***NEW MEASURES (in italics): updated on 22 April 2020 (no changes to previously announced measures)***

The ICA will maintain the planned closing dates for the calls for cinema and audiovisual support in 2020 and, where possible, speed up the procedures concerning the grant of cinema and audiovisual support.

**In order to provide support to candidates, a dedicated helpdesk is set up on the day before and on the closing day for the submission of applications to a competition**

In the ongoing processes each situation will be analyzed, on a case-by-case basis, privileging a protectionist action of the candidates and/or beneficiaries, through the application of the regulations, although with flexibility of some formal requirements. The need to maintain general obligations for the beneficiaries of support, namely the need to ensure compliance with the remuneration obligations towards creative, artistic staff or any other worker involved in the implementation of the project, is highlighted.

**In the framework of the exceptional measures, it is now possible to:**

- Submit the contracts digitally, with a digital signature, being granted equal legality, by means of the signature of the Directive Council of ICA with the qualified digital signature of the citizen card, allowing the presentation of the materialized contract at a later date;

- Submit other documents instead of those who are requested for the purpose of granting support, that guarantees the same objective, maintaining the obligation to present the documents requested in the regulation at a later date;

Examples of documents to be accepted:

-   contract with the authors (only when they are intermediated by entities representing the authors), upon delivery of a declaration of honor of the presentation of the contract, as soon as possible.

-   registration of the screenplay in IGAC - acceptance of the application for registration together with a declaration on honor that the approval will be attached to the file as soon as possible.

-   e-mails, as an alternative to original documents, in the application or in the 2nd phase of the procedure.

-   documents whose validity has expired, in compliance with the provisions of Decree-Law No. 10-A/2020, 13.03, Article 16.

- Hold jury meetings using digital tools, that allow the meetings to take place according to the planning, avoiding the delay of the deadlines for the conclusion of the procedures;

- Have a remote consultation of applications and documents by interested parties, during preliminary hearing proceedings, avoiding travelling to the premises of the ICA;

- Deliver the final copies and other materials through a link, so that they can be viewed by teleworking means, which is valid for registration of the works purposes. For this purpose, an email should be sent to the respective process manager or to the person responsible for receiving the materials, indicating when and which materials are available for delivery, link to the final version of the work. In the same email this document (link) should be attached, duly completed and signed;

- Regarding eligible expenditure, the limit of support to be granted by the ICA continues to be verified, but ICA will no longer verify the limit of private support;

- The initial exploitation of cinematographic works on television or via on-demand audiovisual media services;

- The suspension, until further notice and including the month of March, of the investment obligations of exhibitors.

***- For the application of article 11,7,b) of Decree-Law No. 25/2018, 24.04, applications submitted under production support programmes for works of the same type or category, whose director has not completed, for reasons attributable to him, the post-production of a project previously supported by the ICA, may be admitted to the call, provided that the candidate proves that the fact arose from the current pandemic context, namely due to the cancellation of the respective shooting;***

**In addition to these measures, the ICA will also make changes to the regulations for 2020 support programmes (to be published in the Portuguese Official Journal):**

- In the writing and development support program, the first payment, corresponding to the signing of the contract, will increase from the current 30% to 50%;

- In the distribution support program, the first payment will be increased from the current 50% to 80% of the total value of the contract;

- In production support programs, it is now possible to pay half (50%) of the value of the contract payment relating to the start of shooting, before it starts (with or without expenses incurred). The remaining (50%), will be paid at the time of issuance of the road visa to be effective;

- In the automatic support program, the beneficiary may choose to apply for the support to be received to new production projects (as currently provided in the regulations) or to new writing and development projects;

- In the complementary support program, the possibility is opened for directors with 5 works (that meet the admissibility requirements), but in which the 6th work, proven to have its premiere scheduled before the closing of the 2020 competition, may apply already this year, submitting a statement by the exhibitor confirming the dates;

- In the support programme for film finalization and audiovisual and multimedia innovation, ICA will continue to make available and improve the access to the ICA FILMBOX portal for candidates, to enable the submission of digital formats (only MP4 format media up to 5 Gigas are accepted);

- In the festivals support program: in the ongoing supports, ICA will accept the re-programming of festivals activities, namely allowing the programming to be more extended in time, also allowing the paymentrelated to the festival action, even when it has been cancelled;

- Analyse and, consequently, accept the conclusion of partially fulfilled distribution or exhibition plans, without the need for prorrogation, when their conclusion is foreseen to occur in days covered by the declared State of Emergency, considering the circumstance not attributable to the beneficiary and without any penalty;

- In the national distribution programme for national works, the plan may be considered to have been fulfilled:

With the placing of a work on a VOD platform, provided that the film is made available to the public on that platform with a duration never shorter than the distribution plan presented in the application. That is, if a film has a plan with 10 sessions planned, running from January to May, it must be available on the platform at least until May; Or

With the placing of a work on pay-TV channels with cinematographic and audiovisual content, the beneficiary shall ensure that the works are shown at least once a week, counting the weeks equally. That is, if a film is scheduled to be distributed for 4 weeks, the film must be shown at least once a week for four weeks; And

With the delivery of a promotion plan of the work that, although not delivered with the application, will be important to prove that the beneficiary has made a set of efforts to promote their work to potential viewers in these exhibition channels;

- Accept the extension of the deadlines for submission of copies and final accounts report, for a longer period than the ones that the regulations provide for;

- In the context of intermediate and final accounts reporting, the ICA shall not require for the sample expenditure documents as set out in Article 5(b) of the Eligible Expenditure and Reporting Regulation. As a general rule, entities are not required to submit copies of the supporting documents for expenditure listed, except where requested by the ICA;

- Allow the payment of half of the value of the last tranche of the contract (50% of the last 5%), relating to the final accounts, when it is manifestly impossible for the beneficiary to obtain the necessary documentation; the remaining will be payed when the required documentation is submitted and the file will be closed.

- In all ICA support programmes, the possibility of extending the contractual deadline, currently granted for production support, is extended to the other support granted by the Institute, enhancing its conclusion.