

**PUBLIC CALL
SOUTH ADRIATIC CO-DEVELOPMENT FILM FUND**

Introduction

The Apulia Film Commission Foundation, established by Regional Law No. 6/2004, Article 7, plays a central role in the implementation of the policies of the Puglia Region for the promotion and development of the audiovisual value chain. It provides public services for the benefit of the entire regional territory and works to attract Italian and foreign audiovisual productions to Apulia, with the aim of promoting and enhancing the artistic and environmental heritage, historical memory, and traditions of Apulian communities, as well as the professional and technical resources operating within the region. The Foundation supports the production and distribution of audiovisual works made in the region, primarily through the Film Fund and other instruments such as the Development Film Fund; promotes initiatives, events, and festivals in the audiovisual sector in Puglia; fosters research, study, experimentation, and skills training in the audiovisual field; and promotes coordination activities among regional, national, and international institutions to support collaborations in the audiovisual industry and new communication technologies.

In carrying out these tasks, the Apulia Film Commission Foundation is the Lead Partner of the **FRAME project** (*Fostering Regional Advancement and Market Expansion of Audiovisual SMEs in the South Adriatic*), funded by the **INTERREG IPA South Adriatic Programme 2021–2027**.

The FRAME project aims to support the audiovisual industry in the Lower Adriatic area by addressing the common challenges faced by SMEs in this region, such as international competitiveness, digital transformation, and access to resources. By capitalizing on the results and networks created by the CIRCE project “*Common Initiatives to pRomote CinEma across Italy – Albania – Montenegro*” (funded under the Interreg IPA Italy–Albania–Montenegro Programme 2014–2020), FRAME seeks to harness the potential of the film sector to stimulate economic growth, innovation, and entrepreneurship across Albania, Montenegro, Molise, and Puglia.

In addition to the Apulia Film Commission Foundation (Lead Partner), the partners of the FRAME project are the Montenegro Film Centre, the Albanian National Center of Cinematography, and the Molise Cultura Foundation. The associated partners are the Department of Tourism, Cultural Economy and Territorial Enhancement of the Puglia Region, the Ministry of Culture of Montenegro, and the Molise Region.

In particular, within the framework of WP2, the FRAME project foresees for the launch of a South Adriatic Film Co-Development Fund, which will support at least 8 audiovisual projects jointly submitted by film producers from the European Union (Italy) and IPA countries (Albania and Montenegro). The general objective of the Fund is to co-produce high-quality cinematographic works, while its more specific objectives are to encourage the creative potential of authors,

increase the attractiveness of the territories involved as locations for audiovisual productions, enhance the beauty and diversity of the South Adriatic from the perspective of its historical, artistic, and landscape heritage, and improve access to international partnerships for audiovisual SMEs.

Art. 1 – Purpose and legal framework

1. This Public Call, within the framework of the FRAME project (*Fostering Regional Advancement and Market Expansion of Audiovisual SMEs in the South Adriatic*), funded by the INTERREG IPA South Adriatic Programme 2021/2027, **is aimed at supporting the development and pre-production phase of audiovisual works or series of audiovisual works for cinema and television, including fiction and animation, through the granting of aid pursuant to Article 20a of Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 (General Block Exemption Regulation – GBER)**, which governs aid for cooperation costs of SMEs participating in Interreg projects.
2. In addition to the Regulation referred to in the previous paragraph, this Public Call is governed by:
 - a) Commission Recommendation No. 2003/361/EC of 6 May 2003 on the definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises;
 - b) Interreg IPA South Adriatic Programme 2021/2027, Project Manual (<https://southadriatic.eu/programme-library/project-manual-tools>), Factsheet 4.6 (State Aid) and Factsheet 4.10 (Eligibility Rules), in their latest available version.
 - c) Regulations and provisions on State aid in force in EU Member States (Italy) and in candidate countries for EU accession (Albania and Montenegro), with particular reference to compliance with State aid rules also for IPA countries;
 - d) National and regional administrative provisions in force concerning the audiovisual sector and support measures for SMEs operating in the audiovisual field.

Art. 2 – Beneficiaries and eligibility requirements

1. Applications for funding may be submitted by micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), as defined below by Commission Recommendation No. 2003/361/EC of 6 May 2003:
 - a micro-enterprise is defined as an enterprise employing fewer than 10 annual work units (AWU) and whose turnover or annual balance sheet total does not exceed EUR 2 million;
 - a small enterprise is defined as an enterprise employing fewer than 50 annual work units (AWU) and whose turnover or annual balance sheet total does not exceed EUR 10 million;
 - a medium-sized enterprise is defined as an enterprise employing fewer than 250 annual work units (AWU) and whose turnover does not exceed EUR 50 million or whose annual balance sheet total does not exceed EUR 43 million.
2. The enterprises must operate predominantly in the audiovisual production sector (ATECO/NACE code 59.11). Applicants must be established in one of the partner countries of the FRAME project: Italy, Albania, or Montenegro. It is specified that participation is open to Italian companies established throughout the entire national territory and not exclusively to those based in Puglia and Molise (the eligible area of the Interreg IPA South Adriatic Programme 2021/2027), in order to broaden the pool of potential applicants, foster the establishment of solid and qualified co-productions, and ensure an adequate level of participation, quality, and project competitiveness.
3. This is done in full compliance with the objectives of the intervention, which remain primarily focused on enhancing and promoting the eligible territory of the Programme.
4. Each applicant enterprise must cumulatively meet the following requirements:

a) Formal registration and sectoral activity

- **For Albanian enterprises:** registration with the National Business Centre (Qendra Shtetërore e Regjistratit – QSR) of the Republic of Albania, with NACE code 59.11 or equivalent, and simultaneous registration with the Albanian National Center of Cinematography (Qendra e Kinematografisë);
- **For Montenegrin enterprises:** registration with the Central Registry of Commercial Entities (Centralni Registrar Privrednih Subjekata – CRPS) of Montenegro, with NACE code 59.11 or equivalent;
- **For Italian enterprises:** registration in the Register of Companies held by the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Crafts and Agriculture (C.C.I.A.A.) of the province where the company is based. The enterprise must operate mainly in the sector "Motion picture, video and television programme production activities" (ATECO 2025 code 59.11.00 or NACE code 59.11).

Registration with the above-mentioned registers must be valid and in good standing at the time of submission of the application and must remain so until the date of final disbursement of the grant.

b) Financial soundness and absence of insolvency proceedings

Each enterprise must not be:

- An undertaking in difficulty, according to the EU definition (Article 2(1), point 18 of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 – General Block Exemption Regulation);
- Subject to insolvency proceedings such as bankruptcy, receivership, extraordinary administration, compulsory administrative liquidation, or company dissolution (or equivalent procedures provided for in Albania and Montenegro);
- Subject to a composition with creditors without business continuity or to a debt restructuring plan (or equivalent procedures provided for in Albania and Montenegro);
- Under voluntary liquidation (or equivalent procedures provided for in Albania and Montenegro).

c) Tax and social security compliance

Each enterprise must be compliant with:

- Tax obligations (payment of taxes);
- Social security contributions and social insurance obligations.

d) Other requirements

Each enterprise must:

- Comply with regulations on health and safety in the workplace;
- Operate in compliance with national and territorial collective labour agreements and with related contribution obligations;
- Not be in any condition that would prevent the granting of aid under applicable anti-mafia legislation;
- Not be in a situation of having received and subsequently failed to repay or deposit, in a blocked account, aid that public administrations are required to recover following a recovery decision;
- Not have been subject, in the 6 years preceding the date of notification of admission to the aid, to revocation measures ordering the total repayment of public grants, with the exception of those resulting from forfeiture decisions or voluntary withdrawals by the enterprise.

Art. 3 – Participation and co-production arrangements

1. Audiovisual projects must be submitted by at least two enterprises (co-producers): one established in Albania or Montenegro and one established in Italy.

2. One of the producers shall act as Lead Applicant and shall be responsible for submitting the application for funding also on behalf of the co-producer(s).
3. The Lead Applicant must hold, either in full ownership or as a beneficiary, the majority of the economic exploitation and creative development rights relating to the audiovisual work for which the grant is requested. In particular, the Lead Applicant must prove such ownership through:
 - **Formal assignment of rights:** an assignment agreement signed by all original rights holders (authors, holders of pre-existing rights, etc.), signed by both parties, dated, and registered (where required by local legislation);
 - **Option agreement on rights:** an option contract entered into with the rights holders, providing for the legal possibility to exercise the rights for the production of the cinematographic work and its future economic exploitation, with clear terms and conditions;
 - **Licence of use:** where the Lead Applicant does not hold all the rights, appropriate documentation proving the legitimate licence of use granted by the rights holders (co-owners, previous producers, etc.).

All documentation relating to the rights must be attached in original or certified true copy and must be fully understandable (translated into English where documents are in languages other than English).

4. The distribution of the budget among the co-producers must be proportional to the technical and artistic contribution provided by each partner to the project. In any case:
 - The Lead Applicant must hold a share equal to or greater than 40% of the total budget;
 - The share of the development and pre-production budget allocated to the co-producer may not be less than 15% of the total eligible costs. In the case of multiple co-producers, the overall share allocated to them may not be less than 15% of the same total costs.
5. **Within the framework of this Public Call, each enterprise may submit only one application, regardless of whether it participates as Lead Applicant or as co-producer. In the event that multiple applications are submitted by the same enterprise, all applications submitted after the first one shall be automatically declared inadmissible.**

Art. 4 – Project requirements and types

1. Eligible projects are audiovisual works relating to fiction, creative documentaries, and animation that meet at least one of the following requirements:
 - **Main setting:** the work must be set entirely or predominantly (at least 80% of the total running time or narrative timeline) in one or more geographical areas within Albania, Montenegro, Molise, and the Puglia Region. "Setting" refers to the place where the main action of the story takes place; transitional or secondary locations are not counted for the percentage calculation;
 - **Authorial origin:** the work must be written or co-written by one or more authors originating from Albania and/or Montenegro and/or Molise and/or the Puglia Region, or must include one or more authors from these territories among the signatories of the story/screenplay (including co-author(s)); alternatively, it may be based on a literary work (novel, short story, theatrical play) written by an author originating from the above-mentioned territories;
 - **Cultural adaptation:** the work must be a creative adaptation of a literary work (novel, short story, poetry, theatrical play) written by an author originating from Albania, Montenegro, Molise, or the Puglia Region, even if the screenplay is written by different screenwriters.

2. The audiovisual projects referred to in the previous paragraph must fall into one of the following categories:

- **CINEMA:** Fiction feature films with a minimum duration of 52 minutes, primarily intended for theatrical release; genres include narrative fiction films such as drama, comedy, thriller, horror, adventure, science fiction, and fantasy; intended distribution: national and international theatrical release, streaming platforms (VoD/SVoD).
- **TV SERIES:** Audiovisual works with a minimum total duration of 120 minutes, primarily intended for television broadcasting (including VoD and SVoD); structure: miniseries, anthology series, episodic fiction series; including: a complete pilot episode + series bible + at least 2-3 episodes in treatment form; format: episodes of 45'-60' (drama) or 22'-30' (comedy).
- **DOC - CREATIVE DOCUMENTARIES:** Creative (non-purely informational) documentaries with a minimum duration of 52 minutes, primarily intended for theatrical release; approach: auteur documentaries featuring in-depth research, investigative inquiry, portraiture, or local history with a strong narrative and artistic dimension; intended distribution: film festivals, theatrical distribution, specialized platforms; exclusions: promotional documentaries, tourist reportages, docusoaps, strictly informational documentaries.
- **ANIMATION:** Animated feature films (2D, 3D, stop-motion, mixed techniques) with a minimum duration of 52 minutes, primarily intended for theatrical release; genre: narrative animation for cinema (for adults, children, families); single animated works or animated series with a minimum total duration of 24 minutes primarily intended for television broadcasting (including VoD and SVoD); format: individual episodes of 22'-30' (for series).

3. Projects relating to the following categories of works are not eligible:

- Works of a pornographic nature or featuring gratuitous violence, that glorify criminal activities, or incite violence or racial, religious, gender-based hatred, or hatred against minorities;
- Works that may seriously damage the historical, cultural, or civic image of the Republic of Albania, Montenegro, the Molise Region, or the Puglia Region;
- Television advertising, commercials, teleshopping, and telepromotions;
- News and current affairs programmes, news bulletins
- Games, variety shows, quiz shows, talk shows, reality shows;
- Live broadcasts of events (concerts, conferences, theatrical performances, sporting events, celebrations);
- Promotional documentaries of public or private entities, documentaries exclusively promoting tourism, "making-of" content, non-narrative reportages, wildlife reportages, information programmes, docusoaps;
- User-generated content (UGC), viral entertainment formats, amateur web series;
- Works that infringe third-party copyright or privacy rights.

Art. 5 – Definition of development and pre-production activities and implementation timelines

1. This Public Call finances exclusively the development and pre-production activities of the audiovisual work, defined as follows:

Development activities

- Acquisition/optioning of rights to the story, literary material, or idea (within a limit of 20% of the total granted contribution);
- Drafting of the subject (story outline, synopsis);
- Drafting of the treatment (extended treatment);
- Writing of the first, second, third, and subsequent screenplay drafts;
- Script revisions and rewrites (script doctoring);

- Preparation of the series bible (for TV series), storyboards, character design, mood boards;
- Narrative research and documentation for the project;
- Participation in workshops, masterclasses, and writing courses relevant to the audiovisual work;
- Specialized creative and narrative consultancy services;
- Production feasibility studies and preliminary budgets;
- Market analysis and identification of potential financiers/distributors;
- Legal and/or administrative consultancy during the development phase

Pre-production activities

- Location scouting and site visits in the South Adriatic territories;
- Territorial research (historical, cultural, anthropological research);
- Preliminary contacts with potential crew members (director of photography, production designer, sound designer, etc.) and drafting of letters of intent;
- Consultations with the director (if contractually engaged);
- Preparation of preliminary production plans (indicative production schedule and shooting schedule);
- Feasibility analysis of specific locations;
- Participation in selected international pitching events, co-production forums, and film markets;
- Legal consultations for rights acquisition and the contractual structure of the co-production;
- Technical feasibility studies (VFX, animation, location-related challenges, etc.).

2. The development and pre-production activities of the audiovisual projects admitted for funding under this Public Call must be completed, including the final financial reporting of expenses and the submission of the final dossier, by **28 February 2027**.
3. Where the project is unable to complete the activities by 28 February 2027 for reasons not attributable to the beneficiary, **a justified request for an extension of up to 2 months (until 30 April 2027)** may be submitted, supported by appropriate documentation. **In the case of audiovisual works falling under the “Animation” category, an extension of up to 4 months (until 30 June 2027) may be requested.**

Art. 6 – Eligible costs

1. Only costs related to the development and pre-production activities of the audiovisual work shall be eligible, provided that they are actually incurred and paid by the beneficiary enterprises, starting from the date of publication of this Public Call.
2. Only the following categories of expenditure shall be eligible, provided that they are actually incurred and paid by the beneficiary enterprises:

a) Costs for authors, creatives, and other professional services

- Fees for screenwriters, story writers, authors, and dialogue writers;
- Fees for script doctors, narrative editors, and writing consultants;
- Fees for directors (limited to preliminary consultancy, meetings, and project feasibility analysis);
- Costs for the acquisition of rights (copyrights, options on novels, short stories, articles, etc.) are eligible up to a maximum of 20% of the total granted contribution
- Fees for composers (limited to consultancy on preliminary thematic music);
- Fees for genre-specific consultants (crime consultants, medical consultants, etc.);
- Fees for legal and/or administrative consultancy services.

b) Costs for site visits and territorial research

- Travel expenses (flights, trains, car rentals) for site visits in Albania, Montenegro, Molise, and the Puglia Region;
- Accommodation and subsistence expenses during site visits;
- Costs for professional location scouting (fees for location managers during the scouting phase);
- Documentation materials (photographs, location videos, GPS mapping, etc.);
- Cultural, archival, and library research costs in the relevant territories;
- Consultancy with local experts (historians, anthropologists, local guides);
- Preliminary permits and authorizations for access to private locations.

Limit: travel expenses must be proportionate to the nature of the project and justified by the scouting documentation produced.

c) Costs for participation in training courses

- Registration fees, attendance costs, and teaching materials for training courses in screenwriting, audiovisual project development, and narrative techniques;
- Courses funded under the Creative Europe – MEDIA Sub-programme;
- Courses accredited by recognized film schools/academies (ISFCI, DAMS, etc.).

Requirement: the submitted project must be explicitly selected or accepted for participation in the relevant course.

d) Costs for participation in co-production forums and international film markets

- Registration and participation fees for relevant international co-production forums, film markets, and pitching events;
- Travel expenses (flights, trains, car rentals) for participation in such events;
- Accommodation during the event;
- Promotional materials (printed pitch deck, teaser trailer, PowerPoint presentation, etc.);
- Costs for simultaneous interpretation during pitching sessions (if required).

Requirement: the submitted project must be explicitly selected and accepted to participate in the relevant event; documentation proving such selection must be attached to the financial report.

3. For these costs, the following supporting documents are eligible for reimbursement:
 - the taxable amount of invoices (which must include, in the description, a reference to the project and to CUP B39G25000410007);
 - the net amount of the receipt (in the case of assignment of rights or other types of expenses);
 - the net amount of any tax, social security, and welfare charges, whether borne by the enterprise or by its employee, in the case of payroll expenses.
4. In addition, in order to be eligible, documented expenses must be paid through:
 - Bank transfer (traceability guaranteed by IBAN, date, payment reference clearly linked to the project and CUP B39G25000410007, and amount);
 - Company credit card;
 - Payments via authorized online platforms (PayPal, Stripe, etc.), provided that they are traceable and properly documented.
5. Cash payments, payments made with personal credit cards not registered in the name of the enterprise, and in-kind compensation or compensation in exchange for undocumented services are strictly excluded.

6. Expenses incurred in a currency other than euro shall be reimbursed in euro by applying the official exchange rate in force in the beneficiary's country on the date the payment is made.
7. All reported expenses must be:
 - Clearly identifiable as "Expense financed by the INTERREG IPA South Adriatic Programme 2021/2027 – FRAME Project – CUP B39G25000410007";
 - Documented by a certified true copy of the original document (including digital copies);
 - Recorded in a detailed expenditure report in .xls format, provided by the Apulia Film Commission Foundation, indicating: date of expenditure, description of the expense, payee, amount, expenditure category, and attached supporting document.
8. The following categories of expenditure are not eligible:
 - **Purchase of capital goods.** Machinery, equipment, cameras, lighting, microphones, computers, software (even if used for project development);
 - **VAT-related costs.** Except where the enterprise is not entitled to recover VAT under national legislation (e.g., exemption regimes);
 - **Cash or non-traceable expenses.** Payments not supported by receipts/invoices or lacking proof of bank traceability;
 - **Expenses paid from undeclared bank accounts.** Payments made from accounts other than those indicated in Annex 1 – Application for Funding (except in the case of changes previously communicated and authorized);
 - **Costs for goods/services not directly related to the project.** For example, office furniture purchases, general insurance costs, utilities (gas, electricity), rent for premises not entirely dedicated to the project;
 - **Irregular copyright payments.** Costs for the assignment of rights not carried out in compliance with national legislation or EU directives;
 - **Costs in favor of linked enterprises.** Payments made to companies that are controlled by, controlling, or associated with the beneficiary enterprise, as defined by Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC;
 - **Costs related to third-party financiers.** Fees, royalties, or payments to entities providing additional financing to the project (situations of conflict of interest);
 - **General management and overhead costs.** Interest on loans/mortgages, producer's fees, general administrative expenses, taxes not directly attributable to the project;
 - **Below-threshold expenses.** Individual supporting documents for amounts below EUR 20.00 (VAT excluded);
 - **Expenses incurred prior to the publication of the Public Call.** Activities undertaken before the publication date of this Public Call are not reimbursable;
 - **Expenses related to projects not awarded funding.** In the case of projects not admitted for funding, no preliminary expenses incurred shall be reimbursed.

Art. 7 – Financial allocation, amount and Intensity of the grant

1. The financial allocation assigned to this Public Call amounts to € 160,000.00, fully funded by the Interreg IPA South Adriatic Programme 2021–2027.
2. The maximum amount of the grant for each co-developed project may not exceed **€ 20,000.00 (twenty thousand euros).**
3. The minimum eligible amount is **€ 5,000.00 (five thousand euros).** Applications requesting a lower amount shall be deemed not fundable due to insufficient project impact
4. The grant is awarded as a **non-repayable capital contribution (grant)**, e.g., without any obligation of repayment by the beneficiary enterprises, subject to proper use in accordance with the provisions of this Public Call.

5. The granted contribution covers **100% of eligible costs** incurred for development and pre-production activities, up to a maximum of EUR 20,000.00 per project.
6. The grant shall be disbursed in two instalments:

Instalment 1 – First payment (50%)

- Amount: 50% of the granted contribution;
- Condition: submission of a complete financial report of expenses incurred up to an amount equal to 50% of the granted contribution, following verification by the Apulia Film Commission Foundation;
- Timeline: within 60 days from receipt of the financial reporting documentation (starting from the date of receipt);
- Method: bank transfer to a bank account held in the name of the enterprise.

Instalment 2 – Final balance (50%)

- Amount: the remaining 50% balance;
- Condition: submission of the final financial report of expenses incurred up to an amount equal to 100% of the granted contribution, following verification by the Apulia Film Commission Foundation;
- Timeline: within 60 days from receipt of the financial reporting documentation (starting from the date of receipt);
- Method: bank transfer to a bank account held in the name of the enterprise.

7. **Non-cumulation rule.** The grant awarded under this Public Call **cannot be combined** with other public funding, contributions, or State aid (regional, national, or European) allocated to the same development/pre-production phase of the same audiovisual project, with the exception of aid intended for specific activities not eligible under this Public Call (e.g., support for accessibility for persons with disabilities), provided that such aid is clearly distinct and separately documented.

Art. 8 – Procedures and deadlines for submitting the application for funding

1. The application for funding and the related annexes must be submitted by certified electronic mail (PEC), in the case of a Lead Applicant established in Italy, to the PEC address **progetti@pec.apuliamfilmcommission.it**, or by ordinary email, in the case of a Lead Applicant established in Albania or Montenegro, to the email address **email@apuliamfilmcommission.it**.
2. The application for funding must be submitted **by 2:00 p.m. (CET) on the 60th day following the publication of this Public Call**.
3. Applications for funding submitted after the deadline referred to in the previous paragraph shall be automatically declared inadmissible.

Art. 9 – Content of the application for funding

1. The application for funding must mandatorily include the following documentation, under penalty of being declared inadmissible:
 - a) **Application for funding (drawn up using the template in Annex 1).** Completed in all sections and signed by the legal representative of the Lead Applicant enterprise (in the case of a Lead Applicant established in Italy, the signature must be digital in PADES format); company identification data (company name, registered office, tax code/VAT number, contact person); information on the co-producer(s): name, registered office, tax code, contact details, declared percentage contribution; audiovisual work data: provisional title, genre, category (CINEMA/TV/DOC/ANIMATION), estimated duration, short synopsis (max 500 characters);

IBAN of the Lead Applicant and co-producer(s); declaration of commitment to comply with the terms and conditions of this Public Call; etc.

- b) **Declaration of possession of eligibility requirements (drawn up using the template in Annex 2).** The declaration must be issued by both the Lead Applicant and the co-producer(s); it must be completed in all sections and signed by the legal representative of each enterprise (for enterprises established in Italy, the signature must be digital in PADES format).
- c) **Rights contracts.** Contracts, options, or licences relating to the acquisition of creative development rights (story, screenplay, pre-existing literary material), duly signed by the parties; registration certificates issued by the competent offices (where required under local legislation); documentation clearly proving the transfer of the majority of rights to the Lead Applicant; in the case of an original work (not an adaptation), a declaration by the screenwriter(s) confirming that the original rights are their exclusive creation and are assigned to the Lead Applicant.
- d) **Co-production agreements.** Co-production contract between the Lead Applicant and the co-producer(s), or alternatively a Letter of Intent or Memorandum of Understanding specifying: financial contribution percentage of each partner; technical and creative roles and responsibilities; terms and conditions of the collaboration; future exploitation rights; dispute resolution mechanisms. If the agreement is still under negotiation, a declaration of commitment signed by the legal representatives of both partners must be attached.
- e) **Company profile.** Brief description of the Lead Applicant enterprise, mission and corporate history; main areas of activity in the audiovisual sector, infrastructure and available resources; track record of audiovisual productions carried out: titles, genre, year, budget, distributor, market results; main creative and technical team (names, roles, experience). **An equivalent company profile must be provided for each co-producer.**
- f) **Identity document.** Copy of a valid identity document (passport or ID card) of the legal representative of the Lead Applicant enterprise and of the legal representative of each co-producer enterprise.
- g) **Technical description of the work**, consisting of a supporting document describing:
 - **For the CINEMA category:** provisional title; extended synopsis (1-2 pages) with detailed plot, main characters, narrative arc, climax, resolution; genre (drama, comedy, thriller, etc.); writing notes; expected duration (minimum 52 minutes); target audience (adults, family, children, etc.); visual concept and tone (brief description of aesthetic style and narrative tone); territorial mapping: clear indication of which scenes/sequences take place in Albania, Montenegro, Molise, and the Puglia Region, with approximate percentages (e.g. "50% in Molise, 40% in Montenegro"); international market potential: expected distribution channels (cinema, streaming, television).
 - **For the TV SERIES category:** provisional title; series synopsis (overall format, narrative structure, number of episodes, episode duration); pilot episode synopsis (1 page); writing notes; profiles of main characters (max 2 pages, including names, age, defining traits); territorial mapping of the series as a whole and of the pilot episode; serialization structure (episodic, serialized, anthology, etc.); reference models (international series of similar genre); target audience and primary destination platform (TV broadcaster, Netflix, Amazon Prime, etc.).
 - **For the DOC category:** provisional title; subject/premise (max 2 pages): central theme, protagonists, geography; research methodology (e.g. investigative inquiry, intimate portrait, oral history, etc.); writing notes; territorial mapping: specific locations and regions involved, percentage of research in each territory; relevance and durability of the chosen topic (cultural/historical relevance); preliminary contacts with main protagonists/testimonials (letters of intent, participation agreements).
 - **For the ANIMATION category:** provisional title; synopsis (1-2 pages); planned animation technique (2D, 3D CGI, stop-motion, mixed technique); writing notes; territorial mapping: indication of visual elements, landscapes, and cultural references drawn from the four

territories; character design of main characters (drawings, descriptions); visual style (illustrative, realistic, cartoon, stylized, etc.); target audience (children, family, adults); episode duration (if series) and number of episodes planned; visual references (other animations of similar genre/style).

- h) **Story and/or treatment.** Mandatory for **CINEMA**: full screenplay or extended treatment (10-20 pages), dated and signed by the screenwriter(s). **Mandatory for TV SERIES**: series outline (5-10 pages) + full pilot screenplay signed by the screenwriter(s) + outline of subsequent episodes. **Mandatory for DOC**: narrative treatment (10-15 pages) + preliminary research documentation (articles, archives, contacts). **Mandatory for ANIMATION**: series/film bible (character bible, world bible, episodic structure) + character design of main characters (illustrations) + storyboard of the opening sequence/key sequences (minimum 10-15 visual pages). All screenplays/treatments must be **in English** (other languages are not accepted unless accompanied by an official translation).
- i) **ISAN or EIDR code.** If available, ISAN (International Standard Audiovisual Number) assigned by competent national offices; alternatively, an EIDR (Entertainment Identifier Registry) code if registered with EIDR.org; if not yet available, a declaration of commitment to obtain the code by the date of submission of the final financial report and final dossier (no later than 28 February 2027).
- j) **Development plan and timeline.** Detailed document indicating the planned development and pre-production phases. Total duration: from May 2026 to February 2027. Gantt chart or detailed calendar with milestones and deliverables.
- k) **Detailed budget for development and pre-production.** Excel table indicating: expenditure lines by category (authors/creatives, scouting, training, forums, etc.); detailed description of each cost item; amount per item; subtotal per category; total development budget (this amount forms the basis for calculating the contribution: 100% up to a maximum of EUR 20,000); indication of percentage allocation between the Lead Applicant and co-producer(s). The budget must be realistic and proportionate to the ambition of the project.
- l) **Production notes.** Narrative document (2-3 pages) illustrating: strategic and creative vision of the project; rationale for choosing locations in the four territories (landscapes, cultures, traditions); narrative and visual potential of the selected locations; planned development strategies (international screenwriting workshops, specialist consultancy, etc.); final production potential: realistic estimate of production budget, timeline, required crew, potential financiers (public funding, private investors, additional co-producers); distribution potential: target festivals, potential distributors, streaming platforms, and national/international broadcasters interested in the genre.
- m) **Screenwriters' filmography (optional).** Single document (max 2-3 pages) containing the filmography of all screenwriters already involved: previous titles, years, broadcasters/platforms, awards/recognitions.
- n) **CVs and contacts of authors and professionals already engaged (optional).** Single document (max 5-10 pages) including: detailed CVs of each contracted author/professional (screenwriter, director, director of photography, production designer, composer, etc.); list of previous films/series (titles, years, distributors); awards/recognitions; direct contacts (phone, email); links to IMDb profiles or personal portfolios (if available).
- o) **Contracts and letters of intent (optional).** Contracts already signed with the director, screenwriters, director of photography, production designer, composers, or equivalent creative roles; alternatively, letters of intent signed by such professionals indicating their availability to participate under the specified conditions; documents must clearly indicate role, agreed fees, and duration of engagement.
- p) **Letters of interest from main cast (optional).** Letters of interest signed by principal actors/actresses (leading and key roles), indicating their availability to participate in the project; letters must be signed by agents or legal representatives.

- q) **Supplementary visual materials (optional).** Applicants may attach: preliminary storyboard of key sequences (5-10 pages); visual mood board indicating the aesthetic tone of the project (colour palette, reference images, cinematic style examples); detailed character descriptions with drawings/illustrations; photographs or video footage of proposed South Adriatic locations; teaser video (max 2 minutes) representing the creative concept; PowerPoint presentation deck (10-15 slides) for pitching.

2. All submitted documentation must be **in English** and, where originally drafted in other languages, must be accompanied by a translation, under penalty of being declared inadmissible.

Art. 10 – Procedure for selection and evaluation of applications for funding

1. Within 7 calendar days from the deadline for submitting applications for funding, the Person in Charge of the Procedure at the Apulia Film Commission Foundation shall carry out the administrative assessment aimed at verifying:
 - a) Compliance with the deadlines set by the Public Call. Verification that the application for funding has been submitted within the deadlines established under Article 8, paragraph 2, of this Public Call;
 - b) Completeness of the documentation. Verification that all documentation required under Article 9, paragraph 1, of this Public Call has been submitted;
 - c) Formal compliance. Verification that the documents have been duly signed, including digitally (where required), in a compliant electronic format;
 - d) Legibility and comprehensibility. Verification that the submitted documents are legible (scans/PDFs of acceptable quality) and, where drafted in languages other than English, accompanied by an official translation.
2. **Outcome of the formal check.** The Person in Charge of the Procedure shall complete an administrative admissibility form for each application, indicating the outcome (admissible / admissible with reservation / inadmissible), with detailed justification in the event of inadmissibility.
3. For applications deemed inadmissible or admissible with reservation, the Apulia Film Commission Foundation shall communicate the reasons for exclusion or the request for additional documentation via PEC or email (depending on the country in which the Lead Applicant is established) within the deadline referred to in paragraph 1 above, granting the applicant the possibility to submit supplementary documentation within 7 calendar days from receipt of the request (in the case of a Lead Applicant established in Italy, to the PEC address **progetti@pec.apuliafilmcommission.it**, or by ordinary email in the case of a Lead Applicant established in Albania or Montenegro, to **email@apuliafilmcommission.it**).
4. If the applicant fails to provide the requested documentation within the granted deadline, the application shall be definitively deemed inadmissible and shall not proceed to qualitative evaluation, without the need for further communication. If the applicant provides the requested documentation within the granted deadline, the Person in Charge of the Procedure shall assess the submitted integrations, updating the administrative admissibility form where necessary and communicating the final outcome (admissible / inadmissible) via PEC or email (depending on the country in which the Lead Applicant is established) within 4 calendar days from receipt of the integrations, with detailed justification in the event of inadmissibility.
5. For applications deemed admissible, the Apulia Film Commission Foundation shall communicate admission to the qualitative evaluation phase via PEC or email (depending on the country in which the Lead Applicant is established) within the deadline referred to in paragraph 1 above.
6. Within 3 calendar days from the completion of the administrative assessment, the Person in Charge of the Procedure shall appoint a Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC) composed of 3

experts, one appointed by each of the FRAME project partners (Apulia Film Commission Foundation, Montenegro Film Centre, Albanian National Center of Cinematography); 2 members of the Production Office of the Apulia Film Commission Foundation, and 1 Recording Secretary (without voting rights), appointed from the technical assistance staff and responsible for documenting the work of the Committee.

7. All members of the Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC) shall sign a declaration of absence of conflict of interest, certifying that they have no economic, family, or other relationships with any applicant admitted to the qualitative evaluation.
8. The Technical Evaluation Committee shall assess each application admitted to the qualitative evaluation according to the following merit criteria, assigning an overall score expressed in hundredths (maximum 100 points):

Evaluation Criteria for the Quality of the Film Project	Maximum score
Narrative and Creative Quality (this criterion assesses the narrative strength of the project, the originality of the creative approach, the coherence of the plot, and the characterization of the characters).	25
Territorial Link and Enhancement of the South Adriatic Area (this criterion assesses the degree to which the project is rooted in the territories of Albania, Montenegro, Molise, and the Puglia Region, as well as its ability to enhance their heritage, culture, and landscape).	20
Project Feasibility and Budget (this criterion assesses the realism of the development budget, the coherence between the requested resources and the expected deliverables, and the soundness of the work plan).	20
Commercial and Distribution Potential (this criterion assesses the project's prospects for commercial success, audience potential, and likelihood of securing additional funding).	10
Quality of the Co-production Proposal (this criterion assesses the robustness of the cross-border partnership, the balance of contributions among partners, and the clarity of the agreements).	15
Experience and Track Record of the Parties Involved (this criterion assesses the CVs and previous works of producers, screenwriters, and other professionals involved).	10
TOTALE	100

9. Within 10 calendar days from its appointment, the Technical Evaluation Committee shall draw up a ranking list including all applications that have obtained a score equal to or higher than 70 points. Applications that do not reach 70 points shall be deemed "**not fundable**" due to insufficient merit, regardless of the availability of financial resources.
10. Within 5 calendar days from receipt of the minutes of the Technical Evaluation Committee, the Person in Charge of the Procedure shall approve the ranking list by means of a formal decision (determination), which shall be published on the institutional website of the Apulia Film Commission Foundation, indicating for each application:
 - Title of the work;
 - Name of the Lead Applicant and co-producer(s);
 - Final score awarded;
 - Amount of the granted contribution;
 - Status (funded / partially funded / not fundable due to insufficient merit / inadmissible).
 At the same time, the Apulia Film Commission Foundation shall notify each applicant of the outcome and transmit the minutes of the Technical Evaluation Committee via PEC or email (depending on the country in which the Lead Applicant is established).
11. Within 7 calendar days from the date of publication of the ranking list, applicants who consider the evaluation to be incorrect or unfair may submit reasoned observations and objections, exclusively through the Lead Applicant, to the Person in charge of the procedure in the case of a Lead Applicant established in Italy, to the PEC address progetti@pec.apuliamfilmcommission.it or, in the case of a Lead Applicant established in Albania or Montenegro, by ordinary email to email@apuliamfilmcommission.it. The observations must include:
 - Identification of the application (title of the work, Lead Applicant, and co-producer(s));
 - Specific points of disagreement with the evaluation;
 - Supporting documentation (where deemed necessary);
 - Signature of the document (for Lead Applicants established in Italy, the signature must be digital in PADES format).
12. The Person in Charge of the Procedure shall forward the observations to the members of the Technical Evaluation Committee, who may proceed with a reasoned review of their evaluation (where deemed appropriate). In the event that significant procedural irregularities are identified (e.g., conflict of interest violations, serious calculation errors), the Committee may decide to carry out a partial re-evaluation of the application; otherwise, the ranking list shall remain confirmed.
13. The Person in Charge of the Procedure shall communicate the outcome of the observations and/or objections (partial/total acceptance or rejection) via PEC or email (depending on the country in which the Lead Applicant is established) within 10 calendar days from the submission of the observations and/or objections.
14. On the basis of the final ranking list (as possibly amended following objections), the Person in Charge of the Procedure shall issue a final grant award decision, formalizing:
 - The final list of projects admitted for funding (in ranking order);
 - The amount of the grant awarded to each project;
 - Conditions and obligations for beneficiaries;
 - Deadlines for signing the Grant Agreement.
15. The final grant award decision shall be published on the institutional website of the Apulia Film Commission Foundation and notified to the Lead Applicant via PEC or email (depending on the country in which the Lead Applicant is established).
16. Within 7 calendar days from notification of the grant award decision, the Lead Applicant and the co-producer(s) must sign the Grant Agreement provided by the Apulia Film Commission Foundation, specifying conditions, obligations, reporting procedures, and disbursement timelines.

17. Once the Grant Agreement has been signed, the project shall formally enter the implementation phase.

Art. 11 – Grant Agreement, amendments and modifications

1. The Grant Agreement is the binding document governing the relationship between the Apulia Film Commission Foundation and the beneficiary enterprises. It includes:

a) Administrative details

- Identification of the beneficiary enterprises, both the Lead Applicant and the co-producer(s) (company name, registered office, VAT number, tax code);
- Title and brief description of the funded audiovisual project;
- Amount of the granted contribution;
- Unique Project Code (CUP);
- Reference to the ranking list and the grant award decision.

b) Obligation of inclusion in a public list

- Beneficiaries explicitly agree to be included in the public list of operations funded under the Interreg IPA South Adriatic Programme 2021–2027, in accordance with Article 115(2) of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013;
- Operation data (project title, amount of the grant, beneficiaries, location) shall be made public and accessible.

c) Obligations and constraints of beneficiaries

- Use of the funding exclusively for the purposes indicated (audiovisual development and pre-production);
- Maintenance of separate or appropriately coded accounting records;
- Retention of supporting expenditure documentation for 7 years from the date of final payment;
- Obligation to ensure traceability of financial flows (bank traceability);
- Timely communication of significant project changes (change of screenwriters, modification of settings, etc.);
- Mandatory participation in FRAME project events to be held in 2027 (Apulia Film Forum and Balkan Film Market) with pitching of the developed project (costs related to such participation shall be borne by the event organizers).

d) Disbursement modalities

- As established under Article 7, paragraph 6, of this Public Call.

e) Duration and implementation timeline

- The project implementation start date shall coincide with the date of signature of the Grant Agreement;
- The project implementation end date shall be the date of submission of the complete financial report and final dossier and may not exceed the deadlines indicated in Article 5 of this Public Call.

f) Controls and verifications

- The Apulia Film Commission Foundation reserves the right to carry out documentary checks and on-site inspections at the premises of the Lead Applicant and the co-producer(s);
- Requests for clarifications, additional information, or supplementary documentation may be made, with a compliance deadline not exceeding 10 calendar days from the request.

g) Post-implementation monitoring

- The Lead Applicant and the co-producer(s) agree to be subject to monitoring for 3 years following the funding, in order to verify:

- Retention of ownership of the intangible assets produced (screenplay, narrative dossier, etc.);
- Progression of the project towards the production phase;
- actual production of the audiovisual work and market results (if the Production phase is reached);
- Compliance with publicity and communication obligations described below.

h) Grounds for revocation and sanctions

- Exhaustive listing of behaviors that result in total or partial revocation of the grant, with consequent repayment of the disbursed funds plus statutory interest;
- Revocation procedures and the beneficiary's right to submit observations and defenses.

i) Reference clause

- Reference to the provisions of this Public Call for any matters not expressly regulated in the Grant Agreement;
- In the event of inconsistency, the Grant Agreement shall prevail over the Public Call only with regard to aspects specifically negotiated and jointly signed by both parties.

2. Any substantial modification to the project (change of main screenwriters, significant budget variation, modification of territorial settings, etc.) must be promptly communicated to the Apulia Film Commission Foundation at least 10 days prior to implementation, together with a request for prior authorization.
3. Depending on the extent of the modification, the Apulia Film Commission Foundation may:
 - a) Authorize the modification in full as requested;
 - b) Authorize it subject to conditions (e.g., reduction of the granted amount if the modification reduces territorial impact);
 - c) Deny authorization if the modification substantially contradicts the spirit of the original project, potentially resulting in revocation of the grant.
4. In the event of exceptional and unforeseeable circumstances (e.g., geopolitical crises, health emergencies, natural disasters), the Apulia Film Commission Foundation may grant derogations and extensions of the implementation period, in accordance with principles of proportionality and sound administrative judgment.

Art. 12 - Procedures for reporting and recognition of eligible expenditure

1. For the purpose of recognising the expenses incurred, the Lead Applicant may submit (in the case of a Lead Applicant established in Italy, to the certified email address progetti@pec.apuliafilmcommission.it, or by ordinary email in the case of a Lead Applicant established in Albania or Montenegro, to email@apuliafilmcommission.it) the documentation described below through two separate financial reports, upon reaching 50% and 100% of the eligible expenditure, together with the corresponding request for payment.
2. The Lead Applicant shall also submit the financial reporting documentation relating to the expenses incurred by the co-producer(s).
3. The documentation to be submitted by the Lead Applicant shall include:
 - a) Separate declarations issued by the legal representative of the Lead Applicant and of the co-producer(s), based on the template provided by the Apulia Film Commission Foundation, certifying, *inter alia*, that:
 - all applicable regional (where existing) and national legal requirements, particularly those relating to taxation, have been complied with;
 - all applicable EU regulations and rules have been respected, including, by way of example, those concerning financial traceability, information and publicity obligations, labour contracts and workplace safety, environmental impact, equal opportunities and inclusion of persons with disabilities;
 - the expenditure incurred is eligible, relevant and reasonable, and was incurred within the eligibility period established by the Public Call;

- no VAT reductions and/or deductions have been obtained on the expenses incurred (or, if obtained, on which expenses and to what extent);
- no additional reimbursements, grants or financial contributions from other public or private entities, at national, regional, provincial and/or EU level, have been obtained or requested (or, if obtained or requested, which ones and to what extent).

b) Self-declaration on the cumulation of aid, issued by the legal representative of the Lead Applicant and the co-producer(s), based on the template provided by the Apulia Film Commission Foundation.

c) Detailed report on the development and pre-production activities carried out during the reference period.

d) List of authors.

e) List of suppliers.

f) List of locations, clearly highlighting those located in Albania and/or Montenegro and/or Molise and/or Puglia.

g) Final reporting only, depending on the category (explicitly highlighting, where applicable, the parts set in Albania and/or Montenegro and/or Molise and/or Puglia):

- For the CINEMA category. Final screenplay (explicitly highlighting the parts set in Albania and/or Montenegro and/or Molise and/or Puglia);
- For the TV SERIES category. Series concept and full screenplay of the pilot episode (explicitly highlighting the parts set in Albania and/or Montenegro and/or Molise and/or Puglia);
- For the DOCUMENTARY (DOC) category. Treatment and research dossier (explicitly highlighting the parts set in Albania and/or Montenegro and/or Molise and/or Puglia);
- For the ANIMATION category. In the case of a feature-length project: project bible (explicitly highlighting, where applicable, the parts set in Puglia) and teaser; in the case of a series project: project bible (explicitly highlighting the parts set in Albania and/or Montenegro and/or Molise and/or Puglia) and video board of the pilot episode.

h) Final reporting only, a final dossier (max. 10 pages) describing:

- activities carried out;
- results achieved (completed screenplay, dossier, crew contacts, etc.);
- project development;
- feedback from industry professionals involved;
- prospects for the production phase;
- any other relevant information deemed necessary.

i) For the final financial report only, ISAN or EIDR codification of the audiovisual work (if not previously submitted).

j) Detailed analytical financial statements of eligible costs, drafted in accordance with the template provided by the Apulia Film Commission Foundation, clearly distinguishing between expenses incurred by the Lead Applicant and those incurred by the co-producer(s).

k) True copies of original documents, separately grouped for expenses incurred by the Lead Applicant and those incurred by the co-producer(s), including:

- suppliers' invoices, together with the relevant proof of payment (bank transfer copy, bank debit evidence, etc.);
- payroll slips, invoices or receipts related to duly contracted workers, together with the relevant proof of payment (bank transfer copy, bank debit evidence, etc.);
- any other supporting expenditure documentation, together with the relevant proof of payment (bank transfer copy, bank debit evidence, etc.);

- where applicable, legally binding documents (contracts, agreements, letters of appointment, etc.), clearly indicating the object of the service or supply, its amount, delivery terms, and payment modalities.

4. For the purposes of recognising eligible costs, such costs must:

- be actually incurred and paid starting from the first day following the date of publication of this Public Call;
- be expressly and strictly related to the project admitted for funding under this Public Call;
- be actually incurred and justified by invoices or accounting documents of equivalent evidentiary value;
- comply with civil and tax legislation;
- be paid in accordance with the legislation governing the traceability of financial flows (Article 3 of Law No. 136/2010, as amended by Law No. 217/2010), using payment instruments that must indicate the Unique Project Code (CUP) B39G25000410007, with the exception of travel expenses, which may be paid by credit card; any reported expenses paid using payment methods other than those indicated in Article 6, paragraph 4, of this Public Call shall not be considered eligible.

5. All reported expenditure documents must bear the following wording on the original document: **"Expense financed by the INTERREG IPA South Adriatic 2021/2027 Programme – FRAME Project – CUP B39G25000410007."**

6. The Apulia Film Commission Foundation shall examine the financial reporting documentation and the request for payment of the contribution within 60 days of receipt of the documentation, based on documentary checks and/or any on-site inspections at the premises of the Lead Applicant and/or the co-producer(s).

7. During the verification process, the following shall be ascertained:

- the existence of administrative documentation relating to the operation, demonstrating its correct financing under the Programme and justifying the right to receive the contribution;
- the completeness and consistency of the supporting expenditure documentation (including invoices or equivalent accounting documents) in compliance with the applicable EU, national, and regional regulations governing the Programme, the Public Call, and the funded operation;
- the eligibility of the expenditure, as incurred within the period allowed by this Public Call;
- the coherence and eligibility of the expenditure, as falling within the types of costs jointly permitted by the relevant national and EU regulations, the INTERREG IPA South Adriatic Programme, and this Public Call;
- the attribution of the incurred and reported expenditure to the Beneficiary requesting payment of the contribution and to the funded operation;
- verification of the absence of prohibited cumulation of the requested contribution with other non-cumulative public funding;
- verification of compliance with EU and national State aid rules;
- verification of compliance with EU and national information and publicity requirements.

8. The Apulia Film Commission Foundation reserves the right to request clarifications and additional documentation regarding the activities carried out and the financial reporting submitted. Any requested supplementary documentation must be submitted within 20 days of receipt of the request, failing which the related expenditure shall be deemed ineligible. Requests for clarification shall suspend the time limits for completing the examination of the documentation.

9. Following verification of the requested supplementary documentation referred to in the preceding paragraph, the Apulia Film Commission Foundation may proceed with the payment of

the contribution or with the revocation of the grant in the event that one or more of the cases referred to in Article 15 occur.

10. Beneficiary enterprises are required to retain all financial reporting and supporting expenditure documentation for a period of 7 years from the date of payment of the final balance, at their registered office or at an external archive, in original form or as certified true copies.
11. The Apulia Film Commission Foundation reserves the right to request, even after several years, access to the original documentation for subsequent checks (audits, anti-fraud investigations, inspections by EU authorities).
12. In the event of failure to retain the required documentation, the beneficiary shall be subject to revocation of the grant and repayment of all funds received, in addition to administrative penalties and possible legal consequences.

Art. 13 – Disbursement of the grant

1. The grant shall be paid to the beneficiary entities, namely the Lead Applicant and the co-producer(s), by the Apulia Film Commission Foundation following verification of the interim and final financial reporting documentation referred to in Article 12 of this Public Call.
2. The amount of the granted contribution shall be recalculated at the disbursement stage on the basis of the expenses actually recognised as eligible by the Apulia Film Commission Foundation following verification of the interim and final financial reports.
3. The procedure for determining the total eligible expenditure shall be completed within 90 calendar days from the date of submission of each financial report and payment request, without prejudice to any suspensions or interruptions ordered by the offices of the Apulia Film Commission Foundation for the purpose of requesting clarifications and/or supplementary documentation. Requests for integrations shall suspend the time limits for completing the examination of the documentation.

Art. 14 – Obligations of the beneficiaries

1. Beneficiary enterprises undertake to comply with the following general obligations:
 - a) Exclusive use of the funds for the purposes indicated (development and pre-production of the audiovisual work for which the grant was awarded);
 - b) Prohibition of any substantial project modification without prior authorisation from the Apulia Film Commission Foundation;
 - c) Retention of the intangible assets produced (screenplay, research documents, narrative dossier) for at least 3 years following the granting of the funding, with prohibition of transfer to third parties without authorisation;
 - d) Compliance with applicable legislation (civil, tax, labour, anti-mafia, environmental, copyright, privacy, etc.);
 - e) Traceability of financial flows (payments exclusively by bank transfer or bank debit, with payment reference including the CUP);
 - f) Retention of documentation for 7 years, as provided for in Article 12.10.
2. The beneficiary enterprises undertake the following communication and amendment obligations:
 - a) Timely communication of amendments. Any significant change to the project (screenwriters, locations, budget, co-producer, etc.) must be communicated within 10 days (in the case of a Lead Applicant established in Italy, to the certified email address progetti@pec.apuliamfilmcommission.it, or by ordinary email in the case of a Lead Applicant established in Albania or Montenegro, to email@apuliamfilmcommission.it);

- b) Responses to requests for clarification. Within the deadlines indicated by the Foundation (usually 10 days), under penalty of forfeiture of the funding;
- c) Timely financial reporting. Submission of the complete financial report and the final dossier by 28 February 2027, without prejudice to extensions pursuant to Article 5 of this Public Call;
- d) Information on developments. Annual communication (by 31 May of each year from 2028 to 2030) on the progress of the project towards the production phase, including post-funding.

3. The beneficiary enterprises undertake the following publicity and communication obligations:

- a) the beneficiary enterprise is required to include the official logo of the Interreg IPA South Adriatic 2021–2027 Programme together with the FRAME project logo, in addition to the logos of the partner entities (AFC, Film Centre Montenegro, CNCA Albania, Molise Cultura), with the wording "This project has been funded by the European Union with the support of the Interreg IPA South Adriatic 2021–2027 Programme and the FRAME Project (Fostering Regional Advancement and Market Expansion of Audiovisual SMEs in the South Adriatic)", or an equivalent formulation, in the following materials:
 - final screenplay (cover page or colophon);
 - narrative dossier/presentation deck;
 - pitching materials (teaser, trailer, poster);
 - end credits (if the work enters production);
 - company websites (the funding received must be mentioned in the "News" or "Projects" section of the beneficiary enterprises' websites, with a link to the FRAME Programme website).
- b) The Apulia Film Commission Foundation shall publish a press release announcing the funded projects and subsequent press releases on the implementation of the projects;
- c) The beneficiary enterprises are encouraged to disseminate their own press releases (through internal press offices, press agencies, local media, sector magazines) to promote the funding received, amplifying the visibility of both the project and the Interreg IPA South Adriatic 2021–2027 Programme and the FRAME Project;
- d) Use of the final dossier by the Apulia Film Commission Foundation, the FRAME project partners and the Interreg IPA South Adriatic 2021–2027 Programme for dissemination purposes, contributing to documenting the impact and success of the Programme.

4. The beneficiary enterprises undertake to participate, with their fully developed project, in the following pitching and market events (travel, accommodation and subsistence costs shall be borne by the event organisers):

- a) Apulia Film Forum (scheduled for June 2027): the project must be presented in a pitching session open to international producers, investors and distributors; participation includes:
 - preparation of a **pitch deck** (15–20 minutes presentation);
 - possible production of a **teaser video** (max. 3 minutes);
 - **physical participation** of at least one member of the creative team (producer, screenwriter, or director if already attached).
- b) Balkan Film Market – FRAME Edition (scheduled for October 2027 in Albania): the project participates in a dedicated co-production pitching session; requirements are analogous to those indicated for the Apulia Film Forum.

5. The beneficiary enterprises undertake the following obligations after completion of the funded development phase, remaining subject to a 3-year monitoring period aimed at verifying:
 - a) Retention of intangible assets. The screenplay, dossier and developed materials remain the property of the enterprise and are not transferred to third parties;
 - b) progression towards production: an annual report (by 31 May) is required documenting:
 - project progress (still in development, funded for production, in pre-production, in production);
 - additional funding obtained (and its source);
 - creative team involved (director, director of photography, main cast, etc.);
 - estimated production timeline (if available);
 - any obstacles encountered.
 - c) Actual production of the work. Where the screenplay progresses towards production and subsequently towards completion, the enterprise is required to:
 - provide a copy of the final version of the film/series (upon distribution);
 - communicate market results (festivals, distributor, audience figures, awards);
 - authorise the Apulia Film Commission Foundation and the partners to cite the project as a case study of the success of the FRAME project (through press releases, case studies, public acknowledgements).
 - c) Compliance with communication obligations. Continued indication of the support of the European Union, the Interreg IPA South Adriatic 2021–2027 Programme and the FRAME project in publicly available materials (websites, presentation decks, promotional materials, etc.).

Art. 15 – Revocation, forfeiture, reductions and sanctions

1. The grant shall be fully revoked (with the obligation to repay all funds disbursed, plus statutory interest) in the following cases:
 - a) **False declaration.** The enterprise has provided false statements (e.g. regarding ownership of rights, contribution regularity, absence of conflict of interest);
 - b) **Violation of State aid rules and funding cumulation provisions;**
 - c) **Improper use of funds.** Documented expenses not related to the funded audiovisual project, or paid from undeclared accounts, or reported twice;
 - d) **Failure to submit financial reporting.** The beneficiary fails to submit financial reporting documentation by the deadline (28 February 2027, including any extensions), without acceptable justification;
 - e) **Refusal of on-site inspection.** The beneficiary denies access to its premises for inspection activities by the Foundation;
 - f) **Violation of communication obligations.** Failure to participate in the Apulia Film Forum and the Balkan Film Market without justification; or failure to include the mandatory logos in the final screenplay or public materials;
 - g) **Impossibility to realise the project.** Ascertained, after 12 months from the conclusion of the development phase, that the project has been definitively abandoned and that no significant actions towards production have been undertaken (except in cases of force majeure).
2. The Apulia Film Commission Foundation may proceed with a partial revocation of the grant (reduction of the reimbursement amount) in the following cases:

- a) **Non-eligible expenses identified.** If, during the verification of financial reporting, a significant portion of the expenses (>30%) is deemed non-eligible, the reimbursement amount shall be proportionally reduced;
- b) **Unauthorised project modification.** If the project has undergone substantial changes (e.g., change of location, change of main screenwriter) without prior authorisation, the reimbursement may be reduced by a percentage proportionate to the extent of the modification;
- c) **Insufficient documentation.** If the supporting expenditure documentation is incomplete or poorly legible, making it impossible to verify part of the declared expenses, that portion shall not be reimbursed;
- d) **Minor breach of obligations.** For minor violations (e.g. delay in communicating amendments, temporary lack of traceability for a single expense, delay in submitting materials for communication purposes), a flat-rate reduction of the amount (5-15%) may be applied.

3. Before proceeding with revocation, the Apulia Film Commission Foundation shall apply the adversarial principle:

- a) **Notification of contestation.** The beneficiary shall be notified via certified email (PEC) or email (depending on the country where the Lead Applicant and/or co-producer is established) of a notice of contestation detailing:
 - identified irregularity or violation;
 - violated provision of the Public Call and/or Funding Agreement;
 - attribution of responsibility;
 - potentially revocable amount;
 - deadline for submitting written defences (15 days from notification).
- b) **Examination of defences.** The beneficiary may submit a defence memorandum with documents, clarifications, and factual legal arguments; the Foundation shall examine the defences and, if admissible, shall proceed with a re-determination of the revocable amount;
- c) **Revocation measure.** The Person in charge of the procedure shall issue a revocation measure (total or partial), notified to the beneficiary via certified email or email, containing:
 - Detailed grounds for revocation;
 - Revoked amount;
 - Amount to be repaid (with possible recalculation in two instalments);
 - Deadline for repayment (usually 30 days);
 - Repayment conditions (bank transfer to the account of the Apulia Film Commission Foundation indicated);
 - Statutory interest. Statutory interest shall be applied to the revoked amount, calculated from the date of disbursement to the date of repayment (annual rate in force at the time of revocation).

4. The Apulia Film Commission Foundation has the right to ascertain irregularities, fraud, and violations for a period of 5 years from the date of final disbursement of the contribution.

5. After the expiry of 5 years, revocation is no longer possible, except in cases of particularly serious fraud (forgery of documents, money laundering, etc.), which may be prosecuted according to the time limits of Italian criminal law.

Art. 16 – Information, publicity obligations and data processing

1. All beneficiaries of this Public Call are required to accept that the data relating to their project (title, genre, synopsis, funding amount, beneficiary enterprises) shall be included in the following communication channels of the FRAME Programme and the Apulia Film Commission Foundation:
 - a) **Interreg IPA South Adriatic 2021–2027 Programme website, <https://www.italy-albania-montenegro.eu/>**

- b) **Institutional website**, <https://www.apuliamfilmcommission.it> (section dedicated to the FRAME Project);
- c) **Websites of the FRAME project partners**;
- d) **European databases**: data may be transmitted to agencies responsible for monitoring Interreg Programmes (IPA Agency, competent national authorities);
- e) **Public reports**: the Apulia Film Commission Foundation shall publish annual reports on the FRAME project, including aggregated data and case studies;
- f) **Press releases**: the names of beneficiaries and project titles may be mentioned in press releases issued by the Foundation or its partners (AFC, Film Centre Montenegro, CNCA Albania, Molise Cultura).

2. The Apulia Film Commission Foundation, as data controller, informs that:

- a) **Collected data**. Through this Public Call, personal data are collected. Data relating to:
 - Legal representatives of the enterprises (name, surname, date of birth, identity document, email, phone number);
 - Members of the indicated creative team (names, contacts, CVs);
 - Financial information (bank accounts, amounts, balance sheet data);
- b) **Purpose of processing**:
 - Management and monitoring of the funding;
 - Verification of eligibility and compliance requirements;
 - Communication with the beneficiary;
 - Controls and audits;
 - Publication of results and monitoring of EU Programmes.
- c) **Legal basis**. Processing is necessary for:
 - Performance of the contract (Funding Agreement);
 - Legal obligation (EU Programme transparency, anti-mafia);
 - Legitimate interest (project evaluation, communication).
- d) **Data retention**: data are retained for:
 - The entire duration of the funding (2026–2027);
 - 7 years after completion (for audits and verifications);
 - Longer, where required by law (anti-mafia, criminal law).
- e) **Data subject rights**. The right of access, rectification, erasure and portability of data is guaranteed, in accordance with GDPR Regulation (EU) 2016/679.
- f) **Data Protection Officer**. To exercise GDPR rights or submit complaints, contact: dpo@apuliamfilmcommission.it.

3. The beneficiary enterprises undertake to:

- a) **Compliance with anti-corruption rules**. Operate in compliance with Legislative Decree 231/2001 (administrative liability of legal entities) and equivalent regulations in Albania/Montenegro;
- b) **Declaration of absence of conflicts of interest**. Certify the absence of conflicts between members of the administrative/creative team and officials of the Apulia Film Commission Foundation;
- c) **Reporting of violations**. Promptly inform the Foundation of any irregularity, fraud, corruption or conflict of interest identified within the scope of the funding;
- d) **Access to inspections**. Allow access to checks and inspections (on-site inspections, document checks, interviews with staff) carried out by competent authorities (Interreg

IPA South Adriatic 2021–2027 Programme, Apulia Film Commission Foundation, regional authorities, independent auditors).

Art. 17 – Final provisions

1. This Public Call enters into force on the date of publication on the institutional website of the Apulia Film Commission Foundation.
2. Applications received before the publication date shall be deemed inadmissible.
3. For information, clarifications and technical support regarding this Public Call, the following contacts at the Apulia Film Commission Foundation are available: telephone +39.080.9731300 (Monday to Friday, 9:00–13:00 and 14:00–17:00 CET), certified email progetti@pec.apuliahfilmcommission.it, ordinary email email@apuliahfilmcommission.it, website <https://www.apuliahfilmcommission.it>.
4. **Supremacy clause.** In the event of conflict between provisions, the following shall prevail (in order): 1 EU regulations; 2 Specific provisions of the Interreg IPA South Adriatic 2021–2027 Programme; 3 National and regional implementing regulations; 4 Provisions of this Public Call.
5. **Safeguard clause.** If, as a result of court judgments, decisions of EU authorities, or the adoption of new regulations, certain provisions of this Public Call are deemed unlawful, null or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall remain fully valid and effective.
6. The Apulia Film Commission Foundation shall amend and update the text of the Public Call in accordance with subsequent judgments or provisions, promptly informing applicants and beneficiaries of any changes.
7. **Amendment and revocation of the Public Call.** The Apulia Film Commission Foundation reserves the right to amend or revoke this Public Call, following official communication published on the institutional website, in the following cases:
 - a) Force majeure or exceptional circumstances (economic crisis, health emergencies, international conflicts) that make implementation significantly difficult or impossible;
 - b) Superior provisions (government decrees, court rulings, EU directives) requiring amendment of the terms;
 - c) Reasons of public interest (e.g., reduction of programme/project budget);
 - d) Serious procedural anomalies (e.g., detection of systemic fraud).
8. In the event of revocation, applicants who have already submitted an application shall be promptly informed; funds already disbursed shall not be subject to retroactive revocation of the Public Call.

Art. 18 – Annexes

1. The following annexes are attached to this Public Call:

- Annex 1: Application for funding
- Annex 2: Declaration of eligibility requirements

Bari, on 19/02/2026
(date of publication)

The Person in Charge of the Procedure
(Dr. Cristina Piscitelli)