

Appendix D - Enterprise development schemes

Various schemes are in place internationally that provide support to develop the capabilities of production companies, rather than focussing on funding specific projects.

The Irish Film Board partnered with the Anglo Irish Bank in 2001 for the launch of the Company Development Initiative (CDI). The CDI takes the form of a three-year cycle of funding intended to allow selected companies to develop new projects as well as attract co-production deals and access funding from other sources. The initiative focuses on Irish companies that have demonstrated the ability to develop a slate of productions to reach defined goals. Five production companies were announced in 2001 and four companies were announced in a second round of CDI in 2003. Recipients were assessed on the development and production track record of the principals of each company, the editorial strength and commercial potential of the proposed slate and each company's business plan.

In Norway financial support is provided to production companies to strengthen project development and administrative, budgetary and project management functions in order to increase cost efficiency, strengthen financing and marketing competence. Support is provided in relation to specific projects proposed by the production company, and it is a condition of support that the production company's own investment and resources amount to a minimum of 50 per cent of the budget of the project. Norwegian companies, as well as subsidiaries of foreign companies managed by a Norwegian national or permanent residents, are eligible for the support.

A unique feature of the Norwegian support is the capacity to provide, for small production companies, up to 15 per cent of the cost of investment in fixed assets, including the acquisition of other small and medium-sized production companies, and for medium sized companies, up to 7.5 per cent of the cost of support for the purchase of R&D-related services, including training and purchase of services for competence development in advanced technologies. Under the scheme, support must be repaid in accordance with the terms of the letter of support issued by the Norsk Filmfond (Norway's National Film Agency), however, support for film production is not required to be repaid.

In Canada the Industrial Professional Development Fund ("IPDF") provides grants to organisations active within the industry to deliver high calibre mid-career training, aiming to improve the global competitiveness of Canadian production companies as well as individual producers, writers and directors in the creation of original Canadian programming.

The following tables summarises the business development programs made available to audiovisual production companies in Canada, Ireland and Norway.