

THE FINNISH FILM FOUNDATION SUPPORT GUIDE FOR EXHIBITION AND DISTRIBUTION



THE FINNISH FILM FOUNDATION

The Finnish Film Foundation is an independent foundation under the guidance of the Ministry of Education and Culture. The aim of the Film Foundation is to promote high-quality, diverse and innovative film production in Finland. The Foundation grants support for the professional production, exhibition and distribution of films in various distribution channels. The Foundation is also responsible for the export of Finnish films, promoting the internationalisation of Finnish films and filmmakers and distributing support for the international promotion of films. The Foundation grants support for nationally significant international film festivals in Finland.

The Finnish Film Foundation receives its funds from Veikkaus and the Finnish gaming system from the monies allocated to the government's budget for the promotion of film. The Film Foundation's support is discretionary and falls under the Act of Discretionary Government Transfers and act on the government promotion of film culture. The support is granted based on applications.

The aims and specific criteria of the support vary across support types. They have been described in support-specific grant announcements and in this guide. The grant announcement defines for whom the support is intended and who may apply. The Film Foundation's support is granted for professional operations.

ACT ON THE GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT FOR THE PROMOTION OF FILM CULTURE (1174/2018)

The aim of the act is to promote

- 1) diverse and professional Finnish film production
- 2) the broad supply and distribution of films
- 3) the internationalisation of Finnish films and filmmakers
- 4) film culture and its development.

Participation, pluralism, cultural diversity and artistic freedom form the basis for reaching this aim.

(Act on the government's support for the promotion of film culture, section 2)

The Foundation's grants are based on the act on the government's support for the promotion of film culture (1174/2018). The grants apply the Act on Discretionary Government Transfers (688/2001). The Foundation follows the Administrative Procedure Act, the Act on the Openness of Government Activities (621/1999), the Language Act (423/2004), the Sámi Language Act (1086/2003), the Archives Act (831/1994), the Act on Electronic Services and Communication in the Public Sector (13/2003) and the Privacy Protection Act (9/2018).

ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS

According to the Act on the Openness of Government Activities (621/1999), a document submitted to the Finnish Film Foundation is public. Documents may also be designated confidential under the law or access to them may be discretionary. Confidential official documents include documents that contain information about private business or trade secrets.

BLOCK EXEMPTION REGULATION

The support granted by the Foundation is government aid that falls under the EU's Treaty, Article 107, and the decision by the EU Commission on 26 November 2008 concerning subsidies for the Finnish film industry (Commission regulation (EU) 651/2014), later block exemption regulation (BER).

Support granted by the Foundation must fulfil conditions listed in the BER's Articles 1–9 (general regulations) and Article 54 (aid schemes for audiovisual works).

According to the BER, support must be directed to a cultural product and can be granted for the production of audiovisual works, pre-production and distribution. According to section 3 of the act on the promotion of film, support may be granted for the production and distribution of films if the film can be considered an independent work of art, its content is based on cultural values originating in cultural identity and the film involves a significant artistic contribution by creators and performers whose wages and salaries form a significant portion of the production costs.

According to the BER's Article 53 (aid for culture and heritage conservation), the support may be granted for festivals and other similar cultural activities. According to the Article, support may take the form of either operating or investment aid.

According to the BER's general regulations, **the support should not be applied** to cases where the recipient would execute their project with or without the support, government support that has conditions or financing methods that do not follow EU legislation and especially support measures where the recipient is required to operate mainly from or in the country granting the support. However, the requirement that the recipient has a place of business or a subsidiary in the country granting the support is permissible.

An unconditional requirement is that the support cannot be granted to a corporation which is subject to an outstanding recovery order following a previous Commission decision declaring the aid illegal and incompatible with the internal market (BER, Article 1, Section 4 a).

SUPPORT GUIDE / Exhibition and distribution support

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Preparing an application

- Read your project's grant announcement carefully.
- Also read the following sections in this guide: general, oversight, final report and halting payments and repayment.
- Only use the application forms in the exhibition and distribution section on The Finnish Film Foundation's website! Do not use outdated forms!
- Register as a new client to the online application system or log in to your existing account (new registrations are usually processed within one week).
<https://www.ses.fi/tuenhakijalle/hakuajarjestelma/>
- Fill in an application in the online application system that consists of an electronic application form and the necessary appendices.
- Submit the application and the appendices before the deadline via the online application system.

[See the grant announcements](#)

1. GENERAL

The aim of the support

The aim of the Finnish Film Foundation is to promote the broad and comprehensive supply and distribution of films. The Foundation's values include participation, pluralism, cultural diversity and artistic freedom. The purpose of the exhibition and distribution support is to promote the professional national and international exhibition and distribution of films on the grounds noted in the grant announcements for each type of support.

The definition of film

In this guide, film and film production refer to a feature-length, short or serialised drama, documentary, animation or children's films or a combination thereof.

The definition of a cinema

In this guide, cinema refers to a professionally and regularly run establishment with one or more auditoriums and which gains most of its revenue from ticket sales to the public. The cinema's programme, technology and viewing facilities are in good condition and screenings are accessible to all members of the public.

How and when to apply?

Applications are submitted online (<https://hakemus.ses.fi>) by sending in the application and all appendices to the Finnish Film Foundation before the deadline noted in the grant announcement.

New applicants must register as clients to the online application system. New clients are registered within one week.

Prior to submitting an application, the applicant must read the relevant grant announcement and support guide carefully. Applicants should start preparing the application well before the deadline.

The application period ends at midnight on the final application date.

Exhibition and distribution support deadlines vary according to the support form. Information about the application periods is available on the Film Foundation's website under Grant Announcements and Deadlines:

<https://www.ses.fi/en/funding/grant-announcements/#exhibition-and-distribution>

The applicant is responsible for submitting the application within the deadline. It is therefore important to prepare for unexpected delays and reserve enough time to draft the application. Applications submitted to the system after the end of the application period will be moved to the next round of processing. Late applications are not processed if there is only one round of processing per year.

A good application and smooth communication

The Film Foundation's distribution department processes dozens of applications during each application period and 250–300 decisions are presented every year. It is essential for evaluation and comparison between the applications that the application is a clear and carefully prepared whole and includes the obligatory appendices. The application is always submitted using the application form for the support in question.

In a good application, at least two offers are appended for equipment procurements and all procurements exceeding €20,000, and the financial strategies including down payments are presented logically and demonstrate control over the film project.

Be clear and relate the essentials in your application. Think about how the applied support reflects its goals.

Fluent processing and service

When uploading appendices, make sure that

- the name of the appendix corresponds to its content
- all the obligatory appendices have been submitted
- the figures are congruent in all documentation, such as the budget and the financing plan

- reply to the handler's or the system's requests for additional information in the required time frame

When you email the Foundation during any stage of the project, mention your application number and the name of the project.

Please note that the Foundation's online system does not automatically inform the Foundation's employees of updated information or appendices. Please email the support handler when there is an update.

Applications and the Applicant's information

The Film Foundation's online application system has two windows:

1. Applications, where all the information and appendices related to the application are submitted
2. Applicant appendices, where all current documents concerning the applicant are submitted

What requirements must the applicant meet?

A favourable support decision requires that

- the applicant has complied with the conditions for granting previous support
- self-financing of the project has been secured. The applicant must demonstrate, by binding confirmation or agreement, that the project is feasible within the estimated time and to the extent indicated. The Foundation evaluates the adequacy of the funding secured at the time of application.

The Foundation may request further information if it deems it necessary for the decision-making process.

Support cannot be granted if the application is insufficient and the required information is not submitted into the online application system despite requests to do so.

How are the applications evaluated?

Support is discretionary. The evaluation and comparison of the applications is based on an overall assessment that considers the purpose of the funds, the grounds mentioned in the grant announcement and support guide and available funds in the budget. One of the prerequisites for a favourable support decision is that the applicant has complied with any previous conditions set for the granting of support and has submitted to the Foundation the outstanding final reports on support previously granted.

How are the decisions made?

The Finnish Film Foundation's Board decides on the applications concerning exhibition and distribution support based on the CEO's presentation.

The Foundation aims to make decisions in 4–8 weeks after the deadline.

All applicants receive a written decision that includes the conditions and limitations of the support and a claim for correction order with instructions.

The decision is based on the act of government funding for the advancement of cinema (1174/2018), the Act on Discretionary Government Transfers (688/2001) and the Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003).

2. TYPES OF SUPPORT

Cinema equipment and modernisation support

Aim

The aim of the Finnish Film Foundation is to promote an extensive and comprehensive range and distribution of films by supporting the broad availability and coverage of domestic films on different distribution channels and platforms, as well as a diverse range of international films in Finland.

The aim of cinema equipment and modernisation support is to guarantee high-quality and professional cinema operations throughout Finland.

For whom?

Support may be granted to a corporation or association registered in Finland responsible for cinema operations, and to a municipality or federation of municipalities that maintains cinema operations.

For justifiable reasons, support may be granted to a firm registered in Finland responsible for cinema operations.

When assessing applications, the conditions of professional and regular activity of a cinema and its financial conditions are taken into account.

From a perspective of professional conditions, it is of vital importance that the cinema's owner controls its software design, building of audience contacts, marketing and financial management. From a perspective of financial conditions, it is of vital importance that the cinema's owner has the necessary share of self-financing to fund the projects.

A prerequisite for the granting of support is that, in a year, the cinema to be supported is used at least 80% for cultural purposes in terms of time or its space capacity.

For what purpose and how much?

Support may be granted for the technical equipment procurements of cinemas, for the modernisation of screening and audience facilities and for projects promoting cinema accessibility for different groups of disabled people. Projects furthering the energy-saving of cinemas and other Green Screen projects are also eligible for support.

Support may be granted for the costs of establishing a cinema and for equipment procurements (satellite connection, improvement of broadband connection, etc.), which enable the presentation of other cultural offerings (such as event cinema) in addition to films.

The amount of support

Up to €200,000 and up to 70% of the costs approved by the Foundation may be granted as equipment procurement and refurbishment support.

The budget accounts for the project expenses without VAT. If the grant recipient does not have the right to VAT deductions, the costs may be approved with VAT.

Previous support decisions can be viewed on the Film Foundation's support decisions page

<https://www.ses.fi/tuenhakijalle/tukipaatokset/>

APPLICATION

Applications are submitted to the application system by submitting the application and appendices to the Film Foundation before the deadline noted in the grant announcement.

New applicants must register in the application system. New registrations are processed within a week.

Applicants fill in an application in the application system that consists of an electronic application form and the necessary appendices that are uploaded into the system.

Prior to submitting an application, the applicant must read the relevant grant announcement and support guide carefully.

Obligatory appendices

The applicant must submit the following appendices to the online application system by the final deadline:

Application appendices:

- Film Foundation application form
- Offers for procurements, at least two for each procurement of at least €20,000 (excluding VAT)
- Cinema operating plan
- Cost estimate and financial plan
- Cinema's lease agreement or other clarification of the ownership or management of the facilities
- Other funding agreements
- Film Foundation's final report form*
- An extract from the accounts, covering the cost centre of the project*
- A written report about the implementation of the project with regard to the plan*

*Enclosed in the final report stage

Application forms can be found on the Foundation's website: <https://www.ses.fi/en/funding/forms/>

Applicant's obligatory appendices:

- The most recently prepared financial statement approved and signed by an auditor, including:
 - all parts of the financial statement
 - auditor's report (if the applicant is obliged to elect an auditor pursuant to the Limited Liability Companies Act, Auditing Act or articles of association)
- a valid extract from the Trade Register or Register of Associations no older than six months
- a certificate of paid taxes no older than three months
- a certificate of paid pension insurance premiums no older than three months
- a current shareholders' register (Limited Liability Companies Act, Chapter 3). The shareholders register is delivered only once and updated if changes in ownership occur.

PLEASE NOTE! The application system has separate sections for the appendices related to the application and to the applicant. All appendices must be uploaded in the correct section according to the division presented above.

PLEASE NOTE! If it is not possible to submit certain appendices, an explanation of the missing appendices must be made and appended to the application. Acceptable deficiencies include, for example, the extract from the trade register if the applicant does not belong to the trade register.

How are the applications evaluated?

Cinema equipment and modernisation support for cinemas is discretionary. Granting the support is based on overall evaluation and comparison of the applications.

The following guidelines, among others, are used to evaluate the applications.

Project feasibility and significance are taken into account. In addition, the applicant's professional and financial means to complete the project and the funds available from the Foundation are evaluated. Other funding and self-financing of the project are viewed as an advantage.

When granting support, it is also assessed whether the cinema has the prerequisites for continuing operations in the locality, and whether its screening operations are professional and regular throughout the year.

Support is primarily granted for technical equipment procurement and the modernisation of screening and audience facilities of cinemas in small- and medium-sized municipalities.

Special conditions

A prerequisite for receiving support is that the beneficiary has submitted the accurate and up-to-date information required to maintain film statistics. Another prerequisite for receiving support is that the applicant has submitted up-to-date information to the Film Foundation about its cinemas.

A prerequisite for a favourable support decision is, for example, that the applicant has complied with possible previous support agreements and conditions set for the granting of support, and has submitted to the Foundation the outstanding final reports on support previously granted. If the applicant has several projects in a support relationship to the Foundation, in this context these can be viewed as a single entity. For the purposes of making a decision, the Foundation may ask the applicant to supplement material that he/she previously submitted to the Foundation.

A prerequisite for a favourable support decision is that an offer has been requested for all procurements of at least €20,000 plus VAT from more than one supplier of goods or services. These offers must be enclosed with the application. The costs of a project that receives support must be booked to its own cost centre in the applicant's bookkeeping. The recipient must adequately and appropriately insure the assets bought with the support.

Support cannot be granted if the application is insufficient and the required information is not uploaded into the online application system despite requests to do so. Applications submitted after the end of the application period will be processed in the following application round.

Decisions

The Board of the Finnish Film Foundation decides on the cinema equipment and modernization support according to a presentation by the Film Foundation Director.

Applicants receive the decision in writing.

The decision is based on the Act on the Government's Support for the Promotion of Film Culture (1174/2018), the Act on Discretionary Government Transfers (688/2001) and the Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003).

Payment

The Board of Directors of the Finnish Film Foundation decides on the cinema equipment and modernisation support according to a presentation by the Film Foundation Director.

Applicants receive the decision in writing.

The decision is based on the Act on the Government's Support for the Promotion of Film Culture (1174/2018), the Act on Discretionary Government Transfers (688/2001) and the Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003).

Payment of support

Cinema equipment and modernisation support is paid to the recipient's Finnish bank account in two instalments: the first instalment (80%) after the support decision has been made and the second instalment (20%) after the final report for the support has been approved by the Film Foundation.

Further information

Distribution and Exhibition Specialist Ilmari Arnkil, ilmari.arnkil@ses.fi, tel. +358 9 6220 3035

Regional operational support for cinemas

Objective

The aim of the Finnish Film Foundation is to promote the broad and comprehensive distribution of films by supporting the availability and reach of domestic films on different distribution platforms and also by supporting the availability of a wide variety of international films in Finland.

The aim of the regional operational support for cinemas is to ensure a functioning cinema network throughout the country, to promote the regional access to films and to encourage cinemas to develop new business operation models. The aim of the support is to promote the screening of a diverse selection of films that serves all demographics.

To whom?

Support may be granted to a corporation registered in Finland, a registered association or a municipality or a municipal consortium running a cinema while taking into consideration the prerequisites for professional and regular screenings. Support may also be granted for valid reasons to an individual proprietor registered in Finland in charge of running a cinema.

It may primarily be granted to cinemas and touring cinemas of small and mid-sized towns and municipalities. For special reasons, it may also be granted to cinemas in larger towns and municipalities.

For what purpose and how much?

Support can be applied for cinema activities that diversify the programme of the cinema and attract new audiences. These may include:

- Diversifying the programming
- Audience work, including local, open film events, activating the youth, increasing accessibility, filmmaker and expert appearances
- Screening alternative programming (e.g. event cinema)
- On a case-by-case basis, other activities deemed necessary by the applicant

Support may be granted only for costs incurred in the cinema operations. Support may also be granted for marketing and advertising costs for the activities mentioned above. The regular programming of the cinema and its marketing and advertising costs are not covered by this support.

Applications for the operational support for cinemas are made to the Foundation in exchange for reported actualised costs after the financial year.

A cinema operating in a town or municipality of less than 50,000 inhabitants can receive a maximum of €8,000 whereas a cinema operating in a town or municipality of more than 50,000 inhabitants can receive a maximum of €4,000 in support per year.

The regional operational support for cinemas is paid retroactively in a single instalment to the recipient's Finnish bank account in exchange for a cost statement appended to the application.

Previous support decisions may be viewed from the Foundation's support decisions page.

How to apply?

Applications are submitted to the online application system (<https://hakemus.ses.fi>) by submitting the application and appendices to the Finnish Film Foundation before the deadline noted in the call for applications.

New applicants must register to the online application system. New registrations are processed within a week.

Applicants fill in an application in the online application system that consists of an electronic application form and the necessary appendices that are submitted into the system.

[Instructions for the online application system](#)

Prior to submitting an application, the applicant must carefully read the relevant grant announcement and support guide.

Obligatory appendices

Obligatory application appendices:

- The Foundation's cost statement form verified and signed by an accountant and the applicant. **Use the form for 2021.**
- Form for screenings. **Use the form for 2021.**
- An informal written report of the actualised activities and programming enabled by the support, including an itemized report of the actualised costs.
- The cinema's lease or an account of the ownership of the property.
- An excerpt from accounting, including the cost unit for the project.

The applicant's obligatory appendices:

- The most recent financial statement verified and signed by an accountant, including:
 - all parts of the financial statement
 - the auditor's report (if the Limited-liability Companies Act, the Audit Act or the articles of association necessitate an auditor)or
 - operational inspection report
- A valid extract from the Trade Register or the Register of Associations no older than six months
- Certificate of tax debts that is no older than three months
- Certificate of paid pension insurance premiums that is no older than three months
- Current shareholder register (Limited Liability Companies Act, chapter 3) (the shareholder register is submitted only once and updated if holdings change).

PLEASE NOTE! There are separate sections in the application system for application appendices and applicant's appendices. All appendices must be uploaded to the correct section as indicated above.

PLEASE NOTE! If an appendix cannot be provided, the applicant must upload a written statement of the missing appendices to the application. Acceptable omissions are for example the Trade Register Extract if the applicant is not in the Trade Register.

How are the applications evaluated?

Regional operational support for cinemas is discretionary support. Granting the support is based on the overall evaluation and comparison of the applications. The following guidelines are used to evaluate the applications:

In granting the support, the following is evaluated:

- The realization of the activities mentioned in "For what purpose and how much?"
- The professionalism of the operations
- The continuity of the cinema in the region
- The cinema's commitment to accessibility work. This will be evaluated with the help of "Saavutettavuusopas elokuvateattereille" (2020), published by the Film Accessibility Forum.

Cinema operations have to be regular throughout the year, unless the population of the region permits an exception. The available funds of The Foundation are taken into consideration. Other funding and self-financing are considered to be an advantage in the evaluation.

A prerequisite for granting the support is that the recipient has delivered the correct current information for maintaining film statistics and the cinema's annual report to the Foundation.

In addition, a prerequisite for full support is that during the operational year, the cinema has organized screenings with subtitling for the hearing-impaired and has advertised on its website the possibility for the subtitling for the hearing-impaired and audio description.

Special conditions

The decision about the regional operational support for cinemas is made against the cinema's actualised expenses, accounted for and recorded by the cinema's accountant. The costs of the supported project must be on its own cost center or equivalent in the applicant's accounting.

An appended written report must contain the measures taken by the cinema, an itemised report of actualised costs and information about any other funding.

Admissible costs in the cost statement appended to the application are the paid net costs and project costs noted in the application form not subject to VAT and recorded in the recipient's accounts. If the recipient does not have the right to VAT deductions, the costs may be approved with VAT. The cost statement appended to the grant application must be certified by an accountant.

A favourable decision requires that the applicant has complied with possible previous support conditions and delivered a report on the uses of previous support to the Foundation. If the applicant is involved in several projects receiving support from the Foundation, the recipient's projects may be

viewed as a single entity. The Foundation may request further materials from the applicant in order to reach a decision.

The recipient must maintain their accounts according to the Accounting Act and the Accounting Ordinance and follow sound accounting procedures. The recipient must organise the project's audit trail – the link between the recipient's financial statement and the project's cost statement – in a way that it can be reliably, completely and transparently verified by a third party. The Foundation always reserves the right to fully audit the recipient's accounting and management.

The recipient must observe and notify their accountant and their auditor of the Foundation's instructions and guidelines concerning accounting, financial statement and auditing principles.

Support cannot be granted if the application has been submitted after the application period or is incomplete and the necessary information is not delivered in the application system despite request to do so. The handler of the support will assist in any questions regarding the application. The contact information is at the end of this grant announcement.

Information about decisions

The Finnish Film Foundation's board decides on the regional operational support based on the CEO's presentation.

Applicants receive a written notification.

The decision is based on the act of government funding for the advancement of cinema (1174/2018), the Act on Discretionary Government Transfers (688/2001) and the Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003).

Further information

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Film import support

Aim

The aim of the Finnish Film Foundation is to promote an extensive and comprehensive range and distribution of films by supporting the broad availability and coverage of domestic films on different distribution channels and platforms, as well as a diverse range of international films in Finland.

The aim of import support is to promote the import and effective distribution, marketing and presentation of high-quality, diverse film programmes that are broadly representative of world cinema culture and different film genres. The focus of the support is on those films that are not being distributed by international distribution companies, and that would not be imported without the support.

For whom?

Support may be granted to a film distribution company operating professionally, which is registered in Finland and which manages film distribution rights in Finland.

For what purpose and how much?

Film import support is intended for the import and distribution of films that diversify the programmes shown in cinemas.

Support may be granted to the import of a film meant for cinema release, amounting to up to €15,000 and up to 70% of the actual import, distribution and marketing costs approved by the Foundation.

Support up to €19,000 and 70% of the actual costs approved by the Foundation may also be granted for the dubbing costs of children's and family films in cinema distribution.

Import and dubbing costs are applied for with the same application.

The support is granted only for distribution in Finland. If the costs of importing the film also include distribution costs in other countries, the applicant may only include in the application the share of the costs corresponding to the distribution in Finland.

The granted film import support is intended exclusively for the applicant's distribution and marketing costs in Finland, and it cannot be distributed to the film's title holders by distribution agreements or other agreements. The support therefore does not constitute revenue from film distribution, which could be distributed to title holders.

The total amount of film import support granted by the Finnish Film Foundation and support granted for the same purpose by Nordisk Film & TV Fond may not exceed 70% of the total project costs.

Previous support decisions can be viewed on the Film Foundation's support decisions page:
<https://www.ses.fi/tuenhakijalle/tukipaatokset>

HOW TO APPLY?

Applications are submitted to the application system by submitting the application and appendices to the Film Foundation before the deadline noted in the grant announcement.

New applicants must register in the application system. New registrations are processed within a week.

Applicants fill in an application in the application system that consists of an electronic application form and the necessary appendices that are uploaded into the system.

Obligatory application appendices

The applicant must submit the following appendices to the online application system by the final deadline:

Obligatory application appendices:

- Film Foundation application form
- Film distribution agreement
- Film's marketing and distribution plan (please use the Foundation template)
- Audience statistics by locality*
- An extract from the accounts, including the cost centre of the project*
- A written report about the implementation of the project with regard to the plan*

*Enclosed in the final report stage

PLEASE NOTE! The application appendices are uploaded to the relevant application appendices, and named according to the type of appendix.

Application forms can be found on the Foundation's website: <https://www.ses.fi/en/funding/forms/>

Applicant's obligatory appendices:

- The most recently prepared financial statement approved by an auditor, including:
 - all parts of the financial statement
 - auditor's report (if the applicant is obliged to elect an auditor pursuant to the Limited Liability Companies Act, Auditing Act or articles of association)
- a valid extract from the Trade Register no older than six months
- a certificate of paid taxes no older than three months
- a certificate of paid pension insurance premiums no older than three months
- a current shareholders' register (Limited Liability Companies Act, Chapter 3). The shareholders register is delivered only once and updated if changes in ownership occur.

PLEASE NOTE! Documents pertaining to the corporation are uploaded into the Applicant appendices.

PLEASE NOTE! If it is not possible to submit certain appendices, an explanation of the missing appendices must be made and appended to the application.

How are the applications evaluated?

Film import support is discretionary. Granting the support is based on overall evaluation and comparison of the applications. The following guidelines are used to evaluate the applications:

The film enriches and diversifies the programmes of cinemas, and candidly represents new film countries, cultures or subcultures. The efficient distribution that is targeted is evident from the film's marketing- and distribution strategies. The available funds of the Film Foundation are also taken into account. Other funding and self-financing of the project are viewed as an advantage.

The focus of the support is on those films that are not being distributed by international distribution companies, and that would not be imported without the support.

Special conditions

Support may be granted for the import and distribution of a film considered a cultural product that forms an artistic whole, has content based on cultural values originating in cultural identity and contains a significant input by creators and artists, and the share of production costs comprising salaries and fees payable to them is significant.

A film that receives support for cinema distribution must be subtitled in Finnish and Swedish.

The approvable costs of a cost survey submitted as an application appendix are the costs directly arising from the project that are in the recipient's bookkeeping, paid net and exclusive of value added tax. If the grant recipient does not have the right to VAT deductions, the costs may be approved with VAT.

A cost survey submitted as a support application appendix must be authorised as accurate by a bookkeeper. The costs of a project that receives support must be booked to its own cost centre in the applicant's bookkeeping.

Once the Foundation has granted film import support to a film, the recipient must attach a mention of the support granted to the film's press and marketing material and to its presentational information (including in the Filmikamari press service).

A prerequisite for processing a decision is that the film's importer arranges a screening of the film for the party processing the support before the application is processed. The screening must be arranged in a DCP (Digital Cinema Package) copy. The copy must be subtitled either in the national languages or in English. If dubbing support is being sought for a film, the screening must be arranged dubbed in a DCP copy by which it will be distributed to cinemas. The viewing copy should be sent to the Film Foundation prior to the end of the application period.

A prerequisite for granting film import support is that the beneficiary has submitted the accurate and up-to-date information required to maintain film statistics.

A prerequisite for a favourable support decision is, for example, that the applicant has complied with possible previous support agreements and conditions set for the granting of support, and has submitted to the Foundation the outstanding final reports on support previously granted. If the applicant has several projects in a support relationship to the Foundation, in this context these can be viewed as a single entity. For the purposes of making a decision, the Foundation may ask the applicant to supplement material that he/she previously submitted to the Foundation.

Support cannot be granted if the application is insufficient and the required information is not uploaded into the online application system despite requests to do so, or the film has not been presented to the party processing the application. Applications submitted after the end of the application period will be processed in the following application round.

Payment of support

Film import support is paid to the recipient's Finnish bank account in two instalments: the first instalment (50%) after the support decision has been made and the second instalment after the final report for the support has been approved by the Film Foundation.

Decisions

The Board of Directors of the Finnish Film Foundation decides on film import support according to a presentation by the Film Foundation Director.

Applicants receive the decision in writing.

The decision is based on the Act on the Government's Support for the Promotion of Film Culture (1174/2018), the Act on Discretionary Government Transfers (688/2001) and the Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003).

Further information

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Training support

Objective

The aim of The Finnish Film Foundation is to promote an extensive and comprehensive range and distribution of films by supporting the broad availability and coverage of domestic films on different distribution channels and platforms, as well as a diverse range of international films in Finland.

The aim of training support is to promote the development of the professional skills and competence of people working in the exhibition and distribution of films.

To whom?

Training support may be granted to individuals working in exhibition or distribution or to people working for film festivals whose project are an immediate benefit to exhibition and distribution.

For what purpose and how much?

Training support is intended for international training programmes, events and online courses for people working in exhibition and distribution operations in order to develop their skills.

The amount of support

Support may be granted to cover participation fees for the training programme, including reasonable travel and accommodation expenses, excluding daily allowances.

Support may be granted in full (100%) for necessary and justified reasons in order to reach stated objectives. Other funding and self-financing of the project are viewed as a benefit.

Training support is paid to the recipient's Finnish bank account in one instalment after expenses have been accounted for by receipts appended to the application. The applicant writes an informal report of the training for the Foundation.

Previous support decisions may be viewed from the Foundation's support decisions page online.

APPLICATION: Training support

The application consists of an online application form and the obligatory appendices submitted into the system.

Obligatory application appendices

The applicant must submit the appendices to the online application system before the final deadline.

Obligatory application appendices:

- the Film Foundation's cost clarification form
- free-form report about actual training (1–2 pages)*
- certificate of participation in the training (if available)*
- clarification of actual costs with receipts*

*Enclosed with the application at the final report stage

Application forms are available on the Foundation's website: <https://ses.fi/en/funding/guidelines-and-forms/>

NOTE! The appendices to the application are submitted according to the type of the appendix.

How are the applications evaluated?

Training support is discretionary. Granting the support is based on the overall evaluation and comparison of the applications. The following guidelines are used to evaluate the applications:

Participating in training develops the expertise and professional skills of people involved in exhibition and/or distribution. In addition, the Foundation's available funds must be taken into account. Other funding and self-financing of the project are viewed as an advantage.

Participants in, for example, the EU's Creative Europe training programmes and events for marketing, distribution and exhibition professionals are eligible for the training support. Support may also be granted for other international training and online courses.

Special conditions

A favourable decision requires that the applicant has complied with other possible support agreements, conditions and delivered a report on the uses of previous support. If the applicant is involved in several grants with the Foundation, the recipient's projects may be viewed as a single whole. The Foundation may request further materials from the applicant in order to reach a decision.

The costs of a project that receives support must be booked to its own cost centre in the applicant's bookkeeping.

Support cannot be granted if the application is insufficient or the required information is not submitted into the online application system despite requests to do so.

Information about decisions

The Finnish Film Foundation's Board decides on the training support based on the CEO's presentation.

The decision is made at the Foundation board meeting following receipt of the application and its appendices. It takes approximately 3–8 weeks to process applications. Applicants receive a written notification.

The decision is based on the act of government funding for the advancement of cinema (1174/2018), the Act on Discretionary Government Transfers (688/2001) and the Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003).

Further information

Distribution and Exhibition Specialist Ilmari Arnkil, ilmari.arnkil@ses.fi, tel. +358 9 6220 3035

3. OVERSIGHT

The Film Foundation oversees and supervises how the support is used. The Film Foundation has the right to engage in audits to oversee payments and how the support is used. The Film Foundation may also postpone payments during audits.

Organising project oversight

The support recipient must maintain their accounts according to the Accounting Act and the Accounting Ordinance and follow sound accounting procedures. The costs of a project that receives support must be booked to its own cost centre in the support recipient's bookkeeping. The support recipient must organise the project's audit trail – the link between the recipient's financial statement and the project's statement of charges and final report – in a way that it can be reliably, completely and transparently verified by a third party.

The Foundation always reserves the right to fully audit the recipient's accounting and management.

The recipient is obliged to provide their accountant and auditor with this support guide, the grant announcement and the project's support application with all appendices. If the recipient neglects these duties, the Foundation has the right to deliver the documents to the applicant's accountant and auditor.

The recipient must observe and notify their accountant and auditor of the Foundation's instructions and guidelines concerning the accounting, financial statement and auditing principles.

Notice requirement

The recipient must provide the Finnish Film Foundation the correct and sufficient information to enable oversight of the support decision's conditions.

The recipient must inform the Foundation of all changes that influence the way the support is used without delay. Changes that influence the use of the support include changes in the project's quality, breadth and funding. The Foundation also always has the right to receive information about the project's current status and follow the project's progress.

A written report of changes must be emailed to the production support advisor who suggested the support to the Foundation. The basis for the report is the support agreement between the recipient and the Foundation which can only be changed with written permission from the Foundation.

A written report of the changes must be emailed to the person who prepares the support decisions.

Extension

Extensions for the use of the support must be applied for in writing.

A written report on the extension of the use of the support is emailed to the Distribution and Exhibition Specialist Ilmari Arnkil, ilmari.arnkil@ses.fi.

4. FINAL REPORTS

The final report must be provided to the Film Foundation within **one (1) year** of receiving the support decision. The costs approved in the final report are the applicant's accounted and paid project costs in accordance with the project budget without VAT.

The final report must include:

1. A **written report** signed by the applicant concerning the execution of the project in relation to the plan.
2. An **itemised report** on the actual costs in relation to the budget presented in the application.

3. If the support granted to the project by the Foundation is

- less than €20,000, the final report for the support must be verified and signed by an accountant
- at least €20,000, the final report for the support must be verified and signed by an authorised accountant. The auditor must also provide a written statement on the costs of the project and the use of the support funds. Instructions for preparing the statement can be found in the Foundation's accounting, project accounting and project inspection principles (Chapter 3, where applicable).

Auditing procedure

The final report is submitted to the online application system as an appendix.

Information about the submitted final report is emailed to the Distribution and Exhibition Specialist Ilmari Arnkil, ilmari.arnkil@ses.fi.

An automatic message indicating that the final report is missing only removed when the final report has been approved by the Film Foundation and the final instalment of the support has been paid.

The Film Foundation may request further information if it deems it necessary for the final report. The Finnish Film Foundation has the right to perform audits on the recipient's finances and activities based on the Act on Discretionary Government Transfers, section 16. The recipient must ascertain that the Film Foundation has the necessary prerequisites to perform the audit.

The Film Foundation approves the project's final costs and funding based on the final report.

If the project's support exceeds the actualised costs, the Film Foundation deducts the sum from an unpaid instalment. If the sum is larger than the unpaid instalment, the recipient must immediately return the exceeding portion of the support to the Film Foundation.

Act on Discretionary Government Transfers (688/2001) section 20

Repayment of discretionary government transfers

Recipients of discretionary Government transfer must repay without delay any transfer or part thereof they have received through error, in excess or manifestly without cause. Recipients must also repay a transfer or part thereof if it cannot be used as required in the transfer decision. If the repayable sum does not exceed 100 euros, it is not necessary to repay it.

In addition to the Act on Discretionary Government Transfers (688/2001), section 20, the recipient must abide by the following repayment conditions:

the recipient is obliged to immediately repay the support or part of the support if the support has not been used during the time period agreed to by the parties and if the Foundation has not granted an extension

the repayable amount must include annual interest and an added three percent following the Interest Act (633/1982), section 3, subsection 2. The interest is calculated from the last payment of the support repayment date.

The target of the support and application number must be mentioned in the message field during repayment.

The support must be repaid to the Finnish Film Foundation's bank account:

Nordea Bank Abp
IBAN FI74 1572 3000 0305 77
BIC NDEAFIHH

5. HALTING PAYMENT AND REPAYMENT

If the recipient does not repay the Film Foundation according to the Act on Discretionary Government Transfers, section 20, repayment of the support or a portion of it will proceed according to section 9 and section 10 of the act of government transfers to promote film culture.

Section 9 Halting payments

The Arts Promotion Center Finland is responsible for halting payments.

The Finnish Film Foundation must immediately make a proposal to the Arts Promotion Center Finland that the government transfer be halted if the Film Foundation has discovered information that warrants halting the payments. The Arts Promotion Center decides on the halting of payments and the continuation or halting of government transfers based on the Film Foundation's suggestion.

The decision to halt payments must be made immediately and, for special reasons, in at least two calendar years after the Finnish Film Foundation's suggestion.

The Finnish Film Foundation must include sufficient and essential information to make a decision to halt payments. The Arts Promotion Center Finland also has the right to receive the necessary information from the Finnish Film Foundation to halt payments without regard to confidentiality agreements.

Section 10 Repayment

The Arts Promotion Center Finland is responsible for repayments.

The Finnish Film Foundation must immediately inform the Arts Promotion Center Finland of facts that would or should warrant government transfer repayments. The Arts Promotion Center Finland makes the repayment decision.

The repayment decision must be made immediately and, for special reasons, in at least two calendar years after the Finnish Film Foundation's suggestion.

The Finnish Film Foundation must include sufficient and essential information to make a repayment decision. The Arts Promotion Center Finland also has the right to receive the necessary information from the Finnish Film Foundation for repayments without regard to confidentiality agreements.