

Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee

Creative Scotland – Regular Funding 2018-21

Written submission from Drew Wylie Ltd

My company has no direct link to Creative Scotland Regular Funding. The purpose of this short paper is to suggest that a revised funding scheme could consider adapting some of the principles and approaches used by the EU's Creative Europe Programme, particularly in relation to its Culture Sub-programme:

- The calls of the Programme have a small number of clear objectives and priorities that applicants must respond to.
- The Programme encourages partnership between organisations, and between small and large organisations in particular.
- The calls are designed to meet the needs of different parts of the sector. So calls for audio-visual industry applications tend to be more technically defined in relation to the production, distribution and promotion functions of the industry.
- There is a potential progression route within the Sub-programme that allows organisations to develop from participation in a small-scale project (less than €200k) to a large-scale project (€2m.) and once operating Europe-wide, to be funded as a Platform or Network.
- There is a clear separation between the professionals offering advice to applicants (CEDUK in Scotland) and the team assessing the applications.
- Peer assessment is used through a pool of experts. Each application is considered by two experts, who must reach a consensus evaluation (scoring and commentary) after completing their individual evaluations. The consensus document is also checked by the Creative Europe team. This is an online process.
- A small number of Quality Experts work with the Creative Europe team to resolve any issues arising from evaluations (inconsistency or borderline cases for example).
- The final evaluation scoring and commentary is available to the applicant to encourage improved applications in the future. Resubmissions in future calls are encouraged given the effort required to make an application and the competitiveness of the scheme.
- There is an appeals procedure.
- The pool of experts is continually refreshed with new experts introduced in each call to work with more experienced colleagues.

This is comprehensive and therefore relatively expensive process. However, applicants can, and do, pass evaluations to MEPs and their national politicians, so the results must be robust.