

CODA Co-development Animation Awards 2026

The CODA Co-development Animation Awards support the development of the most promising animated projects of any format and length from Croatia, Estonia, Hungary, Kosovo, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia. The call is designed to encourage international co-development from the early stages of a project and to help producers build strong cross-border partnerships.

The initiative is supported by the Croatian Audiovisual Centre, Estonian Film Institute, National Film Institute Hungary, Slovak Audiovisual Fund, Kosovo Cinematography Center, Polish Animation Producers Association, and Slovenian Film Centre. The total available fund for 2026 is approximately 65.000 EUR.

Applications will be accepted online only. The application form will be available in June 2026, the deadline will be in 27 September 2026, and the awards will be announced in October or November 2026. Award agreements and payments will follow in November 2026.

1. Purpose of the call

The CODA Co-development Animation Awards are open to animated projects of any format and length, including feature films, TV/web series, TV specials, and short films. The call supports projects at the development stage and requires at least two partners from at least two CODA Member Countries.

2. Eligibility

Applications may be submitted by an independent lead producer based in one of the CODA Member Countries. Eligible projects must include at least 50% animated content and involve at least two legal entities or co-producers from at least two different CODA Member Countries.

At least one co-producing country must already provide confirmed funding before the CODA application is submitted. This funding may come from a member fund, another recognised national funding body, a regional or local film fund, or private investment (evidence of own investment is eligible).

Projects may be at any stage of development, from early concept to advanced development. However, projects are not eligible if development has already been completed and production has started. Ineligible projects also include those involving only one Member Country, projects controlled by non-independent entities, incomplete applications, late submissions, promotional works, advertising works, student works made for degree completion, video games, music videos, interactive books, and projects containing pornographic, racist, or violent material. Projects that have already received a CODA award for the same development phase are also not eligible.

3. Application requirements

The working language of all CODA procedures is English. Applicants must submit a completed application form, creative and production materials, co-development partnership agreements, a development budget, proof of independent producer status, proof of confirmed funding, and CVs of the key creative team.

The creative and production materials should include:

- ✓ the approximate length of the film,
- ✓ animation technique,
- ✓ target group,
- ✓ director's statement,
- ✓ producer's statement,
- ✓ co-producer's motivation letter,
- ✓ raft script or treatment,
- ✓ visual mood board or art design and character design,
- ✓ co-development budget,
- ✓ co-development agreement(s) indicating the creative and financial cooperation,

and any other material that helps present the project and co-production.

4. Award structure

CODA offers awards in three categories:

- ✓ Feature Film Co-Development Award: 20.000 EUR
- ✓ TV/Web Series and TV Specials Co-Development Award: 20.000 EUR
- ✓ Short Film Co-Development Award: 5.000 EUR.

The CODA Board may adjust award amounts each year depending on available funding and strategic priorities. The number of awards in each category depends on the total funding available, the number and quality of applications, and the Board's strategic priorities. If funding and quality allow, more than one award may be given in the same category.

5. Selection process

Projects will be assessed by a jury of three industry professionals with a strong track record in animation.

The jury will review all eligible applications, assess them against the published criteria, and recommend award recipients to the CODA Board. The final decision rests with the CODA Board, which may accept or amend the jury's recommendations by majority vote. Applicants will be notified in writing within two weeks of CODA Board approval, and public announcements will follow.

6. Evaluation criteria

Projects will be assessed based on:

- ✓ Creative quality and originality
- ✓ Viability of the co-development partnership
- ✓ Market potential
- ✓ Contribution to animation sector development
- ✓ Budget appropriateness
- ✓ Strength of the creative team

7. Use of funds

Award funds must be used only for development activities. These include script development, visual art development, storyboarding and animatics, market research, pitching and packaging costs, travel related to co-development meetings, travel and accommodation for co-producers' meetings or industry events, and fees for development training or workshops.

Awards are usually paid in full once the award agreement is signed. Recipients must submit progress reports and final development reports within six months of completing development, along with expense documentation. They must also acknowledge CODA support in project materials, promotional activities, final credits, press releases, and public communications.

CODA awards are non-repayable grants. However, partial or full repayment may be required if a project does not progress within two years or if the funds are misused.