

TV Drama and the World of Science - a European Initiative

Further Information for TV WRITERS and PRODUCERS

Below you will find the four stages of the EuroWistdom Project, including details of the Six Support Packages and time scales and how to get information you need.

Summary – at a Glance

Stage 1: Register Your interest, and find out how we can help with science/technology contacts

Stage 2: Clarify your idea, with EuroWistdom or by yourself, and get your project accepted (if possible) by EuroWistdom as one of 12 Development projects. If accepted work up your idea with our science support to a 4 page outline.

Deadline: End of April 2007

Stage 3: Six financial packages of 7,000 Euros Awarded., with first payment. These ideas are now developed to treatments. All 12 Projects retain EuroWistdom Science/Technology support, and potential contacts with broadcasters/producers reviewed.

Jurydecision: June 2007

Stage 4: Six treatments finalised. Second payments made. Support offered (as needed) to help market the six treatments and as many of the other six projects as have continued to a suitable level for broadcasting.

Deadline for the treatments: 10th of August 2007

Details of Stages

STAGE 1

If you have not done so already, please read the Project's First Information for Writers and Producers.

If you are either an experienced writer with several recent screen credits or a TV Drama producer working with a writer you respect, then you should first register with the EuroPAWS office at:

pawsomni@btconnect.com,

Please give your own contact details and recent CV, and a paragraph on either a new TV drama proposal you'd like to research and develop or your general interest in developing such a new TV script. Your idea may be for a series, a serial or a feature length TV film. If you are not sure if you qualify, or would like to clarify anything first, just write and ask. Please use English, French or German.

STAGE 2

The EuroWistdom team will work with about 12 qualifying writers or producer/writer teams. If significantly more than 12 qualifying writers or producer/writer pairs register interest, and maintain such interest after further discussions, then the 12 most promising projects will be selected using the following criteria : (no order)

- Originality of the idea
- Likelihood of the idea being commissioned for broadcasting
- A reasonable representation of writers in different countries
- The quality of the science or technology involved in the story
- Strength of women in science and technology element

Each of the 12 projects will need to produce a proposal by the end of April 2007, outlining the TV drama series, serial or TV film which will involve science or technology in a significant way, and which features at least one woman scientist or engineer in a significant role. A proposal should be about 4 pages of A4, double spacing, and should be accompanied by a CV of the writer or producer and writer. A pair of writers working together is also acceptable. In the event of too many suitable projects being proposed, the judgement of the EuroWisdom team will be final.

As this is a publicly funded venture, an international jury mainly of TV drama people, scientists and engineers, will select 6 of the 12 projects for 7,000 Euros grants. This money not a loan but a grant – no need for repayment – and the copyright of all ideas remains with the authors or producer/writer pairs. It is always your project – we are here to help. We will offer suggestions for scientists or engineers you can contact to help with science or technology issues, in your own language if possible, or at least in a language you understand. We can also help you develop a good idea into a story or treatment which is viable as a submission to a broadcaster and which has a good scientific or engineering basis. All proposals can be in the writer's native language, but if this is not English, French or German a one-page summary of the idea in English should accompany the proposal.

STAGE 3

The aim of EuroWisdom is to arrive at new TV drama output within Europe. So all 12 projects should aim for this, and we can also help with marketing of ideas to TV channels at the right moment. But the jury will finally choose 6 ideas for support based on these two main criteria:

- **Does the idea have good dramatic qualities and good science or technology within it – featuring women in science and technology in a significant way**
- **Is the project sufficiently strong to appeal to a broadcaster either in the country of origin of the idea or elsewhere in Europe**

Grant-Winning writers or writer/producer teams will be awarded their Grants in June 2007. Half the money will be paid at the start and the other half on completion of a treatment suitable for marketing the proposal to TV channels.

This treatment should contain an outline of the TV proposal, i.e. the series or serial concept or single film concept, and its audience appeal. At least one episode or significant part of a single film should be presented in detail, with some 10 minutes of dialogue. An overall length of about 25 pages would be likely, but there is no hard and fast guideline here. The treatment may be in the writer's native language, or in any European language.

Unless the jury advise otherwise, EuroWistdom will continue to support all 12 projects with science and engineering advice throughout the summer of 2007. If you have a general science or engineering query, we suggest you contact the EuroPAWS Office at the address below, as for an administrative enquiry. If you have a specific science or engineering enquiry, in other words you want to talk to say a plant biologist in Spain about genetically modified crops, or meet a woman space engineer in your home area, you can contact the Euroscience office as well as Femtec, contact details also below.

STAGE 4

Grant-winning treatments should be sent to the EuroPAWS office at the address below by 10 August 2007. On receipt of the treatments produced to specification, the second part of the Grant will be paid.

If the language of the treatment is not planned to be English, French or German, please notify the EuroPAWS office by 1 July 2007 so that translation arrangements can be made. Please let us know the language, and ensure that the treatment arrives at the EuroPAWS office by 1 August 2007.

The marketing of proposals to broadcasters can start at any time from inception of the idea; indeed it is quite acceptable to have a broadcaster interested in a project when you first contact us. The only two criteria which affect supportability are the ones in Stage 3. In September 2007, all proposals which have not already secured a broadcaster (any of the 12 project developed to treatment stage with or without a EuroWistdom support package) may benefit from EuroWistdom help in finding a suitable broadcaster for a pitch. The EuroWistdom team will discuss strategies for approaching broadcasters with each project team, and will help by suggesting suitable broadcasters and engage with the broadcasters where this seems beneficial and practical to help secure a commission.

www.eurowistdom.eu

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Please use English, French or German for communications.

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