submit a written substantiation with supporting information showing that the television series for which an application is being made is an independent television series, as referred to in Article 7(6)(a) of these regulations.
- 15. With the application an applicant must submit a written explanation of the points system he has completed including the qualification test. The Fund may ask the applicant, and the producers from the other countries of origin in case of an international co-production, to verbally clarify the application before the board decides about the application. The Fund can also make direct enquiries about the application with the financiers referred to in paragraph 11 and any other financiers listed in the film plan.
- 16. The applicant will declare in the application that the film professionals and companies involved in the television series respect the frameworks of their own professional associations, apply the codes of conduct applicable to the sector (including fair practice, diversity & inclusion and governance) and as customers or contractors act transparently, ethically and professionally.
- 17. With the application the applicant will submit a declaration guaranteeing that he and any other producers involved have (an exclusive option on) the exclusive filming and exploitation rights necessary for the television series and, in the event of an international co-production, that the exploitation and screening for at least the Netherlands is guaranteed;
- 18. an explanation of the points system he has completed including the qualification test. The Fund may ask the applicant, and the producers from the other countries of origin in case of an international co-production, to verbally clarify the application before the board decides about the application. The Fund can also make direct enquiries about the application with the financiers referred to in the paragraph 11 and any other financiers listed in the film plan.

#### - general requirements -

#### Article 7

- Only applications for television series that meet the conditions stipulated in these regulations and are awarded the minimum number of points required under the points system will be eligible for a grant. The minimum number of points required is determined annually, for the subsequent calendar year, by the board and published on the website of the Fund www.filmfonds.nl.
- 2. Eligibility for a financial contribution is as follows:
  - documentary series: a minimum of 4,000 euros in production costs per broadcast minute;
  - animated series: a minimum of 8,000 euros in production costs per broadcast minute;
  - drama series for children under the age of 12: a minimum of 10,000 euros in production costs per broadcast minute for a television series between 10 and 25 minutes per episode or a minimum of 8,000 euros per minute for television series longer than 25 minutes;
  - other drama series: a minimum of 12,000 euros in production costs per broadcast minute.
  - For a **single episode** to be eligible for a financial contribution the production costs must be a minimum of one million euros per episode."

The (additional) costs for improving the sustainability of the production process may form part of the budget." \*

- 3. Only applications for television series intended for television/VOD broadcast in the Netherlands are eligible for a grant and in the case of an international co-production, if it is intended for television/VOD broadcast in two or more countries, including the Netherlands.
- 4. A grant based on these regulations will be awarded only to contribute to the production costs that qualify in accordance with the qualification test and are demonstrably spent in the Netherlands and provided they are at least 15% of the total production budget.
- 5. All the grants and production costs referred to in these regulations are exclusive of VAT.
- 6. A grant can otherwise only be awarded on the basis of these regulations if, in the opinion of the board:
  - a. the applicant has sufficiently demonstrated that the film production is independent. A film production is independent if:
    - (i) the end operator has no direct or indirect control over the applicant;

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- (ii) the end operator, in the opinion of the board, has no decisive influence over the content, production and execution of the film production:
- (iii) the applicant, in the opinion of the board, has and retains sufficient commercial freedom with regard to the exploitation and screening of the film production or a derivative thereof; \*
- b. the grant serves to cover the costs of the realisation of the television series insofar as these costs are not already being covered by a third party;
- c. it is plausible that awarding the grant is necessary to create the television series; \*
- d. it is plausible that the television series can be realised in accordance with the objective outlined in Article 2, first paragraph, and in accordance with the budget outlined in the application and that the budgeted expenses are reasonable, cost efficient and in line with market conditions:
- e. the financing plan enclosed with the application is feasible and sound; \*
- f. there is sufficient confidence that the film plan will be realised to satisfaction and that the scripts are ready for production;
- g. at the time the grant is awarded the television series for which the grant was requested has not been fully or partially gone into production or into release;
- h. the grant does not serve to cover costs that were made in the period prior to the date on which the application has been fully submitted;
- i. if the application relates to an international co-production this production meets the definition in Article 1:
- it is plausible that the applicant is able to comply with the obligations outlined in these regulations;
- k. the intention for television/VOD broadcast is sufficiently substantiated by the film plan with all the accompanying appendices and documents; \*
- 50% of the financing needed for the production costs has already been unconditionally and demonstrably committed on application by third parties in the form of board resolutions and/or written financial commitments from third parties;
- m. the applicant has the exclusive (option on) the filming and exploitation rights needed to realise and exploit the television series. In the case of a minority co-production, the foreign co-producer with main responsibility must hold the necessary rights; \*;
- n. the applicant, in the case of an international co-production, has demonstrably ensured that the series will also be available to the public in the Netherlands via television/VOD broadcast:
- the applicant is jointly responsible for the creative realisation and production of the television series.
- 7. The board may decide, on the basis of a written and substantiated request from the applicant, to grant exemption from the requirement in paragraph 6(g) that a production has not yet gone into production if the applicant can show that:
  - a. the full financing is unconditionally guaranteed;
  - b. the other financiers concerned agree to any change to the financing plan they have approved if a grant is awarded under these regulations;
  - c. any grant under these regulations cannot lead to over-financing of a television series.

## - awarding and amount of grant -

#### Article 8

- 1. If the board decides to award the grant, the production costs estimated by the applicant and approved by the Fund will be used as the basis to determine the amount thereof.
- 2. The amount of the grant is determined by the production costs approved by the Fund that are eligible based on the qualification test multiplied by 35%. Production costs that meet the requirements stipulated in this paragraph and that also serve as the basis for a grant based on a comparable foreign incentive, are not eligible for a grant pursuant to these regulations.
- 3. The qualifying production costs approved by the Fund may not exceed 80% of the total production costs. \*
- 4. The awarded grant can be a maximum of 1.5 million euros per application.

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5. The rights and obligations resulting from award of the grant cannot be transferred and may not be encumbered or otherwise serve as security. \*

## - Advisory Committee -

#### Article 9

The board can seek advice about the evaluation against the requirements stipulated in Article 7 from ad hoc advisers. Article 7 of the standing orders of the Fund applies to these advisers. The board will incorporate the recommendations from the ad hoc advisers in its decision about the application.

#### - grounds for refusal -

#### Article 10

Without prejudice to the stipulations in the Dutch General Administrative Law Act an application will be rejected if, in the opinion of the board:

- 1. a. the applicant does not or will not meet the requirements, criteria and stipulations outlined in these regulations;
  - b. a media company has a direct or indirect major interest in the applicant or the television series;
  - c. the production company submitting the application or one of the responsible producers has been in serious default in the past in a previous fund application or there have been imputable acts of the production company submitting the application or the producer concerned in the past; ;\*;
  - d. an application based on these regulations is submitted for a television series for which an application based on these regulations has already been submitted and the board has not yet made a decision about this previous application;
  - e. the financial position, despite the declarations referred to in Article 6, tenth paragraph, is uncertain to such an extent that it constitutes a threat to the stability and solvability of the applicant or the television series in question;
  - f. awarding of the requested grant would result in the applicant receiving a total amount in excess of 3 million euros for television series in grants based on these regulations in a single calendar year;
  - g. the awarding of the grant does not apply to the television series for which a grant is being requested;
  - h. the need for a grant has not been sufficiently demonstrated;
  - i. the independence of the film production as described in Article 7(6)(a) of these regulations has been insufficiently demonstrated; \*
  - j. the applicant is not the same party as the production company that has already received a grant for the realisation of the same television series in the context of different regulations of the Fund;
  - k. awarding of the application would result in the grant caps set by the board being exceeded;
  - I. if the application relates to a television series that can be regarded as a soap, situation comedy, pornography, an instructional production, a promotional production, an information production, a corporate film production, a report or journalistic production, a purely scientific or didactic production, advertising or an educational production.
- 2. An application in respect of a television series for which an application has twice previously been submitted under these regulations and has not been granted by the board will no longer be considered.

## - mutual relationship between grants -

#### Article 11

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- 1. The provision of a grant based on these regulations will never oblige the board to awarding any other grant.
- 2. Any grants awarded to the television series by the board and/or other (Dutch) administrative bodies form part of the total grant for realisation in the determination of the permitted state assistance percentage.

## - additional requirements -

#### Article 12

- 1. In the case of a television series that, in the board's opinion, is classed as high risk the board may set additional requirements in terms of the financial and production supervision or require a guaranteed *bridging loan* and/or obtaining a *completion bond*.
- 2. The conditions under which the supervision is carried out or a *bridging loan* or the *completion bond* is obtained must be approved by the board in advance.
- 3. If a completion bond is required based on the first paragraph, the recipient of the grant must, on the conclusion of the implementation agreement, submit a written declaration from a completion guarantor, conclusively showing that the budgeted production costs of the television series for which a grant has been awarded, as set out in the production budget, are sufficient and that the production and completion of the cinema film for which a grant has been awarded fall under the cover of this completion guarantor from the time at which the shooting of the television series begins. The recipient of the grant must also submit a copy of a valid completion bond in which the Fund is designated as joint beneficiary. The recipient of the grant undertakes to agree with the provider of the completion bond that the provider of the completion bond will carefully monitor the progress of the production and, in the case of an international co-production, the expenditure in the relevant countries of origin, and will simultaneously notify the recipient of the grant and the Fund of any irregularities or the failure to incur proposed production expenditure.

# - obligations on the part of the recipient of the grant -

## Article 13

- 1. The recipient of the grant is obliged to produce the television series for which a grant is awarded in accordance with the characteristics as included in the points system completed by the applicant.
- 2. The recipient of the grant is obliged to:
  - a. submit the final written agreements with all the parties involved in the financing of the television series regarding the financing and exploitation of the television series for which a grant has been awarded before the first day of shooting, but within six months after the grant was awarded. These must show that, in the board's opinion, each of these parties has unconditionally committed to its part of the financing for the realisation of the television series in accordance with the information submitted with the application and other conditions that are compatible with the conditions attached to the awarding of the grant and these regulations:
  - ensure that the recording, or in the case of an animated series the realisation, of the television series for which the grant was awarded does not start until both the Fund has confirmed that the applicant has met the obligations referred to in this paragraph under a.) and the insurers referred to in Article 12 have granted definitive cover;
  - c. give the board advance notice of the time when the recording, or in the event of an animated series the realisation, of the television series for which a grant was awarded will start and ensure that the broadcast copy is finished and delivered within 36 months after the signing of the implementation agreement and will be disclosed to the public via television/VOD broadcast;
  - d. pay back the grant to the Fund out of revenue obtained from the exploitation of the television series.
- 3. The board attaches to the decision to award the grant the suspensive condition that the implementation agreement is realised.

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- 4. The recipient of the grant also has the following obligations:
  - a. to efficiently pursue the objectives formulated in the film plan based on which a grant was awarded:
  - b. to keep the Fund informed correctly and truthfully at all times;
  - c. to maintain a clear and effective administration in accordance with Dutch legislation and regulations, the Financial & Production Protocol of the Incentive and the associated Financial Accountability Handbook and to use an administration system that is acceptable to the Fund:
  - d. to ensure that the administration gives a correct, complete and up-to-date picture of the performance of the applicant and corresponds in detail with the budget and financing plan approved by the Fund;
  - e. to have sound records of all receipts and expenditure, clearly showing the nature and scope of the supplied goods or services and to ensure that reports, cost, expense and other overviews are included in the administration of the applicant;
  - f. to keep the administration and the accompanying documents for at least seven years after the determination of the grant;
  - g. to spend the grant in accordance with the spending obligation;
- 5. The recipient of the grant is obliged to deliver the picture lock of the television series, which must correspond to the application and the accompanying film plan in accordance with the procedure described in the Financial & Production Protocol of the Incentive.
- 6. The recipient of the grant will notify the Fund forthwith as soon as:
  - it appears likely that the television series for which a grant was awarded will not be realised, not be realised on time or not be realised in its entirety in accordance with the objective or the film plan based on which a grant was awarded;
  - b. it appears likely that the obligations attached to the grant will not be met, not be met on time or not be met in their entirety;
  - c. changes have occurred with respect to the information accompanying the application submitted to the Fund in the context of the awarding or determination of the grant, or,
  - d. changes have occurred in the realisation of the television series compared to the application and/or special circumstances have arisen.
- 7. The obligation of paragraph 2(b) does not apply to applications for which the board has granted exemption under Article 7(7).

## - obligations relating to the implementation agreement -

#### Article 14

- 1. After the board has received the agreements and documents referred to in Article 13(2)(a), the recipient of the grant and the board must sign an implementation agreement.
- 2. The implementation agreement will document the detailed obligations attached to the grant, including:
  - a. what guarantees the recipient of the grant, in the board's opinion, must provide with respect to the compliance with obligations on the part of other parties that have promised grants to the television series for which a grant was awarded:
  - b. the frequency and format in which the recipient of the grant will comply with any reporting obligations;
  - c. the way in which the revenue to be generated from the exploitation of the television series will be divided between (if applicable) the Fund, the other financiers and the titleholders;
  - d. that the recipient of the grant requires any party from which the applicant purchases goods or services which, based on Article 8(2), help determine the amount of the grant, to sign the Performers and Suppliers Declaration in which each declares, among other things, that:
    - (i) it is subject to Dutch taxation and that tax will be paid in the Netherlands on the profit obtained from supply of the goods or services indicated above;
    - (ii) it has its permanent domicile in the Netherlands or a permanent base in the Netherlands from which it/he demonstrably performs economic activities;

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- (iii) it will supply the goods or perform the services in person if and to the extent they are entered as having been spent in the Netherlands, and:
- (iv) it will give the Fund access to its/his records if required, to the extent the Fund deems this necessary with a view to the accountability and the determination of the awarded grant.

## - obligations relating to the expenditure -

## Article 15

- 1. With due observance of Article 7(4) the recipient of the grant is obliged to spend 100% of the Production Costs earmarked in the application as expenditure to film professionals and film companies in the Netherlands, demonstrably in the Netherlands. The proportion of the production costs that is spent in the Netherlands, as well as any expenditure in other territories, must be shown separately in the submitted production budget in accordance with the accompanying financing agreements.
- 2. In the event that other contributions or grants to which a (partial) spending obligation in the Netherlands or to legal entities/persons in the Netherlands is attached have also been provided by the Fund or other Dutch administrative bodies the applicant is always free to spend at least 20% of the production costs in another member state of the European Union, or in a state that is a party to the Agreement with respect to the European Economic Area, or in Switzerland.

## - obligations relating to digital conservation -

#### Article 16

The applicant is obliged to contact the Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision, or some other appropriate institution with a view to the conservation and storage of cultural heritage, and to grant this institute access to (source materials of) the television series in accordance with the terms and conditions laid down in the Financial & Production Protocol of the Incentive in good time, in other words at the time of the completion of the television series.

## - accountability -

## Article 17

- 1. The recipient of the grant:
  - a. will demonstrate, in the manner stipulated in the decision granting the grant, that the television series has been realised and that all the obligations attached to the grant have been met;
  - b. will submit to the Fund a current and truthful overview of all revenues, expenses and the territorial expenditure, including a report of the expenses referred to in Article 8, paragraphs 2 and 6 that contribute to determining the level of the grant;
  - c. will keep the Fund adequately informed, in writing, about the times or start of the television/VOD broadcast, the public reach and the costs and the revenues resulting from exploitation of the television series for which a grant was awarded;
  - d. is obliged, without prejudice to the stipulations in Article 4:45 of the Dutch General Administrative Law Act, to supply the television series for which a grant has been awarded;
- 2. The recipient of the grant is obliged to submit a financial report in respect of the actually realised costs and revenues of the television series.
- 3. The financial report will provide sufficient insight to be able to form an informed opinion about
  - a) the utilisation and spending of the grant by the recipient of the grant in the Netherlands,
  - b) the expenditure outside the Netherlands on the part of the recipient of the grant and, in the event of an international co-production, the producers from the countries of origin, and,

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- the third-party financing received by the recipient of the grant and, in the event of an international co-production, the producers from the countries of origin outside the Netherlands.
- 4. The financial report must meet the requirements referred to in Article 17, paragraph 1, sub b and corresponds with the structure of the budget and the financing plan that were submitted prior to the awarding of the grant or the signing of the implementation agreement and that were approved by the Fund in accordance with the Fund's Financial & Production Protocol of the Incentive. Significant discrepancies between the financial report and budget and/or the financing plan must be explained.
- 5. The recipient of the grant is obliged to attach an accountant's statement within the meaning of Section 393 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code to the financial report, provided an alternative has not been agreed in the implementation agreement. The accountant will follow the Fund's Financial Accountability Handbook.
- 6. Representatives of the Fund will be given access to the administration relating to the television series for which the grant was awarded upon the first request to that effect. The recipient of the grant is obliged to include a fixed amount in its budget for interim audits and counterchecks by the Fund, as stipulated in the Financial & Production Protocol of the Incentive.
- 7. Without prejudice to the stipulations in this Article the Fund, after awarding the grant, is entitled to verify at any time whether the obligations attached to the grant are being met. This verification can also focus on the third parties referred to in Article 14(2)(d) and, in the case the award of the grant relates to an international co-production, on the co-producers involved.

#### - determination -

## Article 18

- Within four months after the first disclosure in respect of the television series the recipient of the grant must submit an application for determination, unless the implementation agreement stipulates a different deadline. If this deadline is exceeded the board is entitled to determine the awarded grant on its own authority.
- 2. The application for determination must be accompanied by the documentation referred to in Article 17 and in the implementation agreement.
- 3. Upon the Fund's request the recipient of the grant is obliged to provide all the other documentation and information the Fund deems necessary to determine the grant.
- 4. The recipient of the grant will ensure that its accountant collaborates with any audit by or on behalf of the Fund into the (verification) work done by the accountant of the applicant. The costs associated with the accountant's collaboration will be at the expense of the recipient of the grant.
- 5. The board will determine the amount of the grant on the basis of the qualifying production costs demonstrably spent in the Netherlands not more than 22 weeks after the submission deadline referred to in the first paragraph. The amount on the basis of which the grant is decided cannot be higher than the amount of the awarded grant. The Fund is entitled to put the request for determination on hold as long as no television/VOD broadcast of the television series has taken place in the Netherlands.

#### - payment -

## Article 19

- 1. The grant will be paid within eight weeks after the date of the determination decision.
- 2. It may be documented in the implementation agreement if, and if so on what conditions, advance funding may be possible. If an advance is paid it will be offset against the grant to be paid after the determination.
- 3. If a grant is paid to a recipient whose domicile or main base is not in the Netherlands the recipient of the grant will be obliged to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the board that, at the time of payment, the recipient of the grant has a secondary establishment in the Netherlands and has at least one permanent employee there.

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## - amendments, revocation and reclamation -

#### Article 20

As long as the grant has not yet been determined, the board can revoke the award of the grant or reduce it if one of the events or circumstances referred to in Article 4:48, first paragraph, of the Dutch General Administrative Law Act occurs, including:

- a. the circumstance in which the recipient of the grant has not met the obligations attached to the grant, including but not limited to, the obligations referred to in Article 13, or has failed to meet the obligations arising from the awarding of the grant;
- b. if the board becomes aware that substantial changes have occurred with respect to the information supplied with the application or upon the realisation of the implementation agreement;
- the recipient of the grant has obtained more or fewer grants from third parties after the awarding but before the determination of the grant than specified in the implementation agreement;

The revocation or amendment will take effect with retroactive force from the time the grant was awarded, unless stipulated otherwise when revoking or changing the grant. The amount by which the grant may be reduced will, in the first instance, be offset against any advances still to be paid. If this is inadequate any paid advances will be reclaimed.

## - evaluation & monitoring -

#### Article 21

At least once every four years the board will evaluate the effects of the execution of the scheme and the extent to which it achieves its objectives. In addition the board will monitor the execution of the scheme and the extent to which it has achieved its objectives and publish the results on an annual basis.

## - transitional and final stipulations -

## Article 22

- 1. In all cases for which these regulations do not provide the board is authorised to decide.
- 2. The board can deviate from these regulations for compelling reasons, provided such deviations correspond with the evaluation framework for government assistance to the film sector as applied by the European Commission.
- 3. These regulations came into force with effect from 20 May 2014 and for television series on 1 October 2017. Changes have been made to the regulations as from 1 August 2022 with the approval of the Board of Trustees on 16 June 2022.
- 4. These regulations come into force with effect from 1 August 2022.
- 5. The regulations in force from 1 January 2021 have been withdrawn as from 1 August 2022. All applications received by the Fund before 1 August 2022 will continue to be governed by the regulations applying up to 1 August 2022.
- 6. These regulations are cited as Regulations for Incentives pertaining to Television Series in the Netherlands of the Stichting Nederlands Fonds voor de Film [Netherlands Film Fund].
- 7. These regulations will be publicised by means of a notice in the Staatscourant (Dutch Government Gazette) and on the website of the Nederlands Fonds voor de Film (www.filmfonds.nl).

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#### **EXPLANATION**

#### **General clarification**

In 2014, on behalf of the Cabinet and further to a study into the film production environment in the Netherlands the Minister of Education, Culture and Science has decided to implement this incentive to promote a healthy film production environment in the Netherlands and reinforce the international competitive position of the Dutch film industry. The grants made pursuant to this scheme are intended to increase the production of cultural productions, so increasing the production activity of creative and technical film professionals and film companies in the Netherlands, so increasing the production activity of creative and technical film professionals and film companies in the Netherlands. This scheme is also intended to promote the development of film talent in the Netherlands and stimulate the diversity, quality and distribution of film productions or television series.

In terms of content film productions or television series have a deciding influence on and are a reflection of our society. At the same time, as economic goods, they provide considerable opportunities to create prosperity and jobs. Reinforcing both the cultural and economic dimension of film productions or television series aids in giving expression to the culture and the creative ability of the Netherlands. The cultural dimension is best served with an economically sound and sustainable sector. The economic sustainability is linked to and reinforced by high quality audiovisual products that are developed and produced in creative and production freedom.

Increasing the production activity in the Netherlands should create more opportunities for creative and technical film talent to develop in the Netherlands and also for innovation, as a result of which the audiovisual infrastructure in the Netherlands can be permanently reinforced and the quality of Dutch film productions or television series stimulated. International co-productions allow better opportunities to be created for the international exchange of knowledge and talent and expansion of the visibility of Dutch film talents across national borders and of the Netherlands as a location for film production. Finally, this creates opportunities to reinforce the position of Dutch producers in international co-productions, which can also result in improved international financing of Dutch film productions or television series.

In addition to the available resources for film production via the culture policy the Minister of Education, Culture and Science makes 20 million earmarked euros available to the Fund annually for the execution of the scheme including the associated management expenses. The maxima available and adjustments of them are published in the Government Gazette and on the website of the Fund art www.filmfonds.nl. Among other things the effects of the scheme are monitored based on the development of the production volume (number of films multiplied by the budget) in the Netherlands and the scope of the expenditure of production capital in the Netherlands.

Wherever these regulations refer to *The Netherlands* this should be read as *The Netherlands and the BES islands (Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba).* 

The incentive scheme is aimed exclusively at High-End Television Series & Single Episodes, in other words, eligible television series are those that stand out from the popular national and international television and video-on-demand offering through their cinematographic quality and high production values. Higher production values are for instance reflected in higher production costs that can be seen 'on the screen'. This is why the Fund applies a minimum level of production costs per broadcast minute, so that the incentive scheme adds value to the existing sources of financing for television series and does not therefore supplant them.

The available upper limits for the incentive scheme for High-End Television Series & Single Episodes are published in the Government Gazette and on the Fund's website www.filmfonds.nl. The impacts of this scheme for these television series are for instance monitored on the basis of the same criteria as for film production.

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Unless otherwise noted below, the article-by-article notes for film productions also apply to television series and wherever the words 'film production(s)' appear in them for television series, they must be read as 'film production(s) or television series'.

# **Article-by-article clarification**

#### Article 1 - Definitions -

For the Fund the term television/VOD broadcast means the distribution of a television series through a general television channel or a pay TV channel where the viewer has no choice about the time he takes the offering (linear broadcast). For the Fund it also means the distribution of the television series through a video-on-demand channel where the viewer has a choice of time and place of taking the offering (non-linear broadcast). The channel in question must always be one that legally and continuously offers a broad catalogue of media offerings of different producers/rights holders and is accessible to the general public, whether or not for payment, and because of the size of this catalogue has the potential to appeal to a wider audience.

Fiction refers to a film production or television series that tells a story that takes place mainly in the imagination of the maker and the audience. This means that the main elements, the story/plot, the characters and the story structure are fictitious and not based on reality. This is contrary to non-fiction, which refers to film productions or television series that mostly do relate to reality.

In the case of majority film productions or television series the link that the producer and the artistic team have with the Netherlands is important. Further requirements will therefore be made of the majority (co-)producer for international co-productions. Natural persons of any nationality may be part of the Dutch cultural community. The director or scriptwriter may for example be working and established in the Netherlands on a continuing basis or have attended the film academy or art education in the Netherlands.

A media company is a company that is engaged in distributing audiovisual media content, for example media institutions (broadcasting companies), media services on demand or cable companies. The Fund also regards any company that forms part of a corporate structure in which the media content chain of production, distribution and exploitation is integrated to be a media company. A media company may invest in a film production or television series, or film activity, but for the Fund does not qualify as an applicant.

As the party with the ultimate responsibility the producer is in principle also the owner of/shareholder in the production company.

The first disclosure is the first public release of the film production or television series.

## Article 2 - purpose and applicability -

The general clarification is also a further clarification of Article 2.

# Article 3 - grant caps, budget allocation & budget reservation -

Because grants based on this scheme must fit in with the designated available budget and a 'first come, first served' basis is not the preferred option, it was decided to use a system in which applications are weighed against each other.

In each application round the applications that meet the requirements are ranked on the basis of the points system. There are a minimum number of points an application must meet. Prior to the first application round of the year in question the Fund will publish the minimum number of points for the subsequent year on its website <a href="https://www.filmfonds.nl">www.filmfonds.nl</a>.

The grant available for each round is distributed among the eligible applications, the application with the most points being first in line for a grant. The remaining applications, ranged in descending order, are subsequently awarded until the grant cap(s) for the application round in question has or have been reached.

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## Article 4 - cultural criteria and state assistance percentages -

Fund grants qualify as government support, so only film productions or television series that have cultural value are eligible for a contribution from the Fund. The 'cultural criteria' the Fund uses for this purpose are listed in the first paragraph: the Fund uses **ten** characteristics, at least **three** of which must be met in the board's opinion. Meeting the criteria in the first paragraph means that the film production or television series has cultural value within the framework of the 2013 Film Announcement of the European Commission.

The term 'mainly' used under characteristic a. means that (one of) the main location(s) where the scenario is set must be in one or more of the countries listed or the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and based on the scenario it must be feasible that the realised film production or television series is largely set in the location or locations in question.

Characteristic c. requires that at least one of the leading roles or two of the supporting roles is/are Dutchspeaking, or that a lead actor/main character has the Netherlands as an obvious home or residence, and that in this sense the realised film production or television series is substantively a visible part of the Dutch culture.

The term 'largely' used in characteristic d. means that the scenario makes it believable that in relative terms the dialogue in the film production or television series is mainly in the Dutch language. In the case of an animated series it must be feasible, in the board's opinion, that, in the first instance, a Dutch language version of the film production or television series is made for distribution in the Netherlands.

The original work of literature referred to in characteristic e. refers to a book, stage play, radio play or scenario.

With respect to characteristic f., the leading national or international artists and/or generally recognised professional art disciplines must be a focal point in the film production or television series. The same applies to the important historical figures or events referred to in characteristic g.

In characteristic i. the term 'prominent Dutch locations' refers to: locations, landscapes or buildings that can be identified as 'Dutch'; in the case of animated series these would be animated or drawn 'prominent Dutch locations'.

With respect to characteristic j., the film production will have a non-theatrical release and in any case a television/VOD broadcast in the Netherlands or the country of the main producer and, afterwards, remains at least available for non-commercial purposes of the National film archives. The 'cross border promotion of the Dutch or European film culture and its diversity' refers to the fact that the film production has a certain quality that gives it a cross border added value for the Dutch and European film culture.

The second through to the fourth paragraph of Article 4 contain hardship clauses about the proportion of state assistance in the financing of a film production in accordance with the 2013 announcement of the European Commission regarding state support for films and other audiovisual works. By declaring paragraph 4 of Article 4 inapplicable, the maximum percentage of state support for television series may not exceed 60%.

#### Article 5 - applicant requirements -

In the case of a majority film production or television series or an international co-production, the production company of the majority (co-)producer will make the application. In the case of a minority co-production, such as an international co-production, the production company of the *Dutch* minority co-producer will make the application. The Fund assumes that only one Dutch producer is associated with a film production or television series. The requirement of sufficient track record of an applicant contained in this Article focuses on a track record with previous television series. Applicants who have sufficient track record with film productions may also submit an application for television series.

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A media company is not eligible as an applicant and also may not have direct or indirect control of or actual influence over the applicant such that the media company can largely determine the applicant's policy or has significant influence over its content or the content of the film production or television series.

## Articles 6 and 7 - application requirements and general requirements -

The application is submitted in Dutch. The application will in any case be accompanied by a film plan which includes a synopsis, scenario, budget and financing plan. The synopsis and scenario can also be supplied in the English language.

Applications for pornographic films, instructional films, informative films, corporate films, a report, a purely scientific or didactic media production, promotional films, advertising films and educational films are not eligible for grants and will therefore be rejected.

Film productions or television series must be independent to be eligible for the grant. To guarantee this independence, three cumulative requirements must be met: \*

- An end operator or a legal entity in which an end operator has an interest through one or more subsidiary companies or otherwise may not have any control over the applicant. \*
- Nor may an end operator have a decisive say in the content, production and execution of a film production or television series.
- Finally, the applicant must have and retain sufficient commercial freedom with regard to the
  exploitation and screening of the film production or television series or a derivative thereof.

If, in the view of the Fund, one or more of these requirements has not been met, the film production or television series is not eligible for a grant. \*

Nor are film productions or television series produced on behalf of end operators eligible for a grant. There can be no longer be any question of independence for such productions.

For reasons of efficiency a threshold is applied with respect to the minimum amount of the production costs that must qualify based on the qualification test.

The sixth paragraph of Article 7 provides further requirements that also extend to the film plan accompanying the application. The requested substantiation of the associated target audience forecast must be based on a realistic ratio between the type of film production or television series for which the application is being made and the anticipated public reach based on this type of film production. At the time of the application the written financial promises of third parties must not be more than six months old.

## Article 8 - awarding and amount of grant -

Double grants or double financing of budget items is not permitted. This also means that including the same eligible cost items in the context of these regulations and for comparable foreign regulations is not permitted. For this purpose the Fund requires insight into applications and allocations for the same film productions or television series from other subsidising institutes nationally and abroad and/or financing of these film productions or television series by private parties.

## Article 10 - grounds for refusal -

The board has concrete indications that can support the refusal decision if the applicant or the natural person who legally represents the applicant or the (co-)producers involved don't meet/have not met the regulations imposed on a grant previously awarded by the board, or if he/it has attributably failed to comply with one or more of the obligations attached to an earlier grant awarded by or implementation agreement signed with the Fund. An application can be refused or its processing can be suspended if in a previous film production or television series the reporting of production and financial emergencies was late or incomplete, or if the financial accountability was incomplete.

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With the General Explanation given for television series in mind, added to the grounds for refusal are a number of specific categories that are not eligible for a contribution.

## Article 13 - obligations on the part of the recipient of the grant -

To strengthen the independent film sector, the revolving and other fund contribution must be repaid out of income from exploitation. \*

In important cases, for example in the case of certain minority co-productions, the board may decide not to impose the payback obligation referred to in the second paragraph, section d, of this Article. The implementation agreement must in principle be realised before the first recordings, unless the exception stipulated at the end of paragraph 2 is invoked and a written and substantiated request is made to the board for exemption from the obligations referred to under paragraph 2. The financing must in all cases be fully and unconditionally guaranteed before the recordings.

## Article 14 - obligations relating to the implementation agreement -

The implementation agreement will also document that the financial transactions relating to the film production or television series must be kept strictly separate from other film productions or television series and activities the applicant is engaged in, and the conditions under which the awarded grant can be transferred to a single purpose company established at the initiative of the applicant.

## Article 15 - obligations relating to the expenditure -

The board can revoke the awarded grant, or reduce the amount of the grant and claim it back if, at the time of determining the grant, it becomes apparent that a lower or different amount has been spent in the Netherlands than the applicant stipulated in the application. The Fund cannot obligate the applicant to spend less than 20% of the total production costs outside the Netherlands in the EU, the EER or Switzerland.

#### Article 17 - accountability -

In principle, for a final calculation, no open orders can still exist. If these are present, the Fund will ignore these costs, unless sufficient substantiation is provided. The Fund receives the available figures for public reach and exploitation (cinema release, TVOD, SVOD, etc) of the film production or television series annually.

## Article 19 - payment -

The secondary establishment in the Netherlands, as referred to in the third paragraph, is a permanent establishment that should carry out production activities on a continuous basis and have at least one employee. The role of this permanent employee should be directly related to executive production activities for this entity. The economic activities of the secondary establishment should be evidenced by an entry in a Chamber of Commerce's Trade Register, a bank account with a bank branch in the Netherlands, with conventional invoicing from the Netherlands and a business CV.

# Article 20 - amendments, revocation and reclamation -

The board can revoke the awarded grant, or reduce the amount of the grant, if, after the grant has been awarded, it becomes apparent that there is double financing, in particular because the same costs for which the grant was requested have been entered in both the Dutch and foreign expenditure, or if it becomes apparent that the costs for which the grant was requested have not been demonstrably and directly spent with non-affiliated parties that are subject to Dutch taxation (as described in more detail in the qualification test).

The Fund can also use this authority if it becomes apparent, for example, that in the actual expenditure in the Netherlands the recipient of the grant has deviated from the costs that are relevant to the qualification test or has not realised the film production or television series in accordance with the points system submitted with the application. This will specifically be the case if this deviation results in the fact that, when the grant is determined, the recipient of the grant will no longer have a position in the ranking based on the points system of the application round in which it/he made the application.

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## **Appendix 1: QUALIFICATION TEST**

## Eligible production costs within the meaning of Article 7, fourth paragraph.

The production expenses that are taken into consideration for the calculation of the grant are limited. These expenses relate only to the costs that still need to be incurred for the realisation of the film production or television series and their objective, consequently, is the completion of the production. Production expenses are only eligible if they are realistic, cost-efficient and in line with market conditions, and if there are no deferments, in accordance with the stipulations in the Financial & Production Protocol of the Incentive.

The costs for technical film equipment (e.g. cameras, light and sound equipment) will qualify provided the equipment is purchased, leased or rented directly in the Netherlands. Only a percentage of the purchase value of material production equipment (including, but not limited to, computers, monitors, hard disks, software, cameras, light and sound equipment) can be classed as production costs; the percentage is dependent on the length of time the material production equipment is used for the international coproduction. If the equipment is used for 30 days or less, 5% of the purchase value (ex VAT) of the material equipment item in question can be classed as production costs; if the use exceeds 30 days the percentage is 10%.

The following costs are in any event not eligible for a contribution based on these regulations:

- costs associated with the business(es) of the applicant or the co-producers involved, including salary costs, costs for the furniture, rent or mortgage payments of the production office, secretarial support, post, telephone, Internet and mobile phone, couriers and other administrative costs and office materials, with the exception of managing functions (budgeted in line with market conditions) within the executive production process (limited to: the line producer/executive producer and/or production manager and/or specialised budget controller and/or post-production supervisor and/or unit publicist);
- taxi costs, purchase of fuel, mileage expense claims:
- quitclaim payments, provided they are submitted via an itemised invoice from the casting agency;
- representation, travel and accommodation costs, with the exception of hotel stays and public transport by land for the purposes of sustainability;
- financing and accountant's costs, with the exception of the costs of the interim audit and countercheck (Article 17, sixth paragraph);
- legal and tax costs:
- unforeseen costs, in so far as they exceed 5% of the eligible production costs. (The accountability stage must show that these costs have actually been spent on production costs that are eligible);
- overhead:
- the producer's fee, insofar as it exceeds 7.5% of the eligible production costs;
- the development costs already incurred;
- all payments for rights made for the use of rights not specifically created for the film production or television series (such as book and format rights, existing music and image recordings and works);

Eligible production costs may be eligible for a grant if these production costs have been demonstrably and *directly* spent with *non-affiliated parties that are subject to Dutch taxation*.

Non-affiliated means that none of the producers involved in the film production or television series, or their shareholders, administrators, policymakers, or any companies under their management, have significant control over the party that is subject to Dutch taxation or, subject to the evaluation of the board, are otherwise closely associated with the party that is subject to Dutch taxation.

*Direct(ly)* means that the party that is subject to Dutch taxation did not, in turn, outsource the goods or services that are included in the calculation of the grant to parties that are subject to foreign taxation.

Parties subject to Dutch taxation are legal entities, partnerships and natural persons that/who have demonstrably permanent domicile in the Netherlands or a permanent base in the Netherlands from which

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they demonstrably perform economic activities, proven, among other things, by means of a registration in the Commercial Register of a Chamber of Commerce, a bank account with a Dutch bank, with invoicing commonly from the Netherlands and that/who - subject to the evaluation of the board - have not taken domicile or established a permanent base in the Netherlands solely for the purpose of complying with the description of being a party that is subject to Dutch taxation.

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## **Appendix 2. POINTS SYSTEM**

The points system contains elements to determine the impact of a film production or television series on the reinforcement of the audiovisual infrastructure and film culture in the Netherlands, the (cross border) development of creative <u>and</u> technical talent and the promotion of the Netherlands as a production location and of talents across country borders.

There is a separate points system for drama series (2.1), documentaries (2.2) and animated series (2.3). To be eligible for a grant a minimum number of points is required. The minimum number of points required for the subsequent calendar year is determined annually by the Fund and published on its website, www.filmfonds.nl, prior to the first application round of the year in question. The minimum number of points determined annually will never exceed 75 points.

The points system is binary, which means that unless the table itself stipulates otherwise two mutually exclusive points can be awarded: zero points if the element in question does not apply, and, if the element in question does apply, the stipulated number of points.

A maximum of 160 of the 210 points can be obtained for sections 1 - 3. These sections focus on essential functions within the production process, the production and financing and the international recognition of the director and actors in the lead roles. The impact is evaluated in section 4. With regard to the allocation of points for sections 2 and 4 of the points system the applicant is free to spend 50% of the production costs outside the Netherlands without losing any points.

If two applications in an application round are allocated the same number of points and one of the applications must be rejected because the grant cap has been exceeded, the sequence is determined by comparing the total number of points in the individual sections, starting with section 4 (Impact) followed by sections 3, 2 and 1, in declining order of importance.

The points system for television series is identical in structure to that for film productions, under which points can be awarded in three categories of series: drama series (2.4), documentary series (2.5) and animated series (2.6). In the case of a television series with a Dutch minority share in the financing where the qualifying production costs that are spent in the Netherlands are at least one million euros, a minimum of one main function is required and other functions may also count if they have main responsibility for the realisation of the production in the Netherlands. The realisation may relate to both a single episode that takes place in the Netherlands and a series of episodes as part of which a story line takes place in the Netherlands. In the case of an animated series with a Dutch minority share in the financing, the functions count if they have main responsibility for the production in the Netherlands.

A maximum of 75 points can be obtained in the Creative talent and leading crew members section, likewise in the Production and financing section. A total of 15 points can be obtained for the international standing of the director, scriptwriter and the leading roles and under Impact a maximum of 45 points.

## 1. Creative talent and essential crew throughout the entire film production process

A maximum of 75 points can be obtained for this section based on the use of creative talents and other essential functions within the production process. A natural person can only be designated for a certain function on the list once, with the exception of the *director* and *screenwriter* functions and the *sound designer* and *re-recording mixer* functions. The person/party who/that performs the function has the ultimate responsibility in that position and must demonstrably have fulfilled a similar function in earlier film productions or television series. They must demonstrably have a permanent base (domicile) in the Netherlands from which they demonstrably perform economic activities and/or have demonstrable, strong ties to the Dutch film culture.

To be able to qualify for the scheme a minimum of two main functions (1.1 - 1.13, or in the case of the drama series category 1.1 - 1.15) are required. In the case of a film production or television series with a Dutch minority share in the financing where the qualifying production costs spent in the Netherlands are

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at least one million, a minimum of one main function is required and other functions may also count if they have main responsibility for the realisation of the Dutch part of the production. In the case of an animated series with a Dutch minority share in the financing, the functions count if they have main responsibility for the Dutch part of the production.

In the drama series category a maximum of 10 points can be obtained with other crew members (1 point per crew member) who have predominantly fulfilled that function, or in relation to a certain percentage of the total number of shooting days. In the animated series category extra points can be obtained based on the specific animation technique.

In the case of a Dutch minority co-production the subtotal of points obtained in this section can be multiplied by two, to a maximum of 75 points.

## 2. Production and financing

This section focuses on production and financial elements that apply to the category in question. A maximum of 75 points can be obtained in this section.

## 3. International standing of the director, scriptwriter and the lead actors

A maximum of 10 points can be obtained in this section if the director and/or scriptwriter in question, and in the drama series category also the lead actor(s), has/have been selected in certain international festivals with earlier work or have been distinguished with specific awards, in accordance with the overview of festivals and awards in the Financial & Production Protocol of the Incentive. The points apply to both (an) involved Dutch and foreign director and/or scriptwriter and lead actor(s).

## 4. The impact

To determine the impact of a film production or television series on the reinforcement of the audiovisual infrastructure and film culture in the Netherlands, the (cross border) development of creative and technical talent and the promotion of the Netherlands as a production location and of talents across country borders the Fund can allocate a maximum of 50 points for the extent to which the Incentive constitutes a lever for the production activity in the Netherlands, the promotional cross border impact, contributes to the diversity and international co-production position. The effect of other contributions from administrative bodies and/or the Fund on the film production or television series will also be taken into consideration.

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# 2.1. Points system – Drama series category

				W-19 (annual CR21
	Points system Production Incentive - Feature film subcategory		no v	
	Fill out the grey fields only (yes/no)	le.	. (1)	
	Title Film production:	Applica	tion nr (form):	
	Dutch minority coproduction? Y/N		no	
1.	Creative talent and leading crew members (heads of departments) with domicile in the Netherlands and/or that have demonstrable strong ties to the Dutch filmculture		yes/no	Points
1.1	Director (8 points)		no	0
1.2		Inly Dutch co-author Iuli Dutch authorship	no no	0
1.3	of full Dutch auth anthip) Leading role by actor/actress	role	no	0
1.4		roles role	no no	o o
	(4 points if Z roles with min. 5 days of shooting a person, Z points for I role with min. 5 days of shooting)	rolex	no	
1.6	Director of Photography (4 points) Editor (4 points)		no	0
1.7	Production Designer (4 points)  Sound recordist/Production sound mixer (on set) (3 points)	ound record(st	no no	0
1.9	Sound Designer and/or Re recording mixer 5	iound designer	no	a
1.10		le-recording mixer lisual effects supervisor	no	0
	(3 points for visual effects supervisor if budget item 5000 is at least 7.5% of the total budget, 2 points for colorist for grading the film, not the dallies)	colorist grading film	no	0
1.11	Composer	от ролет	no	0
1.12	[	Musicians	no	0
1.13			no no	0
1.15	Line Producer and/or Post Production Supervisor	ine Producer	no	0
		ost production superv. ubtotal up to 1.15	no	0
		ubtotal 1.16		-
1.16		ubtotal 1.16		0
	$^{x}$ In case of a Dutch minority co production the subtotal in section $1$ is multiplied by $2$ (with a maximum of 75 pair	nts for section 1 in total	ŋ.	
2.	Production and Financing in the Netherlands		yes / no	Points
2.1	Image post production (15 points for crew and facilities & budget items 5000, 5400 and 5500)	••	no	0
2.2	In case 7.5% or more of the image post production budget is spent in the Netherlands  Sound post production (15 points for crew and facilities #budget item 5300)	••	no	0
2.2	In case 7.5% or more of the post production budget for sound is spent in the Netherlands		NO.	u
2.3	If Dutch majority coproduction (15points) In case 90% of shooting days (on location or studio) in the Netherlands	***	no	0
	If Dutch minority (co)production (15 points)	***		
2.4	In case 10% of shooting days (on location or studio) in the Netherlands  If Dutch majority coproduction (30 points)		no	0
	If at least 20% of production budget is financed abroad	'		J
	If Dutch minority (co)production (30 points)  If at least 60% of production budget is financed abroad and the minority coproducer holds the rights to the	***		
	Benefux distribution and has a share in the revenues for the region of the Benefux			
	8	ubtotal 2 **		0
	$^{22}$ In case of a Dutch minority co-production the points under 2.1 and 2.2 are multiplied by 1.5 (with a maximum $^{449}$ Only allocated for international filmproductions	of 75 points for section	2 in total)	
3.	International standing		yes / no	Points
3.1	Director, screenwriter (5 points) If a film of the director and/or screenwriter in the previous 10 years has been selected by one of the internation	nally acclaimed	no	0
3.2	film festivals or has received one of the international awards mentioned in the Financial & Productional Protoc Leading role of international standing (5 points)	col Incentive		0
5.2	If the leading actor / actress in the previous 10 years played a leading part in or was part of the principle cast of	a film that has been	no	U
	selected by one of the internationally acclaimed film festivals or had received one of the international awards in the Fimancial & Productional Protocol Incentive	mentioned		
	s	ubtotal 3		0
4.	Impact		yes/no	Points
4.1	The impact on the Dutch film industry (20 points)		yes / 110	Folia
	20 points can be allocated in case the cash rebate creates significant additional value		no	0
	for both technical and creative film professionals and film companies in the Netherlands 10 additional points can be allocated if diversity behind and in front of the camera is a crucial element and/or	•	no	0
4.2	the independent film production received funding of a (inter)national film fund based creative excellence.		-	
4.2	The transborder cultural and promotional impact through international coproduction and distribution (10+10 points can be allocated if theatrical and/or non theatrical distribution is guaranteed in more than	inca)	no	0
	two countries through minimum guarantees or pre-sales.  10 additional points can be allocated if there is cross-border visibility of Dutch landmarks and/or		no	0
	creative talent and/or leading crewmembers (head of department)		11%	¥
		ubtotal 4 ****		0
	**** These points will be allocated by the Netherlands Film Fund.  The applicant should answer these questions in the written motivation which should accompany the filled ou	t point system.		
			-1-1	
		Т	otal no. of points	0
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1.16	Other crew during the production and postp	roduction	yes/no	Points
Points ar	e given per function if a person has a crucial r	ole during the film production and/or postproduction.		
fone pe	rson has more than one function, only one po	int can be allocated.		
1.16.1	Artdirector	during 20% or more of the shooting days	nc	0
16.2	Best Boy Lighting	during 20% or more of the shooting days	no	0
16.3	Boom operator	during 20% or more of the shooting days	nc	0
.16.4	Cemera operator	during 20% or more of the shooting days	ng	0
16.5	Casting director	if two leading or supporting roles by Dutch actors	ng	0
.16.6	Focus Puller	during 20% or more of the shooting days	no	0
16.7	Foleyartist / mixer	during most of the entire postproduction process	n-ci	0
16.8	KeyGrip	during 20% or more of the shooting days	na	0
.16.9	Lighting Geffer	during 20% or more of the shooting days	ne)	0
16.10	Location Manager	during 20% or more of the shooting days	nc	C
16.11	Location Scout	during 20% or more of the shooting days	no	0
16.12	Production Manager	during most of the entire production process	ng .	0
.16.13	Prop Master	during 20% or more of the shooting days	no	0
.16.14	Setdresser	during 20% or more of the shooting days	no	0
16.15	Sound editor	during most of the entire postproduction process	nc	O
16.15	Stunts and/or Special Effects Supervisor	during 20% or more of the shooting days	ng	0
16.17	Wardrobe on set	during 20% or more of the shooting days	n-ci	0
	Subtoted 1.16	Subto	otal *	0
	Subtotaal 1.16 multiplied with factor-if app	dicable (multiplied by 2 in case of Dutch minority coproduction	n)	0

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Maximum of 10 points
 In case of a Dutch minerity co production the subtotal of 1.16 is multiplied by 2 (with a maximum of 75 points for section 1 in total).

# 2.2. Points system – Documentary category

				W 7 Jessen 1921
			no -	Jenson 2421
	Points system Production Incentive - Film Documentary subcategory		yes Jk.	
	Fill out the grey fields only (yes/no)		Ine	
	Tiele Elimened useline:	Analis	artan as francis	
	Title Filmproduction:	Applic	ation or (form):	
	Dutch minority coproduction? Y/N		ne	
1.	Creative talent and leading crew members (heads of departments) with domicile in the Netherlands and/or			
	that have demonstrable strong ties to the Dutch filmculture		yes/no	Points
1.1	Director (11 points)		no	0
1.2		Only Dutch co-author	no	0
		Full Dutch authorship	no	
	offull Dutch authorship)			
1.3	Director of Photography (9 points)		no	0
1.4	Editor (9 points)		no	0
1.5	Sound recordist/Production sound mixer (on set) (6 points)  Sound Designer and/or Re recording mixer	Sound designer	no no	0
1.6		Re-recording mixer	no	0
1.7	Line producer (5 points)	te receiving mixer	ne	0
1.8		Composer	no	0
	(3 points for the composer, 2 points for the orchestro/musicians)	Musicians	no	0
1.9	Production manager (3 points)		no	0
1.10	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		no	0
1.11	Visual Effects Supervisor or graphic designer or both (3 points)		no no	0
1.12	Researcher (3 points)  Stock or archive researcher (3 points)		no	0
2.22	and the second of the second			· ·
		Subtotal 1*		0
	* In case of a Dutch minority co production the subtotal in section 1 is multiplied by 2 (with a maximum of 75)	points for section 1 in	total)	
0	But the AF and the Holland			2
2.	Production and Financing in the Netherlands		yes/no	Points
2.1	Image post production (15 points for crew and facilities # budget items 5000, 5400 and 5500)	**	no	0
	In case 75% or more of the image post production budget is spent in the Netherlands			-
2.2	Sound post production (15 points for crew and facilities# budget item 5300) In case 75% or more of the post production budget for sound is spent in the Netherlands	**	no	0
2.3	Key functions (15 points)		no	0
	When at least three out of eight key functions (1.1 till 1.8) are selected			
2.4	If Dutch majority coproduction (30 points)	***	no	0
	If at least 15% of production budget is financed abroad			
	If Dutch minority (co)production (30 points)	***		
	If at least 60% of production budget is financed abroad and the minority coproducer holds the rights to the Benefux distribution and has a share in the revenues for the region of the Benefux			
		Subtotal 2 **		0
	** In case of a Dutch minority co production the points under 2.1 and 2.2 are multiplied by 1.5 (with a maxim	um of 75 points for se	ction 2 in total)	
	*** Only allocated for international filmproductions			
2	1			
3.	International standing		yes/no	Points
3.1	Director, screenwriter (10 points)		no	0
	If a film of the director and/or screenwriter in the previous 10 years has been selected by one of the internat			
	film festivals or has received one of the international awards mentioned in the Financial & Productional Prof	tocal Incentive		
	Si	ibtotal 3		0
4.	Impact		yes/no	Points
4.1	The impact on the Dutch film industry (20 points)			
	20 points can be allocated in case the cash rebate creates significant additional value		no	0
	for both technical and creative film professionals and film companies in the Netherlands			
	10 additional points can be allocated if diversity behind and in front of the camera is a crucial element and/or	or <mark>*</mark>	no	0
4.2	the independent film production received funding of a (inter)national film fund based creative excellence.  The transborder cultural and promotional impact through international coproduction and distribution (10+10).	(***)		
4.2	10 points can be allocated if theatrical and/or non theatrical distribution is guaranteed in more than	Contes	no	0
	two countries through minimum guarantees or pre-sales.			
	10 additional points can be allocated if there is cross-border visibility of Dutch landmarks and/or		no	0
	creative talent and/or leading crewmembers (head of department)			
	Su	ubtotal 4 ****		0
	***** These points will be allocated by the Netherlands Film Fund.			
	The applicant should answer these questions in the written motivation which should accompany the filled	out point system.		
			Total no. of points	0
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#### Points system - Animated series category Points system Production Incentive - Film Animation subcategory Creative talent and leading crew members (heads of departments) with domicile in the Netherlands and/or that have demonstrable strong ties to the Dutch Filmculture ves / no 1.1 Director (8 points) 1.2 Screenwriter Only Dutch co-author (3 points in case a Dutch co-author is associated with the project from development, 6 points in case Full Dutch authorship of full Dutch authorship) 1.3 Production designer / Lead designer (6 points) no Story Artist / Story boarder / Layout artist (5 points) 1.4 no Character Designer / Chiefcharacter modeller / Chiefcharacter rigger (5 points) no 1.6 Set designer / Background designer (5 points) по Head of Animation / Lead animator (5 points) 1.7 no 1.8 Sound Designer (5 points) no 1.9 Composer по (3 points for the composer, 2 points for the orchestra/musicians) Orchestra / Musicians no 1.10 Compositor / VFX artist (3 points) Line producer (3 points) 1.11 Technical director (3 points) no 1.13 Editor (2 points) Other crew during the production and post production [fill out on the right - max. 14 points] 1.14 Subtotal 1.14 \* In case of a Dutch minority co production the subtotal in section 1 is multiplied by 2 (with a maximum of 75 points for section 1 in total) Production and Financing in the Netherlands yes/no 2.1 Pre-production (15 paints for stary and visual development and, if applicable, asset building and digital previz) In case 50% or more of all the pre-production activities take place in the Netherlands Sound post production (15 paints for crew and facilities# budget item 5300) In case 75% or more of the sound post production budget is spent in the Netherlands Key Functions (15 points) When at least three of the principle creative and technical crew members (1.1 till 1.13) are selected If Dutch majority coproduction (30 points) If at least 20% of production budget is financed abroad If Dutch minority (co)production (30 points) If at least 60% of production budget is financed abroad and the minority coproducer holds the rights to the Beneliux distribution and has a share in the revenues for the region of the Beneliux Subtotal 2 \*\* 0 🌣 In case of a Dutch minority co production questions 2.1 and 2.2 are multiplied by 1.5 (with a maximum of 75 points for section 2 in total) \*\*\* Only allocated for international filmproductions International standing Director, screenwriter, production designer (10 points) no If a film of the director and/or screenwriter and/or production designer in the previous 10 years has been selected by one of the internationally acclaimed film festivals or has received film festivals or has received one of the international awards mentioned in the Financial & Productional Protocol Incentive Subtotal 3 0 Impact yes/no Points The impact on the Dutch film industry (20 points) 20 points can be allocated in case the cash rebate creates significant additional value for both technical and creative film professionals and film companies in the Netherlands 10 additional points can be allocated if diversity behind and in front of the camera is a crucial element and/or \* the independent film production received funding of a (inter)national film fund based creative excellence The transborder cultural and promotional impact through international co-production and distribution (10+10 points) 10 points can be allocated if the atrical and/or non the atrical distribution is guaranteed in more than no two countries through minimum guarantees or pre sales. 10 additional points can be allocated if there is cross-border visibility of Dutch landmarks and/or creative talent and/or leading crewmembers (head of department) Subtotal 4 \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* These points will be allocated by the Netherlands Film Fund. The applicant should answer these questions in the written motivation which should accompany the filled out points system

2.3.

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1.14	Other crew during the production a	and postproduction	yes / no	Points
Choose	one of the following options: *			
1.14.1	If 2D or cut-out animation:			
	2D animation studio	a minimum of 25% of animation work in the Netherlands	no	0
	Animators	a minimum of 25% of animators has domicile in the Netherlands	no	0
	Colouring	predominantly in the Netherlands	no	0
1.14.2	If 3D animation:			
	3D animation studio	a minimum of 25% of animation work in the Netherlands	no	0
	Animators	a minimum of 25% of animators has domicile in the Netherlands	no	0
	(chief) modeller	during most of the entire postproduction process	no	0
	(chief) rigger	during most of the entire postproduction process	no	0
	Shader/texture	during most of the entire postproduction process	no	0
	Lighting Gaffer	during most of the entire postproduction process	no	0
1.14.3	If 3D animation (motion capture)			
	Motion capture studio	a minimum of 25% of animation work in the Netherlands	no	0
	Animators	a minimum of 25% of animators has domicile in the Netherlands	no	0
	(chief) modeller	during most of the entire postproduction process	no	0
	(chief) rigger	during most of the entire postproduction process	no	0
	Shader/texture	during most of the entire postproduction process	no	0
	Lighting Gaffer	during most of the entire postproduction process	no	0
1.14.4	If Stop motion			
	stop-motion animation studio	a minimum of 25% of animation work in the Netherlands	no	0
	Animators	a minimum of 25% of animators has domicile in the Netherlands	no	0
	Puppet builder	during most of the entire postproduction process	no	0
	Lighting gaffer	during most of the entire postproduction process	no	0
	Set builder	during most of the entire postproduction process	no	0
	Director of Photography	during most of the entire postproduction process	no	0
		Subtotal 1.14		0

<sup>\*</sup> Maximum 14 points Fill out only one option

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