

**Ticino Film Commission**  
**Regulations Criteria for allocation of services and financial**  
**incentives for production**

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## 1. Objectives of the Ticino Film Commission

The Ticino Film Commission has the following objectives:

- To promote, attract and consolidate within the region productions of audio-visual content of all kinds and formats, from fiction and documentaries for theatrical screenings, to electronic media, online publishing and diffusion via the figurative arts circuit, and hence to accompany them in their production with the aim of generating an economic trickle-down of various kinds, such as boosting local businesses, job creation and the development of our tourist image.
- To encourage, support and promote the local audio-visual industry and the creation of specialised professional expertise, which will, in turn, increase regional activity for those working in this sector.

These functions define and determine the selection criteria for audio-visual projects to which the Ticino Film Commission may supply services, and, where appropriate, allocate financial incentives.

The Ticino Film Commission defines the criteria of supply of services and the eventual total amount of financial incentives to allocate, in accordance with its functions, and therefore:

will evaluate the visibility achieved for the region, the economic trickle-down effect in the region and the local producers/services involved in making of the audio-visual project.

This regulation refers to the methods of granting financial incentives for the production phase of audiovisual feature films (>30'). Requests for financial incentives relating to the development phases of the project are excluded from this regulation. For short films, web-series, transmedia projects, commercials and commercial projects please refer to point 5 of these regulations.

## 2. Organisation and strategy

The Ticino Film Commission will dispose of an annual budget from which to offer financial incentives to support audio-visual productions, and to devise an annual strategy that defines priorities in terms of the forms of audio-visual products to support.

Responsibility for the budget and strategic planning is that of the Director. Supervision is ensured by the Board of the Ticino Film Commission Foundation.

## 3. Selection criteria for audio-visual projects

### 3.1 Promotion of the region

The first criterion is given to that of a greater or lesser degree of the region's visibility and recognisability, which may take various forms, including:

(a) **Direct recognisability of the region.** The region is not only visible, but also immediately recognisable. The film makes clear where the action is taking place,

locations are named and presented with their real names, and nothing within that location has been changed for the filming.

(b) **Indirect recognisability of the region.** The region is highly visible but is not overtly named or deliberately avoids making it clearly identifiable. In such a case, the recognition factor may not be the determining criterion for support, or to a lesser degree, but the other considerations listed below must also be considered.

### **3.2 Investment in the region**

The extent of the financial incentive is calculated in relation to the amount of investment in the region that the production intends to make. The calculation is based on the list of itemised expenditure the production intends to make in the region – for logistics, accommodation, subsistence, services etc – and on the length of time the production will be in the region.

The evaluation methods and calculation of the financial incentive may vary, and depend primarily on the annual budget for productions and then the number of productions that the Ticino Film Commission intends to support over the course of the year.

### **3.3 Employment of producers / services**

The employment of producers and/or local services is considered a decisive additional criterion in the choice of projects. The availability of numerous qualified producers in the sector, with details of such expertise and curriculum, will help persuade productions to take advantage of the professionalism within the region.

The production is required to declare how many, and what kind of producers are likely to be selected from within the region at the time of production. The Ticino Film Commission will also consider the status within the production of local producers in the production's cast and crew, in addition to the nature of the employment – whether long or short term.

If local producers and/or services are involved in the project, the Ticino Film Commission's evaluation will also take into account the following criteria:

(a) The Cast involved in the project. A relevant consideration, since, based on the individuals involved, an idea can be obtained of the production's future prospects, its saleability, and hence its visibility.

(b) The distribution expected for the work produced. Often when projects are seeking funding, there is a stipulation requiring distribution contracts (theatrical and/or in-flight and/or VoD and/or TV). The distribution expected for the work produced.

#### **4. Allocation of the financial incentive**

The Ticino Film Commission will allocate financial incentives only to cover, totally or partially, expenditure disbursed by the production within the region, on the production specified in the agreement.

To this end, the Ticino Film Commission stipulates agreements which define the amounts and terms of the allocation of the financial incentives. These agreements are finalised only with producers (legal entities) and not with single individuals.

Producers are required to issue invoices for the total amount agreed, (incl. VAT, where applicable), attaching the copies/original invoices from the supplier(s) of the service(s) to the specific production that is the subject of the agreement.

**In addition, for the application of financial incentives, as a rule, a financial coverage of the project equal to (at least) 80% of the total budget is required. Without this requirement, the TFC cannot consider the content of the application.**

##### **4.1 Regional productions**

The Ticino Film Commission is required to attract and support international audio-visual productions as a priority.

The Ticino Film Commission is also required to take cantonal productions into consideration.

#### **5. Other formats**

Beyond the criteria already mentioned – the Ticino Film Commission must also apply the following criteria relevant to the various audio-visual genres listed below:

##### **(a) Fiction e TV series**

The same criteria as for international productions apply.

##### **(b) Documentary**

In addition to the criteria already listed, the historical and cultural interest of the production for the entire region, the distribution plan is also to be taken into consideration.

##### **(c) Short film**

The Ticino Film Commission supports and promotes the training of young producers. Once again, the possible participation of the Ticino Film Commission must comply with the general criteria previously listed. The contribution in this sense will be reduced compared to feature films. Exceptions are school graduation short films which are subject to specific regulations (see Post-diploma work regulations).

#### **(d) Advertisements and commercials**

Contribution to this kind of audio-visual project is restricted to the supply of services, such as location scouting; assisting with obtaining filming permits; contacts with companies or producers working in the region.

#### **e) Web series and transmedia projects**

It is possible to apply for financial incentives for transmedia and web series projects only for the part of the budgeted costs relating to audiovisual production; audiovisual production must comply with the general criteria already listed. The contribution for this type of project will generally be reduced compared to feature films or TV series.

### **5.1 Post-production**

In some specific cases, the Ticino Film Commission may also consider a possible contribution but only in terms of post-production, to incentivise interested parties to not only film in the Ticino region but also to work with cantonal companies and producers in the final phase of the production.

### **6. Requests for financial incentives**

The Ticino Film Commission undertakes to communicate its decision within 30 days of the receipt of the documentation required. The Ticino Film Commission has no obligation to motivate its decision, even if this is expressly required by the applicant.

The request must be accompanied by the following documentation:

- Subject / Script;
- CV Production Company and/or producer;
- General production schedule;
- Specific production schedule specific to the region;
- Budget and Financing Plan for the project;
- Expenditure estimates in the region;
- Crew list and cast.
- Optional: Mood boards or other documents that illustrate the style and how the territory is included in the production.

The decision of the Ticino Film Commission concerning both services and financial incentives is final and cannot be appealed.

## **7. Acknowledgements required by the Ticino Film Commission**

(a) When the Ticino Film Commission offers its services, producers undertake to acknowledge its collaboration in the following way:

**"The film was made with the collaboration of the Ticino Film Commission" (LOGO)**, at the end of the film's credits, in the film's press book, on all kinds of promotional materials for the film and on any eventual related website.

(b) When the Ticino Film Commission offers a financial incentive, producers must undertake to acknowledge its contribution in the following manner:

**"The film was made with support from the Ticino Film Commission" (LOGO)**, at the beginning of the film's credits, in the film's press book, as well as on any eventual related promotional materials printed and online.

In addition, the production undertakes to fill in the data collection form sent by the Ticino Film Commission.

**Last update**

**Ticino Film Commission  
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