



## **Audiovisual production development fund**

### **Preface**

The autonomous region of the Aosta Valley, in line with the European normative framework, promotes and supports the film, audiovisual and multimedia industries that promote the regional territory and the development of local professional, technical and artistic resources. It does so through a series of services and facilitation, as well as by establishing a Fund to financially support some projects.

The Film Commission Vallée d'Aoste Foundation was established for this very purpose with the regional law (from hereon "r.l.") no. 36/2010.

Pursuant article 12 of the aforementioned r.l. 36/10, on 30 September 2011 the Board of Directors of the Film Commission Vallée d'Aoste Foundation issued the resolution establishing the Film Fund (from hereon "Fund"), with which the Film Commission Vallée d'Aoste Foundation will be able to undertake actions to pursue its objectives in line with the above mentioned comma.

The size of the Fund is established each year with a provision issued by the Regional Committee. The Fund should cover expenses related to realizing the aforementioned objective, as well as operational costs (for instance, expenditures related to assisting productions, to promoting the Film Commission Foundation's activities during festivals and market expositions of the sector, to organizing seminars to promote and develop the film and audiovisual production, to institutional partnerships with national and international film companies).

The actions targeted by the Fund pertain to the fields of audiovisual production development (Chapter I), audiovisual production development for works of particular artistic and economic value (Chapter II), documentary film production development and first works (Chapter III) and to support post-production and distribution (Chapter IV).

The Board of Directors of the Film Commission Vallée d'Aoste Foundation preventively determines every year the extent of the Fund's shares devoted to each of the aforementioned actions. The same resolution also allows the Board of Directors to establish particular conditions and modalities for the use of the funds.

The present Regulation determines how the Fund works.

## **HEADING I GENERAL RULES**

### **Art. 1 Object**

The present regulation determines, the modalities and criteria of allocation of the Fund in form of free grants, based on the current regulation (RL 36/10 and all subsequent modifications).

### **Art. 2 Regime**

1. Should the beneficiaries be a company, the funding will be allocated according to the “de minimis” rule, established by the European Commission (EC) Regulation no. 1998/2006 of the Commission of 15 December 2006 related to the application of articles 87 and 88 of the Treaty to the de minimis aid, published in the European Union’s Official Gazette L series no. 379 of 28 December 2006.
2. The grants are not cumulative with other public incentives awarded for the same initiatives and for the purpose of the same expenses, when such accumulated amount exceeds the limit established in article 2, paragraph 5 of the EC Regulation no. 1998/2006.

## **HEADING II Operations**

### **CHAPTER I Audiovisual production development fund**

### **Art. 3 Purpose**

The Fund’s main objective is to promote and enhance the value of the Aosta Valley’s heritage of culture, environment, landscapes, tourism, ruralism, history and traditions, through the production of films, audiovisual and multimedia works. For this purpose, it intends to provide incentives to draw the presence of national and international movie, television, audiovisual and multimedia productions to the Aosta Valley, to contribute to the qualification of local professional resources and to stimulate and support local employment and professions.

### **Art. 4 Actions**

With respect to the objectives in the aforementioned article, the Film Commission Vallée d’Aoste Foundation fosters the production of the following audiovisual works:

- a) national and/or international works addressing themes related to the Aosta Valley territory and enhance the value of the regional cultural heritage and landscapes;
- b) works emphasizing the linguistic minorities present in the region by means of the respective languages;
- c) national and/or international works filmed in the Aosta Valley promoting local employment and professions, generating positive externalities on the regional territory.

### **Art. 5 Beneficiaries**

The beneficiaries of the Fund can be independent, Italian, European or foreign audiovisual and multimedia production companies, Italian and international television editors (for the conception, development and creation of new original non-journalistic television fictions and formats) that wish to

set or shoot their film in the Aosta Valley, bringing out the value of the geographic and cultural aspects of the region and of its local professionalism.

#### **Art. 6 Grant applications**

1. The grant applications must be submitted to the Film Commission Vallée d'Aoste Foundation in the first ten days of each month, along with a written presentation of the project, an expense estimate, and a budget plan. The applications must be redacted on headed paper, signed by the applicant's attorney. The chronological order of presentation will not be considered a selection criterion.
2. Along with the application, also submit two copies of:
  - a) the curriculum vitae of the applicant's attorney or of the applying entity;
  - b) the curriculum vitae of the producer, the director, the main actors and the distributor, if any;
  - c) a brief presentation of one or more of the director's previous works (short films, feature-length films, ...), preferably accompanied by a screener on DVD;
  - d) a detailed estimate of the expenses that will be carried out in the autonomous region Aosta Valley, from which it should result that at least 150% of the funds requested will be spent by the beneficiary entity in the region, excluding the expenses related to permanent employment contracts and investment expenditures;
  - e) a budget estimate of the entire initiative/production from which it should emerge that the project is sustainable, the total funds requested will not exceed 50% of the overall industrial costs of the project (including all production expenditures, general expenditures, producer fee, and financial charges), and that, along with the other sources of funding foreseen, it will not exceed the total cost of the project;
  - f) contracts and/or agreements for co-production, distribution, and broadcasting of the film, if any;
  - g) only for television editors: a detailed and articulated plan related to the fiction and format proposed and to their broadcasting;
  - h) only for multimedia editors: a detailed and articulated plan related to the investments pertaining to the communication and promotion components and/or to the distribution channels of the project;
  - i) a signed declaration agreeing to communicate any subsequent relevant variation with reference to the information presented in the application. Changes in the cast for key roles (director and main actors) will have to be adequately justified. Failure to comply will result in exclusion from the grant.
3. Besides the documentation foreseen in comma 1 and 2, the companies must also include the company's certificate issued by the Chamber of Commerce, as well as a self-declaration in substitution of attested affidavit issued by the attorney representing the applicant, certifying any "de minimis" aid obtained during the course of the two previous financial practices and during the current one, and expressing the intent to communicate any subsequent relevant variation.
4. The Foundation can ask the applicant for supplementary documentation.
5. The applications will be evaluated on the basis of the documentation received, which can be subject to investigation from the Foundation.
6. In any case, the presentation of the application does not automatically ensure the right to obtain contributions, even when the prescribed subjective and objective requirements are met.

#### **Art. 7 Requirements and evaluation**

1. The projects requesting a contribution to support audiovisual productions are collected and evaluated by a committee composed by the director and the president of the Film Commission Vallée d'Aoste. The committee has the power to bring some evaluations to the Board of Directors of the Film Commission. The basic requirements to be accepted are the project's cultural value, its capacity to

reach and interest a national or international audience (attested by the copies of agreements and contracts stipulated with distributors), the sustainability and feasibility of project (as per the budget). The evaluations pertaining to the applications admitted will be carried out within 50 days of the application deadline and will be subsequently communicated to the applicants in digital and written form.

The management of the grants issued has a maximum duration of 18 months.

2. The projects presented will be evaluated based on the following criteria, which will be given a percentile and a numeric value. Keeping the requirements indicated in comma 1 into consideration, the projects that will be awarded the grant, within the limits of the financial resources available on the Fund's budget, are those that will have earned a total of at least 60 points out of 100. The criteria are:

- the curriculum vitae of the applicant's attorney or of the applying entity (maximum 20%; 20 points);
- cultural and artistic value of the project (max. 20% - 20 points);
- references to the Aosta Valley in the project's contents, with special regards to its strategic markets (max. 20% - 20 points);
- project's compatibility with the Aosta Valley territory, in economic terms (including the use of local professionalisms), touristic and cultural (max. 20% - 20 points);
- distribution prospects (max. 20% - 20 points).

Every month the Commission will prepare a report of each application submitted; a merit list will be made with the applications that were accepted to the evaluation phase; the grants will be awarded based on this classification. If the residual funds are insufficient, the successful applications will be given a funding priority in case further resources are granted during the course of subsequent disbursements.

#### **Art. 8 Limits and expenses allowed**

1. The Film Commission Vallée d'Aoste awards to the projects evaluated successfully a grant issued from its Fund up to 80,000 euros in view of expenses made by the applicant in the territory, amounting to 150% of the sum demanded. This amount can be exceeded only with a valid justification presented in a written statement to the Board of Directors of the Film Commission Vallée d'Aoste for productions of high artistic value and with important repercussions for the tourist sector, which promote the landscape, the cultural heritage (material and non) of this region's territory.

2. In all cases, the sum demanded should not exceed 50% of the industrial cost of the project (which should include all production expenses, general expenditures, producer fee, and financial charges), and that, along with the other sources of funding expected, it will not exceed the total cost of the project.

3. The costs related to permanent employment contracts and investment expenditures are expressly excluded from the expenses allowed.

#### **Art. 9 Obligations for the beneficiaries**

1. In line with what has been stated in the previous articles, the Fund's resources will be awarded to beneficiary subjects that intend to make audiovisual and multimedia productions according to the following conditions:

- a) the project should begin by December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year the grant request was made (the Foundation should be informed of the beginning of the project);
- b) the project should end 18 months after the starting date announced to the Foundation.

2. Audiovisual and multimedia projects with purposes of a commercial, advertising, or pornographic nature, containing racism or that make an apologia of violence, or which may damage in any way the image of the Aosta Valley, as well as programs promoting an institution, an organization, an entity or its activities, are excluded from the grant support.

3. The logo “Film Commission Vallée d’Aoste”, along with the caption “in collaboration with the Film Commission Vallée d’Aoste” and the acknowledgements to the Aosta Valley Autonomous Region, duly accompanied by the logo, must be present on all commercial documents, advertisements, works of communication and audiovisual material.

4. The beneficiaries making audiovisual works will also have to:

- a) organize a press conference, with the presence of the director, the main actors, and the President of the Foundation or their delegates, without selecting or excluding any media representative;
- b) grant the copyright free of charge to the Foundation of at least five set pictures chosen by the Foundation itself, as well as allowing someone selected by the Foundation to take backstage pictures and videos throughout at least one day of work;
- c) give to the Foundation, free of charge, at least three copies of the project in one of the following mediums: DVCam, Beta, or Blue-Ray. The copies should be submitted 30 days prior to broadcasting or screening in movie theatres. These copies will be deposited at the Regional Education and Culture Department - Bureau Régional pour l’Ethnologie et la Linguistique (BREL), where they will be available for screening in their entirety or in bits, during promotional events regionally, nationally and internationally;
- d) besides what is envisaged in the previous letter b), the beneficiaries will also have to authorize a representative of the Foundation to be present on set in a previously agreed upon time and way;
- e) organize the screening of the film with the presence and participation of the director and part of the cast in a venue in the Region, even when the film will be enlisted to participate to national and international film festivals, involving the Foundation in presentations and press conferences.

#### **Art. 10 Directions for the use of resources**

1. Along with the communication of the positive evaluation carried out by the Film Commission Vallée d’Aoste Foundation provided for by the above-mentioned article 7, the Foundation will send to the beneficiaries an agreement to be signed, indicating the sum granted, the directions for disbursement and financial reporting, as well as all potential prescriptions. The projects funded, along with all the other information deemed necessary, will be posted on the Foundation’s website.

2. The Foundation will attribute the grants to the beneficiaries, in accordance with what indicated in comma 1. The funds issued by the Foundation can also be disbursed prior to the conclusion of the project, but only after having submitted the invoices pertaining to the expenses made in the Aosta Valley. In such case the grant advance, which will amount to as much as 80% of the total grant, will nonetheless be disbursed after the accreditation of the relevant regional funding.

#### **Art. 11 Beneficiaries’ financial reports**

1. The final payments will be issued to the beneficiaries after they have presented their financial reports to the Foundation, according to the procedures established by the current sector regulations and to the evaluation carried out by the Board of Directors of the Foundation. The reports must be presented jointly with a self-declaration written by the attorney representing the beneficiary subject or by the beneficiary itself. This statement will have to guarantee the pertinence, regularity, congruity, and payments made for the expenses indicated in their financial reports. The Foundation reserves itself at all time the right to demand the originals from the beneficiaries, or to present copies consistent with the original documents of expenses duly acquitted, and to ask for clarifications.

2. Failure to present a financial report will result in the obligation to return the funds previously disbursed.

3. The total expenses borne by the beneficiaries and included in the financial report must be equal to the percentage envisaged in article 8. Failure to comply will result with the withdrawal of the funding;

alternatively, if the Foundation by unquestionable judgment ascertains that the justifications presented are valid, it will result in a proportional reduction.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **Fund to support audiovisual productions of particular artistic and economic value**

#### **Art. 12 Purpose**

The Fund's purpose is to promote and bring out the value of the Aosta Valley's heritage of culture, environment, landscapes, tourism, ruralism, history and traditions, through the development of audiovisual and multimedia projects produced primarily in the region.

#### **Art. 13 Actions**

In line with objectives stated in the previous article, the Film Commission Vallée d'Aoste intends to promote by means of this Fund the production of audiovisual and multimedia subjects with a particular cultural and economic relevance with regards to the territory of the Aosta Valley.

#### **Art. 14 Beneficiaries**

The beneficiaries of the Fund can be independent Italian, European or non-European audiovisual and multimedia production companies, Italian and international television editors (for the conception, development and creation of new original non-journalistic television fictions and formats).

#### **Art. 15 Grant applications**

1. The grant applications must be submitted to the Film Commission Vallée d'Aoste Foundation, along with a written presentation of the project, an expense estimate, and a budget plan. The applications must be redacted on headed paper and signed by the applicant's attorney. They may be presented at any moment. In any case, the chronological order of presentation will not be considered a selection criterion.
2. Along with the application, also submit two copies of:
  - a) the curriculum vitae of the applicant's attorney or of the applying entity;
  - b) the curriculum vitae of the producer, the director, the main actors and the distributor, if any;
  - c) a brief presentation of one or more of the director's previous works (short films, feature-length films, ...), preferably accompanied by a screener on DVD;
  - d) a detailed estimate of the expenses that will be carried out in the autonomous region Aosta Valley;
  - e) a budget estimate of the entire initiative/production from which it should emerge that the project is sustainable, that the total funds requested will not exceed 50% of the overall industrial costs of the project (including all production expenditures, general expenditures, producer fee, and financial charges), and that, along with the other sources of funding foreseen, it will not exceed the total cost of the project;
  - f) contracts and/or agreements for co-production, distribution, and broadcasting of the film;
  - g) only for television editors: a detailed and articulated plan related to the fiction and format proposed and to their broadcasting;
  - h) only for multimedia editors: a detailed and articulated plan related to the investments pertaining to the communication and promotion components and/or to the distribution channels of the project;

- i) a signed declaration agreeing to communicate any subsequent relevant variation with reference to the information presented in the application. Changes in the cast for key roles (director and main actors) will have to be adequately justified. Failure to comply will result in exclusion from the grant.

3. Besides the documentation foreseen in comma 1 and 2, the companies must also include the company's certificate issued by the Chamber of Commerce, as well as a self-declaration in substitution of attested affidavit issued by the attorney representing the applicant, certifying any "de minimis" aid obtained during the course of the two previous financial practices and during the current one, and expressing the intent to communicate any subsequent relevant variation.

4. The Foundation can ask the applicant for supplementary documentation.

5. The applications will be evaluated on the basis of the documentation received, which can be subject to investigation from the Foundation.

6. In any case, the presentation of the application does not automatically ensure the right to obtain contributions, even when the prescribed subjective and objective requirements are met.

### **Art. 16 Requirements and evaluation**

1. The projects requesting a contribution to support audiovisual productions are collected and evaluated by the Board of Directors of the Film Commission Vallée d'Aoste twice a year. One session is scheduled for March 15<sup>th</sup>, the second session in on September 15<sup>th</sup>. The basic requirements to be accepted are the project's cultural value in referring to the territory of the Aosta Valley, the certainty of distribution prospects for the project on a national or international level (attested by the copies of agreements and contracts stipulated with distributors), the sustainability and feasibility of project (as per the budget), and the impact it will have on the economic and tourist sectors of the Aosta Valley, including shooting no less than 50% of the project in the region.

The evaluations pertaining to the applications admitted will be carried out within 40 days of the end of the session. The verdicts will subsequently be communicated to the applicants in digital and written form.

The management of the grants issued has a maximum duration of 24 months.

2. The projects presented will be evaluated based on the following criteria, which will be given a percentile and a numeric value. Within the limits of the financial resources available on the Fund's budget, the projects that will be awarded the grant are those that will have earned a total of at least 80 points out of 100. The criteria are:

- the curriculum vitae of the applicant and of the project manager (maximum 20%; 20 points);
- cultural and artistic value of the project (max. 20% - 20 points);
- references in the project's contents to strategic markets for the Aosta Valley, highlighting the region's productive excellence (max. 20% - 20 points);
- economic impact in the Aosta Valley (max. 20% - 20 points);
- distribution prospects (max. 20% - 20 points).

The Board of Directors of the Film Commission Vallée d'Aoste will evaluate applications until the day before the beginning of the new evaluation session (March 15<sup>th</sup> and September 15<sup>th</sup>). The Board will prepare a report and a merit list; the grants will be awarded based on this classification. If the residual funds are insufficient, the successful applications will be given a funding priority in case further resources are granted during the course of subsequent disbursements.

### **Art. 17 Limits and expenses allowed**

1. The Film Commission Vallée d'Aoste will award a grant issued from its Fund up to 180,000 euros to the projects evaluated successfully. This funding will allow the applicant to face expenses in the

territory, to be justified by means of a written statement presented to the Board of Directors of the Film Commission Vallée d'Aoste.

2. In all cases, the sum demanded should not exceed 50% of the industrial cost of the project (which should include all production expenses, general expenditures, producer fee, and financial charges). This grant, along with the other sources of funding expected, must not exceed the total cost of the project.

3. The costs related to permanent employment contracts and investment expenditures are expressly excluded from the expenses allowed.

#### **Art. 18 Obligations for the beneficiaries**

1. In line with what has been stated in the previous articles, the Fund's resources will be awarded to beneficiary subjects that intend to make audiovisual and multimedia productions according to the following conditions:

a) the project should begin no later than 6 month after the grant request was successfully accepted and communicated (the Foundation must informed of the beginning of the project);

b) the project should end 24 months after the starting date announced to the Foundation.

2. Audiovisual and multimedia projects with purposes of a commercial, advertising, or pornographic nature, containing racism or that make an apologia of violence, or which may damage in any way the image of the Aosta Valley, as well as programs promoting an institution, an organization, an entity or its activities, are excluded from the grant support.

3. The logo "Film Commission Vallée d'Aoste", along with the caption "in collaboration with the Film Commission Vallée d'Aoste" and the acknowledgements to the Aosta Valley Autonomous Region, duly accompanied by the logo, must be present on all commercial documents, advertisements, works of communication and audiovisual material.

4. The beneficiaries making audiovisual works will also have to:

a) organize a press conference, with the presence of the director, the main actors, and the President of the Foundation or their delegates, without selecting or excluding any media representative;

b) grant the copyright free of charge to the Foundation of at least five set pictures chosen by the Foundation itself, as well as allowing someone selected by the Foundation to take backstage pictures and videos throughout at least one day of work;

c) give to the Foundation, free of charge, at least three copies of the audiovisual project in one of the following mediums: DVCam, Beta, or Blue-Ray. The copies should be submitted 30 days prior to broadcasting or screening in movie theatres. These copies will be deposited at the Regional Education and Culture Department - Bureau Régional pour l'Ethnologie et la Linguistique (BREL), where they will be available for screening in their entirety or in bits, during promotional events regionally, nationally and internationally;

d) besides what is envisaged in the previous letter b), the beneficiaries will also have to authorize a representative of the Foundation to be present on set in a previously agreed upon time and fashion;

e) organize the screening of the film with the presence and participation of the director and part of the cast in a venue in the Region, even if the film will be enlisted to participate to national and international film festivals, involving the Foundation in presentations and press conferences.

#### **Art. 19 Directions for the use of resources**

1. The Film Commission Vallée d'Aoste Foundation will send a written communication informing the applicant of the successful evaluation, as per article 16. Within 30 days from this announcement, the Foundation will send to the beneficiaries an agreement to be signed, indicating the sum granted, the directions for disbursement and financial reporting, as well as all potential prescriptions. The projects funded, along with all the other information deemed necessary, will be posted on the Foundation's website.

2. The Foundation will attribute the grants to the beneficiaries, in accordance with what indicated in comma 1. The funds issued by the Foundation can also be disbursed prior to the conclusion of the project, but only after having submitted the invoices pertaining to the expenses made in the Aosta Valley. In such case the grant advance, which will amount to as much as 60% of the total grant, will nonetheless be disbursed after the accreditation of the relevant regional funding.

#### **Art. 20 Beneficiaries' financial reports**

1. The final payments will be issued to the beneficiaries after they have presented their financial reports to the Foundation, according to the procedures established by the current sector regulations and to the evaluation carried out by the Board of Directors of the Foundation. The reports must be presented jointly with a self-declaration written by the attorney representing the beneficiary subject or by the beneficiary itself. This statement will have to guarantee the pertinence, regularity, congruity, and payments made for the expenses indicated in their financial reports. The Foundation reserves itself at all time the right to demand the originals from the beneficiaries, or to present copies consistent with the original documents of expenses duly acquitted, and to ask for clarifications.

2. Failure to present a financial report will result in the obligation to return the funds previously disbursed.

3. The total expenses borne by the beneficiaries and included in the financial report must be equal to the percentage envisaged in article 17. Failure to comply will result with the withdrawal of the funding; alternatively, if the Foundation by unquestionable judgment ascertains that the justifications presented are valid, it will result in a proportional reduction.

### **CHAPTER III**

#### **Documentary film and first works production development fund**

#### **Art. 21 Purpose**

The Fund's main objective is to promote and value the creation of documentary films and so-called first works, providing incentives for the growth and development of new talents. The Fund is also intended to foster the development of regional businesses working the sector of high-quality audiovisual productions, thereby contributing to the qualification of professional regional resources, stimulating and supporting local employment.

#### **Art. 22 Actions**

With respect to the objectives in the aforementioned article, the Film Commission Vallée d'Aoste Foundation fosters the production of the following audiovisual projects:

a) projects that will follow the format/genre considered to have a greater regional calling, such as documentaries;

b) first works of fiction that do not necessarily have a regional subject. These will be appraised in accordance to the following Article 24 by the Evaluation Committee, which will determine whether the project's artistic value could generate national and international interest.

2. For the purpose of the present regulations, what is intended for "first works" is fictional and animated films that exceed 60 minutes in length, to be screened in movie theatres or film festivals.

3. Audiovisual and multimedia projects with advertising purposes, pornographic, containing racism or that make an apologia of violence, and which may damage in any way the image of the Aosta Valley, as well as programs promoting an institution, an organization, an entity or its activities, are excluded from the grant support.

### **Art. 23 Applications and applicants**

The Film Commission Vallée d'Aoste Foundation will issue a call for application to which candidates may respond to by submitting their application, the project budget and their curriculum vitae. The Foundation can grant funding to professionals, foundations, associations and independent production companies.

### **Art. 24 Evaluation**

1. To evaluate the projects presented, Board of Directors of the Film Commission, based on a proposal by the Director, will nominate and Evaluation Committee composed of the Director and two experts of the film industry.
2. The Evaluation Committee will assess the projects submitted based on the following criteria:
  - the curriculum vitae of the applicant's attorney or of the candidate;
  - the curriculum vitae of the project manager;
  - the cultural and artistic value of the project;
  - percentage of workers from the Aosta Valley (production crew, post production, actors, supernumeraries, etc.) involved in the project over the total work force employed;
  - distribution prospects.

### **Art. 25 Limits and expenses allowed**

1. The Film Commission Vallée d'Aoste awards to the projects evaluated successfully a grant issued from its Fund up to 50,000 euros in view of expenses made by the applicant in the territory, amounting to 120% of the sum demanded. This amount can be exceeded only with a valid justification presented in a written statement to the Board of Directors of the Film Commission Vallée d'Aoste for productions of high artistic value and with important repercussions for the tourist sector, which promote the landscape, the cultural heritage (material and non) of this region's territory.
2. In all cases, the sum demanded should not exceed 50% of the total cost of the project.

### **Art. 26 Obligations for the beneficiaries**

1. In line with what has been stated in the previous articles, the Fund's resources will be awarded to beneficiary subjects that intend to make audiovisual and multimedia productions according to the following conditions:
  - a) the project should begin by December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year the grant request was made (the Foundation should informed of the beginning of the project);
  - b) the project should end 18 months after the starting date announced to the Foundation.
2. The logo "Film Commission Vallée d'Aoste", along with the caption "in collaboration with the Film Commission Vallée d'Aoste" and the acknowledgements to the Aosta Valley Autonomous Region, duly accompanied by the logo, must be present on all commercial documents, advertisements, works of communication and audiovisual material.
3. The beneficiaries making audiovisual works will also have to:
  - a) grant the copyright free of charge to the Foundation of at least five set pictures chosen by the Foundation itself, as well as allowing someone selected by the Foundation to take backstage pictures and videos throughout at least one day of shooting;
  - b) give to the Foundation, free of charge, at least three copies of the project in one of the following mediums: DVCam, Beta, or Blue-Ray. The copies should be submitted 30 days prior to broadcasting or screening in movie theatres. These copies will be deposited at the Regional Education and Culture Department - Bureau Régional pour l'Ethnologie et la Linguistique (BREL), where they will be

available for screening in their entirety or in bits, during promotional events regionally, nationally and internationally;

c) authorize a representative of the Foundation to be present on set in a previously agreed upon time and way;

4. Without prejudice to the above-mentioned obligations, the Foundation reserves the right to nominate a tutor's support to follow the production throughout the projects phases of development. The tutor will have free access to all the material and to all the information required.

#### **Art. 27 Beneficiaries' financial reports**

1. The final payments will be issued to the beneficiaries after they have presented their financial reports to the Foundation, according to the procedures established by the current sector regulations and to the evaluation carried out by the Board of Directors of the Foundation. The reports must be presented jointly with a self-declaration written by the attorney representing the beneficiary subject or by the beneficiary itself. The latter will have to guarantee the pertinence, regularity, congruity, and payments made for the expenses indicated in their financial reports. The Foundation reserves itself at all time the right to demand the originals from the beneficiaries, or to present copies consistent with the original documents of expenses duly acquitted, and to ask for clarifications.

2. Failure to present a financial report will result in the obligation to return the funds previously disbursed.

3. The total expenses borne by the beneficiaries and included in the financial report must be equal to the percentage envisaged in article 25. Failure to comply will result with the withdrawal of the funding; alternatively, if the Foundation by unquestionable judgment ascertains that the justifications presented are valid, it will result in a proportional reduction.

### **CHAPETER IV**

#### **Post-production and distribution support fund**

#### **Art. 28 Purpose**

The Fund's main objective is to support the finalization and distribution of projects that contribute to promoting the image of the Aosta Valley and its heritage, or which strengthen the productive fabric and stimulate local employment.

#### **Art. 29 Objectives and requirements**

Within the objectives stated in the previous article, the Film Commission Vallée d'Aoste contributes with its Fund to address the expenses related to the post-production and the distribution of works (such as film, audiovisual and multimedia projects), which:

a) have encountered the interest of a national distributor or have received an invitation to participate in an international film festival (see the attached list);

b) develop themes tied to the territory of the Aosta Valley and bring out the value of the region's cultural and touristic heritage, making use of local professional expertise or providing incentives for local productions.

#### **Art. 30 Beneficiaries**

The Foundation can grant funding to professionals, foundations, associations and independent production companies that intend to carry out in the Aosta Valley the post-production phase and/or activities related to film, audiovisual or multimedia distribution.

### **Art. 31 Grant applications**

1. The candidate fulfilling the abovementioned description can submit a grant application to the Film Commission Vallée d'Aoste Foundation in the first ten days of each month. The order on which the applications were submitted will not be considered a selection criterion.
2. Along with the application, also submit two copies of:
  - a) the curriculum vitae of the applicant's attorney or of the candidate;
  - b) the curriculum vitae of the project manager;
  - c) the project budget;
  - d) expenses related to post-production or finalization, highlighting the costs that will be incurred in the Aosta Valley;
  - e) the final cut of the film.
3. Besides the abovementioned documentation, the companies must also include the company's certificate issued by the Chamber of Commerce, as well as a self-declaration in substitution of attested affidavit issued by the attorney representing the applicant, certifying any "de minimis" aid obtained during the course of the two previous financial practices and during the current one, and expressing the intent to communicate any subsequent relevant variation.
4. The Foundation can ask the applicant for supplementary documentation.
5. The applications will be evaluated on the basis of the documentation received, which can be subject to investigation from the Foundation.
6. In any case, the presentation of the application does not automatically ensure the right to obtain contributions, even when the prescribed subjective and objective requirements are met.

### **Art. 32 Evaluation**

1. The applications submitted to the Foundation will be collected and evaluated by a commission composed of the director and the president of the Foundation, or by someone delegated to represent on his/her behalf. The commission has the power to bring some evaluations to the Board of Directors of the Film Commission. The evaluations pertaining to the applications admitted will be carried out within 20 days of the application deadline and will be subsequently communicated to the applicants in digital and written form.

The management of the grants issued has a maximum duration of 12 months.

2. The projects presented will be evaluated based on the following criteria, which will be given a percentile and a numeric value. The projects that will be awarded the grant, within the limits of the financial resources available on the Fund's budget, are those that will have earned a total of at least 60 points out of 100. The criteria are:
  - cultural and artistic value of the project presented in its final cut, or almost (maximum 30% - 30 points);
  - presence of locations in the Aosta Valley with regards to the overall project (max. 20% - 20 points);
  - quality of distribution or of the festival / market of reference / distribution prospects (max. 30% - 30 points);
  - proportion of expenses made in the Aosta Valley compared to the grant allotted (max. 20% - 20 points);

Every month the Commission will prepare a report of each application submitted; a merit list will be made with the applications that were accepted to the evaluation phase; the grants will be awarded based on this classification. If the residual funds are insufficient, the successful applications will be given a funding priority in case further resources are granted during the course of subsequent disbursements.

### **Art. 34 Limits and expenses allowed**

1. The Film Commission Vallée d'Aoste awards to the projects evaluated successfully a grant issued from its Fund up to 20,000 euros in view of expenses made by the applicant in the territory, amounting to 120% of the sum demanded.
2. For the purpose of the present regulations, expenses considered pertinent to the fund are those related to audio and video post-production (renting equipment, hiring technicians and specialized personnel, but not the purchase of equipment, audio and video mix, color correction, copies' extension on film, or DCP), and those relates to the making of the film's opening and closing credits, the product's graphic line, promotional material and subtitles (in Italian, French and English).
3. Audiovisual projects with advertising purposes, pornographic, containing racism or making an apologia of violence, or which may damage in any way the image of the Aosta Valley, as well as programs promoting an institution or its activities, are excluded from the grant support.

### **Art. 35 Obligations for the beneficiaries**

1. In line with what has been stated in the previous articles, the Fund's resources will be awarded to beneficiary subjects that intend to make audiovisual and multimedia productions according to the following conditions:
  - a) the project should begin by December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year the grant request was made (the Foundation should informed of the beginning of the project);
  - b) the project should end 12 months after the starting date announced to the Foundation.
2. The logo "Film Commission Vallée d'Aoste", along with the caption "in collaboration with the Film Commission Vallée d'Aoste" and the acknowledgements to the Aosta Valley Autonomous Region, duly accompanied by the logo, must be present on all commercial documents, advertisements, works of communication and audiovisual material.
3. The beneficiaries producing audiovisual projects will also have to donate, free of charge, at least three copies of the project to the Foundation in one of the following mediums: DVCam, Beta, or Blue-Ray. The copies should be submitted 30 days prior to broadcasting or screening in movie theatres. These copies will be deposited at the Regional Education and Culture Department - Bureau Régional pour l'Ethnologie et la Linguistique (BREL), where they will be available for screening in their entirety or in bits, during promotional events regionally, nationally and internationally.
4. The beneficiaries producing audiovisual projects will be asked to organize the screening of the film with the presence and participation of the director and part of the cast. Such screening will take place in a venue in the Region, even when the film will be enlisted to participate to national and international film festivals, involving the Foundation in presentations and press conferences.

### **Art. 36 Directions for the use of resources**

1. The Film Commission Vallée d'Aoste Foundation will send a written communication informing the applicant of the successful evaluation, as per article 32. Within 30 days from this announcement, the Foundation will send to the beneficiaries an agreement to be signed, indicating the sum granted, the directions for disbursement and financial reporting, as well as all potential prescriptions. The projects funded, along with all the other information deemed necessary, will be posted on the Foundation's website.
2. The Foundation will attribute the grants to the beneficiaries, in accordance with what indicated in comma 1. The funds issued by the Foundation can also be disbursed prior to the conclusion of the project, but only after having submitted the invoices pertaining to the expenses made in the Aosta Valley. In such case the grant advance, which will amount to as much as 70% of the total grant, will nonetheless be disbursed after the accreditation of the relevant regional funding.

### **Art. 37 Beneficiaries' financial reporting**

1. The final payments will be issued to the beneficiaries after they have presented their financial reports to the Foundation, according to the procedures established by the current sector regulations and to the evaluation carried out by the Board of Directors of the Foundation. The reports must be presented jointly with a self-declaration written by the attorney representing the beneficiary subject or by the beneficiary itself. The latter will have to guarantee the pertinence, regularity, congruity, and payments made for the expenses indicated in their financial reports. The Foundation reserves itself at all time the right to demand the originals from the beneficiaries, or to present copies consistent with the original documents of expenses duly acquitted, and to ask for clarifications.
2. Failure to present a financial report will result in the obligation to return the funds previously disbursed.
3. The total expenses borne by the beneficiaries and included in the financial report must be equal to the percentage envisaged in article 34. Failure to comply will result with the withdrawal of the funding; alternatively, if the Foundation by unquestionable judgment ascertains that the justifications presented are valid, it will result in a proportional reduction.

## **HEADING III FINAL NORMS**

### **Art. 38 Instructions to submit the grant applications**

1. The applications can be submitted to the Film Commission Vallée d'Aoste in any of the following ways:
  - handed over in person;
  - by mail: applications submitted by mail must be sent as certified mail with signed return receipt. In such case, the date on the stamp will be kept into consideration for application deadlines purposes;
  - by fax or e-mail, in respect of the existing regulations concerning digital administration.

### **Art. 39 Sanctions**

1. If the beneficiary fails to comply with the present regulations, the Foundation can, by unquestionable judgment, completely revoke or partially cut the funding originally granted.
2. Failure to complete the project and to distribute it as stipulated in the agreement will result in the restitution of the installment disbursed as an advance.

### **Art. 40 Cumulateness**

1. The financial support envisaged in Heading II Chapter I cannot be cumulated with the contributions listed in Chapter II from the same Heading; similarly, the financial support envisaged in Heading II Chapter IV cannot be cumulated with the contributions from Chapters I, II and III from the same Heading.

### **Art. 41 Lack of liability**

1. Let it be understood that in any case, the disbursement of the support grant will be bound to the availability of resources within the Fund, and that an application, even though it may fulfill the requirements, will not automatically result in funding.