**Exceptional measures allowing more flexibility in the relationship between applicants and/or beneficiaries and the ICA**

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.

**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 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 extension, 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;

- 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.