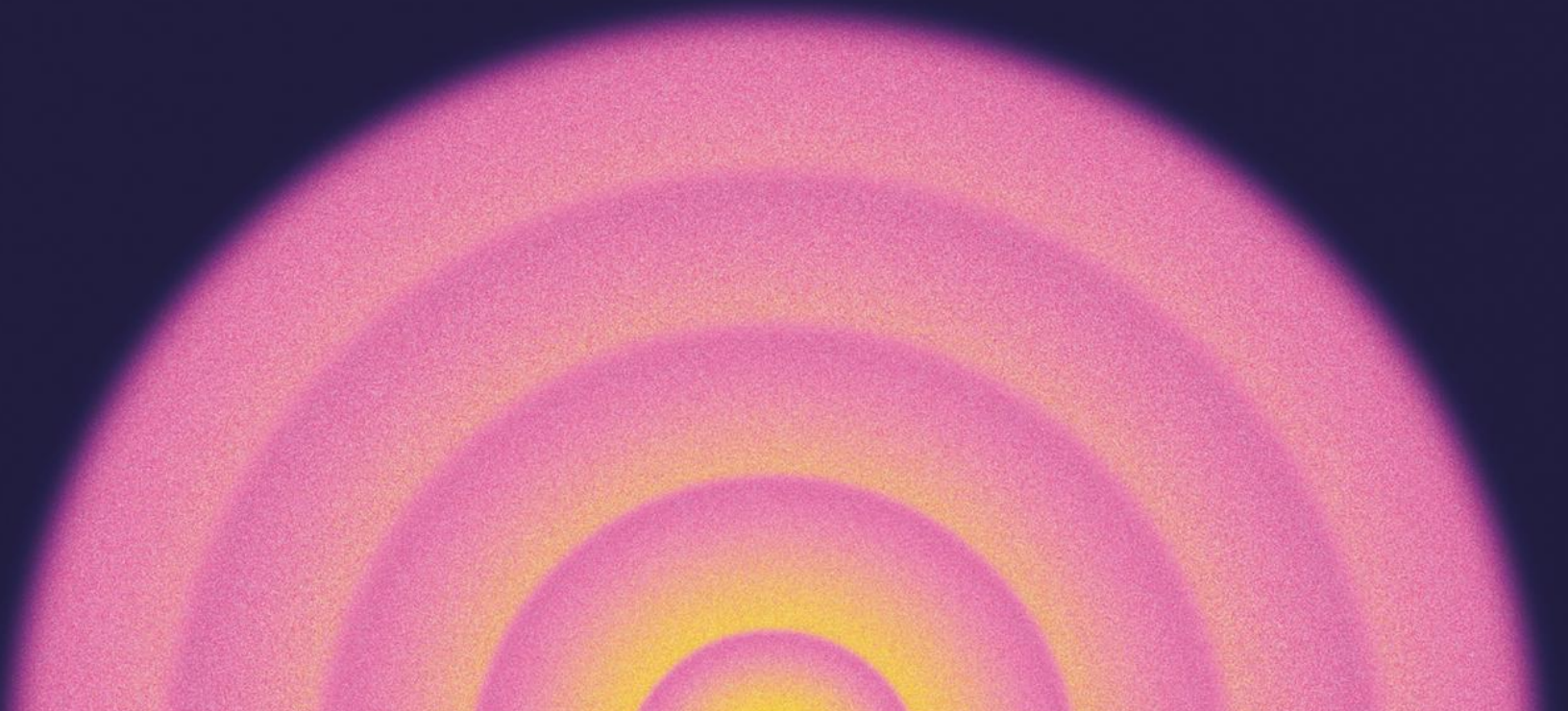


# PRODUCTION PROGRAM 2026-2027

Effective date: March 2026

## BRILLER ICI COMME AILLEURS

*SODEC*  
Québec 



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>OVERVIEW</b> .....	<b>4</b>
General objectives .....	4
General eligibility requirements .....	4
Exclusions .....	7
Project evaluation .....	7
Financial contribution and recoupment method .....	8
Financial report requirements .....	8
Legal deposit .....	9
Company obligations .....	9
<b>APPLICATION PROCESS</b> .....	<b>10</b>
Interpretation .....	10
<b>COMPONENT 1   SELECTIVE ASSISTANCE FOR THE PRODUCTION OF FEATURE-LENGTH FICTION FILMS</b> .....	<b>11</b>
Objective .....	11
Specific eligibility requirements .....	11
Project evaluation .....	11
Specific requirements for feature-length fiction films with a total production budget of less than \$3,500,000 .....	12
Financial contribution for feature-length fiction films with a total production budget of less than \$3,500,000 .....	12
Specific requirements for feature-length fiction films with a total production budget of \$3,500,000 or more .....	13
Specific requirements for Québec-majority English-language feature-length fiction films with a total production budget of \$3,500,000 or more .....	13
Financial contribution for feature-length fiction films with a total budget of \$3,500,000 or more, excluding minority coproductions .....	14
Specific requirements for Québec-minority coproductions of feature-length fiction films .....	14
Specific requirements for applying at the postproduction stage .....	15
Application process and deadlines .....	16
<b>COMPONENT 2   SELECTIVE ASSISTANCE FOR THE PRODUCTION OF SHORT FILMS</b> .....	<b>17</b>
Objective .....	17
Specific requirements .....	17
Project evaluation .....	18
Applying at the postproduction stage .....	18
Financial contribution .....	19
Application process and deadlines .....	19
<b>COMPONENT 3   SELECTIVE ASSISTANCE FOR THE PRODUCTION OF MEDIUM- LENGTH AND FEATURE-LENGTH DOCUMENTARIES — ONE-OFF WORKS</b> .....	<b>20</b>
Objective .....	20

Specific requirements .....	20
Project evaluation .....	21
Specific requirements for Québec-minority coproductions of medium-length and feature-length documentaries .....	22
Specific requirements for applying at the postproduction stage .....	22
Financial contribution .....	23
Application process and deadlines .....	23
<b>DEFINITIONS.....</b>	<b>24</b>
Eligible companies .....	24
Consultant .....	24
Production budget.....	24
Documentary .....	25
Author-driven documentary.....	25
Québec company .....	25
Fiscal year.....	26
Commercialization.....	26
Film.....	26
Runtimes .....	26
Principal place of business .....	26
Québec production .....	26
Rewriting .....	28
Ethical rules for cultural activities and projects .....	28
Tax residence in Québec.....	28
Eligible broadcaster.....	28
<b>GENERAL DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION.....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.....</b>	<b>29</b>

# OVERVIEW

Through this program, SODEC supports:

- feature-length fiction projects (component 1);
- short fiction or documentary film projects (component 2);
- medium-length and feature-length documentaries – one-off works (component 3).

## General objectives

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- Encourage the production of quality, original, engaging and diverse works that have the potential to reach audiences in Québec or abroad;
- Promote the creation of projects that are artistically and financially sound and tailored to their intended audiences, as well as to the venues and distribution platforms for which they are intended;
- Encourage the production of projects that ensure continuity for experienced creative teams and foster the emergence of new talent in the audiovisual industry;
- Foster, from the funding stage, measures aimed at commercializing projects through a range of available tools, whether conventional or digital.

## General eligibility requirements

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### Eligible companies

- Under its Production assistance program, SODEC accepts applications from [Québec production companies](#).
- To establish their eligibility, all production companies planning to apply for funding for the first time must contact SODEC at least one month before the application deadline.
- Any production company with experience in a given production format that wishes to apply for funding of a project in a different format must also contact SODEC at least one month before the application deadline to establish its eligibility to submit such an application.
- An application for funding submitted by a company whose eligibility has not been previously established will not be considered.
- A company's eligibility is determined according to the parameters of the project submitted and the specific requirements detailed in each of the program components.
- SODEC reviews the track record of companies and producers to determine whether an application is eligible.
- To be eligible, the production company must demonstrate that its directors and producers have the relevant professional experience to:
  - Effectively oversee the creative aspects of the production;

- Effectively manage all administrative and financial aspects to ensure the production is brought to completion under the best possible conditions;
- Plan for and actively monitor the project's distribution.
- The company must also demonstrate, upon request by SODEC, that it has access to the necessary funds to complete production as planned.

**Note:** At the time of application, a company must provide all the documents required to open or update its master file ([dossier maître](#)).

### Eligible projects

- When applying for funding, projects must meet the general eligibility requirements of the program and the specific requirements of the relevant component.
- As a rule, SODEC does not retroactive assistance, regardless of the component under which a project is submitted.
- At all times, submitted projects must comply with the standards relating to the definition of a [Québec production](#).
- The production company must demonstrate, to the satisfaction of SODEC, that it holds all the rights necessary for the project's production and distribution.
- As a general rule, SODEC reserves the right to require production supervision.
- Projects that received development assistance from SODEC must close their development application with SODEC prior to applying for production or postproduction assistance for the same project.
  - The documents required to close the selective development assistance application must be submitted at least four weeks before the deadline for submission to the Production assistance program.
- A project that has been rejected twice may be resubmitted if invited to do so by SODEC, which then determines the prerequisites to reapply. After an initial rejection, SODEC reserves the right to determine the submission deadline by which the projet may be resubmitted. Once a project has exhausted the number of times it can apply in production, it remains eligible to apply for postproduction assistance.
- Fees and salaries for which payment is deferred are subject to written agreements and generally cannot exceed 20% of the total production budget.

### Applying at the postproduction phase

Applications for postproduction funding may be submitted in accordance with the specific requirements outlined for each component of the program.

### Request to convert previously obtained development assistance

- A request to convert development assistance into a production grant can be issued to SODEC by the applicant company along with all required documents.
- For an application to be eligible, the applicant company must meet the definition of a [Québec company](#).
- It must hold all the rights to the project.

- The project must also meet the following requirements:
  - Comply with conditions 1 (screenwriting fees) and 4 (directing fees) relating to the definition of a Québec production;
  - Demonstrate that the Québec distribution rights are held by a Québec distribution or production company, if applicable.
- If the production does not meet these requirements, the development assistance investment must be repaid upon final cut.
- A company that has converted a project's development assistance into a production grant is not eligible to apply for funding for production or postproduction for this project.

## Coproduction

In the context of coproduction, SODEC only contributes to expenses related to the Québec portion of the budget, in accordance with the standard guidelines and criteria of the Production assistance program, provided that the party in question meets the definition of a [Québec production](#).

Any international coproduction must be recognized as an official coproduction by the authorities overseeing international coproductions, unless the audiovisual work is produced under a government coproduction agreement entered into by the Gouvernement du Québec or one of its ministries or agencies.

Interprovincial coproductions are also eligible, provided they meet the specific requirements for interprovincial coproductions set forth in SODEC's refundable tax credit program for Québec film and television production.

All international or interprovincial coproductions must include, along with the application, a detailed financial plan and budget in Canadian dollars, in accordance with the Canadian standard budget format that breaks down the funding and expenses among the coproducers.

## Majority coproductions

A coproduction is Québec majority-owned when 51% or more of the rights to a project are held by one or more [Québec companies](#).

## Minority coproductions

A coproduction is Québec minority-owned when 50% or less of the rights to a project are held by one or more [Québec companies](#).

We evaluate Québec minority-owned documentary coproduction projects as long as the Québec producer can prove that at least 50% of the foreign funding—excluding the coproducer's equity contribution—has been secured, supported by letters of confirmation of said funding.

The specific requirements pertaining to feature-length fiction projects are detailed in component 1 – Selective assistance for the production of feature-length fiction films.

The specific requirements pertaining to medium-length or feature-length documentaries are detailed in component 3 – Selective assistance for the production of medium-length and feature-length documentaries.

## Coproduction with the National Film Board of Canada

Coproductions with the National Film Board of Canada (NFB) are eligible provided that the [Québec production company](#) holds, at the time of application, at least 51% of the intellectual property rights for the production.

The NFB's combined contributions, in addition to its investment as a minority coproducer, including a guaranteed minimum distribution amount, a broadcast license for the NFB.ca distribution platform or any other form of contribution, may not exceed 49% of the total production budget.

For any coproduction with the NFB, in the event that the NFB wishes to hold the distribution or broadcast rights for the production, the rights transferred to the NFB must be the subject of a separate agreement, to the satisfaction of SODEC, taking into account the characteristics and commercial potential of the project.

SODEC assistance is allocated to the portion of production under the responsibility of the [Québec company](#).

## Exclusions

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- Broadcasting companies that have been, are, or become licensed under the [Broadcasting Act \(R.S.C., c. B-9\)](#) are not eligible for the program or are only eligible under very specific conditions. Such conditions also govern the [eligibility of production companies](#) that have corporate links with a company holding such a license.

## Project evaluation

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- SODEC evaluates submitted projects in order to identify high-quality, original, engaging, and financially viable projects with the potential to gain recognition in Québec or abroad.
- The evaluation criteria are detailed in each component.
- SODEC's financial resources are always factored into the decision-making process.
- SODEC assigns at least 80% of the funds allocated to the Production program to projects whose original version is in French.
- SODEC reserves the right to require the applicant to hire a production consultant, a director-consultant, or any other production support for the project.
- It may also set up external evaluation committees or use the services of independent readers to gather opinions, comments or recommendations on the creative, financial and commercialization aspects of projects brought to its attention.
- SODEC reviews the submitted proposals and communicates its decisions in a timely manner.

## **Financial contribution and recoupment method**

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### **Financial contribution**

SODEC's financial contribution is selective.

- For feature-length fiction films (component 1), medium-length and feature-length documentaries (component 3), it is provided in the form of a recoupable investment.
- For fiction and documentary shorts (component 2), it is provided by way of a grant.

### **Recoupment method**

When assistance is provided in the form of a recoupable investment, SODEC recoups its investment in accordance with the terms that were set with the company in the financial assistance agreement. SODEC may negotiate priority repayment for certain deferred fees and salaries.

Depending on the size of its investment, SODEC may negotiate preferential repayment terms. The repayment terms are outlined in a document setting forth the business rules of the audiovisual development and production department ([Règles d'affaires](#) – French only).

### **Entrepreneurial support initiatives**

To support the professional development of companies, SODEC can organize and finance coaching activities, on its own initiative or in partnership with industry professionals, Québec companies or professional associations.

## **Financial report requirements**

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Any production company that has secured an investment or grant from SODEC for the production of a project must submit, no later than 90 days after the delivery of the production's answer/master print, or by any other date specified by SODEC:

- a review engagement report of the final and actual production costs, provided the budget is less than \$500,000; or
- an audited report of the final and actual production costs, for productions with a budget of \$500,000 or more.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, SODEC reserves the right to request an audited cost report from the production company, regardless of the estimated budget.

When submitting the final actual cost report referred to above, the production company must provide SODEC with a detailed itemized breakdown of production costs, as set out in the estimated budget breakdown, including a list of costs incurred outside Québec.

All of the reports mentioned above must comply with the accounting and cost reporting requirements set forth in the Accounting and Reporting Requirements of Telefilm Canada and the Canada Media Fund. These reports must include an independent auditor's report from the auditing firm.

SODEC, its representatives, or an auditor of its choosing may at any time examine, make, or receive copies or excerpts of the production's accounting records and other related documents.

SODEC reserves the right to request that the production company provide written confirmation or clarification from the company's auditor regarding the accuracy of any aspect of the accounting information submitted.

SODEC also reserves the right, at any time and upon notice, to require the production company to provide the production's monthly disbursements statements along with a bank statement, listing the names of payees.

## **Legal deposit**

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Under section 20.9.1 of the [Act respecting Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec](#) (C.Q.L.R., c. B-1.2), the applicant company must, within six months of the first public showing of the final version of the production, deposit a copy of the film, free of charge, with the Cinémathèque québécoise.

It is the producer's responsibility to ensure that the film copy deposited complies with the specifications for the legal deposit of digital files as required in the [instructions for the legal deposit of digital films](#) on the Cinémathèque québécoise website. Consequently, producers must include in their production budget, for any application submitted to SODEC, the costs of producing a copy that complies with the required specifications for legal deposit. Québec minority coproductions are not subject to this obligation.

## **Company obligations**

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All financial assistance is conditional on compliance with the program and the terms of the financial assistance agreement signed with SODEC. Furthermore, the company must comply with the conditions and obligations of any previous SODEC assistance program.

SODEC reserves the right to request any information or document deemed necessary to process and manage files, as well as all supporting documents related to expenses reported by the company.

# APPLICATION PROCESS

Before submitting an application to SODEC, companies must confirm their eligibility (see [General eligibility requirements – Eligible companies](#))

Applications are submitted through [SOD@ccès](mailto:SOD@ccès), our secure online portal.

The project deadline dates are available on the [SODEC website](#).

All applications submitted to SODEC must include the required documents listed on the [SODEC website](#).

A project assessment fee is payable upon submission of any application for production assistance. The amount payable per project, plus applicable taxes, can be found in the Application process section of each production assistance component.

## **Interpretation**

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In the event of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the programs between an applicant and SODEC, the interpretation provided by SODEC takes precedence.

**For information on the various assistance programs and components administered by the audiovisual production and development department, visit: [sodec.gouv.qc.ca](http://sodec.gouv.qc.ca).**

# COMPONENT 1 | SELECTIVE ASSISTANCE FOR THE PRODUCTION OF FEATURE-LENGTH FICTION FILMS

## Objective

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Promote the production of quality, original and engaging feature-length fiction films that represent a variety of genres and have the potential to reach audiences in Québec or abroad.

## Specific eligibility requirements

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- This component is for Québec companies producing feature-length fiction films that possess expertise deemed sufficient by SODEC.
- If the same company, including related companies ([Définition d'entreprises reliées](#) – French only), submits more than one feature-length fiction film project per application, at least half of the projects submitted must be scripted or directed by women. In case of an odd number of projects, the majority must be scripted or directed by women.
- The producer must possess experience that is relevant to the submitted project and in line with the budget.
- The proposal must include a commercialization strategy that takes into account the full range of available tools, whether conventional or digital.
- Applying for production assistance must be done before the first day of filming.

## Project evaluation

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To meet the general objectives of the program, feature-length fiction projects are evaluated comparatively based on three main criteria:

- **The creative perspective:** the interest and engaging nature of the overall proposal, its originality amid the current film landscape; its screenplay (its story arc, narrative pacing, plot development, the consistency and evolution of its characters, quality of the dialogue, state of completion); its direction (quality of the cinematic proposal, coherence within the genre, filmmaker's experience); the film producer's vision (including with regard to the amount of funding requested), the production company's track record, the quality of the production management, and the experience of the producer; the project's potential to reach audiences in Québec and/or abroad.
- **The financial perspective:** the state of progress of the financial structure, the amount requested from SODEC in relation to the budget, the diversity of financial partners and the producer's investment.

- **The [commercialization perspective](#):** the strategies and financial resources used to ensure the discoverability, accessibility, visibility, audience engagement, promotion, and distribution of the film in Québec and abroad, when applicable.

## **Specific requirements for feature-length fiction films with a total production budget of less than \$3,500,000**

The applicant production company must meet the general eligibility requirements as well as the following specific requirements:

- The company and the producer must have produced and brought to the screen in Québec, in a professional context, at least one feature-length fiction film or other work of fiction deemed relevant by SODEC of equivalent budgetary scope, in the eight years preceding the application.
- Option agreements, screenwriting contracts, and the chain of title must demonstrate that the project was developed exclusively by one or more Québec companies, with the exception of minority coproductions.
- The proposal must include a commercialization strategy that takes into account the full range of available tools, whether conventional or digital.
- The application may also include any distribution or broadcasting agreements that the production company has entered into for the exhibition of the film, if applicable.
- For a production where the original language is, partially or completely, other than French, SODEC requires that subtitling or dubbing of the work in French be included in the production budget or in distribution agreements for the compulsory release of the French version in Québec. French dubbing must be carried out by a Québec company and by Québec performers.

**Note:** When moving into production, companies should refer to the [guidelines for a Refundable Tax Credit for Film and Television Production Services](#) that is available to them.

## **Financial contribution for feature-length fiction films with a total production budget of less than \$3,500,000**

### **Type of funding**

SODEC's financial contribution, for this selective assistance component, takes the form of a recoupable investment.

### **Funding amounts**

SODEC's cumulative investment in a feature-length fiction film with a budget of less than \$3,500,000 can represent up to 65% of the Québec portion of the budget.

## **Payment terms**

The terms, schedule and obligations relating to payments are specified in the financial agreement signed with SODEC.

Payments are always conditional on the availability of funds and appropriate and sufficient approvals of allocations by the National Assembly.

## **Specific requirements for feature-length fiction films with a total production budget of \$3,500,000 or more**

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The applicant production company must meet the general eligibility requirements as well as the following specific requirements:

- The company and the producer must have produced and brought to the screen in Québec, in a professional context, at least two feature-length fiction film or other work of fiction deemed relevant by SODEC of equivalent budgetary scope, in the eight years preceding the application.
- Prior to submitting its application, the company must secure a financial commitment, in the form of a guaranteed minimum amount, from a Québec feature-length fiction film distribution company.
- Option agreements, screenwriting contracts, and the chain of title must demonstrate that the project was developed exclusively by one or more Québec companies, with the exception of minority coproductions.
- The proposal must include the budget and the distributor's commercialization strategy that takes into account the full range of available tools, whether conventional or digital.
- For a production where the original language is, partially or completely, other than French, SODEC requires that subtitling or dubbing of the work in French be included in the production budget or in distribution agreements for the compulsory release of the French version in Québec. French dubbing must be carried out by a Québec company and by Québec performers.

## **Specific requirements for Québec-majority English-language feature-length fiction films with a total production budget of \$3,500,000 or more**

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In addition to the specific requirements of this component and the specific requirements pertaining to the estimated budget:

- An application for production assistance for a Québec-majority English-language feature-length fiction film with a total production budget of \$3,500,000 or more must include a quantified commitment from its principal backers;
- An application may be submitted at any time;
- It must include all the documents required to apply for Production assistance.

- Option agreements, screenwriting contracts, and the chain of title must demonstrate that the project was developed exclusively by one or more Québec companies, with the exception of minority coproductions.
- Financial assistance is subject to the availability of SODEC's funds.

SODEC requires that French dubbing be included in the production budget or in distribution agreements for the compulsory release of the French version in Québec. French dubbing must be carried out by a Québec company and by Québec performers.

## **Financial contribution for feature-length fiction films with a total budget of \$3,500,000 or more, excluding minority coproductions**

### **Type of funding**

SODEC's financial contribution, for this selective assistance component, takes the form of a production investment.

### **Funding amounts**

SODEC's cumulative investment in a feature-length fiction film with a budget of \$3,500,000 or more (excluding minority coproductions) can represent up to 65% of the Québec portion of the budget, without exceeding \$4,000,000.

### **Payment terms**

The terms, schedule and obligations relating to payments are specified in the financial agreement signed with SODEC.

Payments are always conditional on the availability of funds and appropriate and sufficient approvals of allocations by the National Assembly.

## **Specific requirements for Québec-minority coproductions of feature-length fiction films**

In addition to the specific requirements of this component and the specific requirements pertaining to the estimated budget:

- An application for minority coproductions of feature-length fiction films may be submitted at any time.
- SODEC evaluates minority coproductions of feature-length fiction projects provided that the Québec producer can prove that at least 50% of the foreign financing, other than the coproducer's capital contribution—has been secured, supported by letters of confirmation of said funding.
- When evaluating projects, SODEC takes into consideration:
  - The status of the funding;
  - The strategic agreement reached with a foreign partner for the purpose of initiating a reciprocal Québec-majority coproduction;

- The potential economic benefits from the production and marketing of the film;
  - The recoupment terms;
  - The company's experience and potential to develop coproduction projects with foreign companies;
  - The creative elements submitted: the interest and engaging nature of the overall proposal, its originality amid the current film landscape; the quality and state of completion of the screenplay, the cinematic potential of the proposed directorial vision, the experience of the creative team;
  - The project's potential to reach audiences in Québec and/or abroad: the project's appeal to Québec audiences, the international reputation of key creative personnel, potential festivals, other distribution channels, and the distributor's track record and vision.
- Financial assistance is subject to the availability of SODEC's funds.
  - For a production where the original language is, partially or completely, other than French, SODEC requires that subtitling or dubbing of the work in French be included in the production budget or in distribution agreements for the compulsory release of the French version in Québec.

## Funding amounts

SODEC's cumulative investment in a minority coproduction of a feature-length fiction film serves as **complementary funding**. The cumulative investment for this type of production may reach up to 49% of the Québec budget, but generally does not exceed \$350,000.

## Specific requirements for applying at the postproduction stage

In addition to the specific requirements of this component and the specific requirements pertaining to the estimated budget:

- An application for postproduction assistance for a feature-length fiction film may be submitted at any time;
- A **single** application for funding may be submitted during the postproduction phase, regardless of the number of previous Production assistance rejections;
- Application for postproduction assistance must be submitted after filming has been completed; it must be filed before final editing begins, and only future expenses related to the completion of the production will be considered;
- It must include all the documents required to apply for Production assistance;
- It must also include:
  - A rough cut, i.e. a compilation of selected shots forming a sequence containing all the narrative elements that accurately represents the film work (an application that only includes excerpts and/or montage is not acceptable);
  - A note from the director listing the visual and audio processes that have yet to be completed;

- A detailed and up-to-date cost report.
- Financial assistance is subject to the availability of SODEC's funds.

## **Application process and deadlines**

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The project deadline dates are available on the [SODEC website](#).

A handling and assessment fee is payable for each project and application at the time of submission. The fees are:

- \$350, plus applicable taxes, for a feature-length fiction film with a total production budget of \$1,500,000 or less;
- \$1,000, plus applicable taxes, for a feature-length fiction film with a total production budget exceeding \$1,500,000.

# COMPONENT 2 | SELECTIVE ASSISTANCE FOR THE PRODUCTION OF SHORT FILMS

Through this component, SODEC supports fiction and documentary shorts.

## Objective

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Promote the production of quality, original and engaging short films that represent a variety of genres and have the potential to reach audiences in Québec or abroad.

## Specific requirements

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The applicant production company must meet the [general eligibility requirements](#) as well as the following specific requirements:

- An application for Production assistance must be submitted before the first day of filming.
- The company and the producer must have produced and brought to the screen in Québec, in a professional context (including selection in the official competition of a major festival or on a platform recognized by SODEC) at least one audiovisual work deemed relevant to the submitted application during the eight years preceding the application.
- Option agreements, screenwriting contracts, and the chain of title must demonstrate that the project was developed exclusively by one or more Québec companies, with the exception of minority coproductions.
- If the same company, including related companies ([Définition d'entreprises reliées](#) – French only), submits more than one project per application, at least half of the projects submitted must be scripted or directed by women. In case of an odd number of projects, the majority must be scripted or directed by women.
- The proposal must include a commercialization strategy that takes into account the full range of available tools, whether conventional or digital.
- **Note:** When moving into production, companies should refer to the [guidelines for a Refundable Tax Credit for Film and Television Production Services](#) that is available to them in order to confirm their production's eligibility.
- For a production where the original language is, partially or completely, other than French, SODEC requires that subtitling or dubbing of the work in French be included in the production budget or in distribution agreements for the compulsory release of the French version in Québec. French dubbing must be carried out by a Québec company and by Québec performers. Overdubbing is allowed for documentaries only if an agreement to this effect already exists with a broadcaster.

## Project evaluation

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To meet the general objectives of the program, short fiction and documentary films are evaluated comparatively based on three main criteria:

- **The creative perspective:** the interest and support generated by the overall proposal, as well as its state of completion, in order to recognize high-quality, original, engaging, and diverse projects with the potential to reach audiences in Québec and/or abroad; the impact of the subject and the effectiveness of the narrative structure for fiction or the discursive structure for documentaries; the portrayal of fictional characters or the relevance of documentary contributors, and their ability to elicit emotion, reflection or identification; the effectiveness of the proposed directorial treatment; the quality of the production management; and the experience of the producers and filmmakers.
- **The financial perspective:** the state of progress of the financial structure, the amount requested from SODEC in relation to the budget, the diversity of financial partners and the producer's investment.
- **The [commercialization](#) perspective:** the strategies and financial resources used to ensure the discoverability, accessibility, visibility, audience engagement, promotion, and distribution of the film in Québec and abroad, when applicable.

## Applying at the postproduction stage

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In addition to the specific requirements of this component:

- A **single** application for funding may be submitted during the postproduction phase, regardless of the number of previous Production assistance rejections;
- Application for postproduction assistance must be submitted after filming has been completed; it must be filed before final editing begins, and only future expenses related to the completion of the production will be considered;
- The application must be filed before the deadlines specified on the submission schedule for the current financial year;
- It must include all the documents required to apply for Production assistance;
- It must also include:
  - A rough cut, i.e. a compilation of selected shots forming a sequence containing all the narrative elements that accurately represents the film work (an application that only includes excerpts and/or montage is not acceptable);
  - A note from the director listing the visual and audio processes that have yet to be completed;
  - A detailed and up-to-date cost report.

## **Financial contribution**

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### **Type of funding**

SODEC's financial contribution, for this selective assistance component, takes the form of a production grant.

### **Funding amounts**

SODEC's cumulative financial contribution is capped at \$165,000 and must be used to fund the Québec portion of the budget.

### **Payment terms**

The terms, schedule and obligations relating to payments are specified in the financial agreement signed with SODEC.

Payments are always conditional on the availability of funds and appropriate and sufficient approvals of allocations by the National Assembly.

## **Application process and deadlines**

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The project deadline dates are available on the [SODEC website](#).

A handling and assessment fee of \$50, plus applicable taxes, is payable upon submission for each project and submission.

# COMPONENT 3 | SELECTIVE ASSISTANCE FOR THE PRODUCTION OF MEDIUM-LENGTH AND FEATURE-LENGTH DOCUMENTARIES — ONE-OFF WORKS

## Objective

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Promote the production of quality, original and engaging one-off medium-length and feature-length documentary films that represent a variety of genres and have the potential to reach audiences in Québec or abroad.

## Specific requirements

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As a general rule, Production assistance applications must be submitted before the first day of principal photography.

The applicant production company must meet the [general eligibility requirements](#) as well as the following specific requirements:

- The company and the producer of the project must have produced and brought to the screen in Québec, in a professional context, at least one medium-length documentary (if the application is for a medium-length project), and medium-length films or a feature-length documentary film (if the application is for a feature-length documentary), in the eight years preceding the application.
- SODEC prioritizes medium-length and feature-length documentary projects that meet the definitions of “[documentary](#)” and “[author-driven documentary](#)” used in its programs.
- Option agreements, screenwriting contracts, and the chain of title must demonstrate that the project was developed exclusively by one or more Québec companies, with the exception of minority coproductions.
- The applicant company must have obtained, prior to submitting its application, one of the following distribution commitments:
  - A letter of commitment from an eligible broadcaster (broadcasting license); or
  - A letter of commitment from a Québec documentary distribution company holding a Québec distributor’s license to distribute the film in Québec; or
  - A letter of commitment from an eligible digital distribution platform (non-exclusive license) that is eligible to the refundable tax credit for film production services (please refer to the [guidelines for a Refundable Tax Credit for Film and Television Production Services](#)).

If none of these commitments have been obtained, SODEC may waive this requirement if the applicant production company, in addition to holding a

distributor's license issued by the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications, has already obtained:

- financial assistance under SODEC's component 1B–Soutien aux activités de promotion et de diffusion (in French only) of the current Programme d'aide à la promotion et à la diffusion de la SODEC (in French only); or
- financial assistance under SODEC's component 1.2–Aide à la mise en marché par projet (in French only) from the former Programme d'aide à la promotion et à la diffusion.
- The proposal must include a [commercialization](#) strategy that takes into account the full range of available tools, whether conventional or digital.

For a production where the original language is, partially or completely, other than French, SODEC requires that subtitling or dubbing of the work in French be included in the production budget or in distribution agreements for the compulsory release of the French version in Québec. French dubbing must be carried out by a Québec company and by Québec performers. Overdubbing is allowed for documentaries only if an agreement to this effect already exists with a broadcaster.

## **Project evaluation**

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To meet the general objectives of the program, [documentary films](#) are evaluated comparatively based on three main criteria:

- **The creative perspective:** the interest and engaging nature of the overall proposal, its originality amid the current film landscape; the documentary proposal (the caliber of the research, characters or participants, the clarity and engaging nature of the documentary storytelling or discursive structure); its direction (its impact and vision, the quality of the proposed treatment, the relevance of the approach, the filmmaker(s)' experience, and, for feature documentaries: does the project carry the necessary momentum? Does it lend itself to the screen?); the production company's track record, the quality of the production management; the project's potential to reach audiences in Québec and/or abroad.
- **The financial perspective:** the state of progress of the financial structure, the amount requested from SODEC in relation to the budget, the diversity of financial partners and the producer's investment.
- **The [commercialization](#) perspective:** the strategies and financial resources used to ensure the discoverability, accessibility, visibility, audience engagement, promotion, and distribution of the film in Québec and abroad, when applicable.

## **Specific requirements for Québec-minority coproductions of medium-length and feature-length documentaries**

In addition to the specific requirements of this component:

- An application for minority coproductions of medium-length or feature-length documentaries may be submitted at any time.
- SODEC will evaluate minority coproductions of medium-length or feature-length documentary projects provided that the Québec producer can prove that at least 50% of the foreign financing, other than the coproducer's capital contributions—has been secured, supported by letters of confirmation of said funding.
- When evaluating these projects, SODEC takes into consideration:
  - The status of funding;
  - Any strategic agreement reached with a foreign partner for the purpose of initiating a reciprocal Québec-majority coproduction, if applicable;
  - The potential economic benefits from the production and marketing of the film;
  - The recoupment terms;
  - The company's experience and potential to develop coproduction projects with foreign companies;
  - The quality and state of progress of the documentary proposal.
- Financial assistance is subject to the availability of SODEC's funds.
- For a production where the original language is, partially or completely, other than French, SODEC requires that subtitling or dubbing of the work in French be included in the production budget or in distribution agreements for the compulsory release of the French version in Québec.

## **Specific requirements for applying at the postproduction stage**

In addition to the specific requirements of this component:

- An application may be submitted at any time;
- A **single** application for funding may be submitted during the postproduction phase, regardless of the number of previous Production assistance rejections;
- An application for postproduction assistance must be submitted after filming has been completed; it must be filed before final editing begins, and only future expenses related to the completion of the production will be considered;
- It must include all the documents required to apply for Production assistance.
- It must also include:
  - A rough cut, i.e. a compilation of selected shots forming a sequence containing all the narrative elements that accurately represents the film

work (an application that only includes excerpts and/or montage is not acceptable);

- A note from the director listing the visual and audio processes that have yet to be completed;
  - A detailed and up-to-date cost report.
- Financial assistance is subject to the availability of SODEC's funds.

## **Financial contribution**

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### **Type of funding**

SODEC's financial contribution, for this selective assistance component, takes the form of a recoupable investment.

### **Funding amounts**

SODEC's cumulative investment can represent up to 65% of the Québec portion of the budget, without exceeding \$500,000.

In the case of a minority coproduction of a medium-length or feature-length documentary film, SODEC's cumulative investment serves as **complementary funding** and may not exceed 49% of the Québec budget.

### **Payment terms**

The terms, schedule and obligations relating to payments are specified in the financial agreement signed with SODEC.

Payments are always conditional on the availability of funds and appropriate and sufficient approvals of allocations by the National Assembly.

## **Application process and deadlines**

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The project deadline dates are available on the [SODEC website](#).

A handling and assessment fee of \$250, plus applicable taxes, is payable upon submission for each project and submission.

## DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply to the development program, the production program and the emerging talent program.

### **Eligible companies**

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Québec-based companies are eligible for funding under the general or specific requirements of the various funding programs.

However, the following are not eligible for the development, production and emerging talent programs:

- a broadcasting company licensed under the Broadcasting Act (R.S.C., c. B-9);
- a company that becomes a licensee under the Act during the tax year in which the application for funding is submitted to SODEC;
- a company that has held such a license during the 24 months preceding the tax year in which the application for funding is submitted to SODEC;
- a company that, during the tax year in which the application for funding is submitted to SODEC, or that, in the 24 months preceding that tax year, controls a licensee under the Act or is controlled, in fact or in law, directly or indirectly, by a licensee under the Act.

Furthermore, a production company which, during the tax year in which the application for funding is submitted to SODEC, or which, in the 24 months preceding that tax year, holds a minority interest in a broadcasting company or in a company in which a broadcaster holds a minority interest, may access SODEC funds only for productions that are not destined for broadcast by the related broadcaster during the production's first cycle of commercial exploitation.

### **Consultant**

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By consultant, SODEC means specialists with no connection to the production or the production company, whose role is to advise one or more members of the team on specific areas of activity with which they are not yet familiar. Please note that the consultant cannot be a member of the team whose position is already specified in the production budget, nor a shareholder of the production company.

### **Production budget**

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Detailed document outlining projected expenses to produce the work, including development, pre-production, shooting, post-production and overhead costs.

## Documentary

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Any audiovisual production that represents reality in a non-fictional way, which provides information and analysis on a subject, can be considered a documentary.

Where documentary production is concerned, SODEC invests in documentaries that are thoroughly researched, have a strong editorial point of view, and have the potential to be of lasting interest. The cinematographic treatment must be original and clearly distinguishable from the strictly informative thematic program.

## Author-driven documentary

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The author-driven documentary complies with the general definition of a documentary while displaying the following distinctive characteristics:

- the documentary project is based on original narrative and cinematographic constructions and a subject treatment that are clearly marked by the director's personal vision; the project generally follows in the footsteps of his or her previous works;
- the director is generally the project initiator; he or she controls the editorial and creative content at every stage of the project's development and production, right up to the release print, in partnership with the producer who supports him or her in the creative process.

## Québec company

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For the purposes of the funding programs in the audiovisual production and development department, a Québec company is one that meets the following requirements:

- it is registered in Québec; its head office and its main establishment are also located in Québec;
- two thirds of the administrators have their [tax residence in Québec](#);
  - a) for corporations: two thirds of the voting shares entitling to elect the majority of the administrators are held by Canadian citizens or permanent residents who have their [tax residence in Québec](#); if more than one third of the voting shares of the applicant company's share capital are held by a legal entity, this entity must satisfy the requirement listed above;
  - b) for other types of companies: two thirds of the members who can elect the majority of the administrators are Canadian citizens or permanent residents that have their [tax residence in Québec](#).

A sole proprietorship does not qualify as a Québec company.

This definition applies to all programs in the audiovisual production and development department.

These companies must also meet the eligibility criteria for companies and any specific conditions that may be indicated in the programs.

## Fiscal year

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SODEC's fiscal year begins on April 1st of each year and ends on March 31st of the following year.

## Commercialization

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Commercialization refers to the steps involved in the marketing and distribution of a production on national and international markets, across all distribution channels.

## Film

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A work produced using technical means and resulting in a cinematographic effect, regardless of the medium.

## Runtimes

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SHORT FILM: films of 30 minutes or less.

MEDIUM-LENGTH FILM: films between 31 and 74 minutes.

FEATURE FILM: films of 75 minutes or more.

## Principal place of business

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The principal place of business is where the company's central management and control are effectively exercised.

## Québec production

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SODEC funds audiovisual works whose primary market is Québec and which meet the following conditions (by the term "overall", SODEC indicates at least 75% of the film's components):

- **Condition 1:** Overall, screenwriting fees (excluding rights purchases), must be paid to a person or persons whose [tax residence](#) is in Québec.
- **Condition 2:** Overall, expenses related to acting fees, except for extras, as well as those related to the technical crew during pre-production, production and post-production (including residual rights and fringe benefits) must be paid to persons whose [tax residence](#) is in Québec.
- **Condition 3:** Overall, equipment and technical services required for project production must be purchased or leased in Québec.
- **Condition 4:** Overall, directing fees must be paid to a person or persons whose [tax residence](#) is in Québec.
- **Condition 5:** Projects must be produced by a Québec-based company and producer, and all producer fees (including, but not limited to, executive, associate and line producers) must be paid to persons whose [tax residence](#) is in Québec.

All rights and options required to enable development, production, representation and commercialization, without any territorial limitation, must be held by the company. Without limiting the foregoing, these rights include, among others, the rights to produce the project in all languages, in all formats and by all methods, as well as the rights to present and commercialization rights in all known and future media.

- **Condition 6:** Projects must be distributed in Québec by a Québec distribution company, who must hold all or a substantial portion of the project's distribution rights in Québec and a general distribution license issued by the ministère de la Culture et des Communications. Films distributed in Québec by a Québec distributor under a sub-distribution agreement are not eligible.

These criteria apply to all projects submitted to SODEC, whether at the development, production or post-production stage, and must always be met.

SODEC may waive the application of this policy when specific production conditions require it, for example:

- in the case of labour (condition 2) or technical services (condition 3), when the script or documentary project requires filming primarily abroad; these productions may be granted additional flexibility allowing for up to 5% in additional out-of-Québec cost for these conditions; or
- in the case of performance fees (condition 2), if the inclusion of an actor whose [tax residence](#) is not in Québec brings to the production significant private-sector financial participation from markets outside Québec. By significant financial participation, SODEC means a financial contribution in the form of a distribution advance or a presale from markets outside Québec, used to finance the production or the Québec portion in the case of a co-production; this financial participation must reach at least the higher of the two following amounts:
  - the equivalent of labour costs incurred outside Québec exceeding the 25% allowed under condition 2; or
  - \$75,000 for productions with a budget of less than \$4,000,000 or \$150,000 for productions with a budget of \$4,000,000 or more.

In either of these cases, the producer must send SODEC an official request, accompanied by a duly completed declaration of costs outside Québec form ([Déclaration des coûts hors Québec](#)), available on the SODEC website.

Subject to the provisions of the refundable Québec tax credit for film or television production services program, the costs of acquiring visual archival rights and music rights may be excluded from the calculation of costs outside Québec.

In the case of a co-production, SODEC assistance is granted for the Québec portion of the production, provided the above conditions are met.

SODEC may accept that the distribution rights for a Québec project in territories other than Québec be marketed by a non-Québec company. In such cases, the company must have a proven track record in foreign markets for this type of production.

For any co-production with the National Film Board of Canada (NFB), and in the event that the NFB wishes to hold the distribution or broadcast rights for the production, the rights transferred to the NFB must be the subject of a separate agreement, to the satisfaction of

SODEC, taking into account the characteristics and commercial potential of the project, in accordance with the conditions of the production assistance programs for co-productions with the National Film Board of Canada (NFB).

## **Rewriting**

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The rewriting of a screenplay that results from a major transformation of the story, structure, characters or dialogues, particularly following the transfer of the project rights to a different production company (unrelated to the transferring company [[Définition d'entreprises reliées](#)]), or following the appointment of a new director, or following the continuation of the project by a new scriptwriting team.

## **Ethical rules for cultural activities and projects**

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SODEC does not accept projects that contravene laws and regulations, or that run counter to government policies, particularly regarding violence, sexism, pornography or discrimination. SODEC encourages compliance with the codes of ethics of associations.

## **Tax residence in Québec**

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For programs administered by the audiovisual production and development department, SODEC considers a Québec tax resident to be any individual declaring and having declared income in Québec during the two years preceding the submission of an application to SODEC.

## **Eligible broadcaster**

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An eligible broadcaster is defined as a broadcaster holding an operating license issued under the [Broadcasting Act \(R.S.C., c. B-9\)](#), under which the film will be broadcast in the main regions of Québec.

# GENERAL DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION

SODEC compiles a master file ([Dossier maître](#)) for each company with which it has dealings. Companies applying for the first time must provide the information required to open their file. In all other cases, companies must provide updated information and are responsible for notifying SODEC of any major changes regarding their company and shareholders (if applicable). Furthermore, companies must also provide the information required by the program for which they are applying.

The list of required documents for the master file is available on the [SODEC website](#).

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### **Program review and SODEC studies**

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SODEC periodically conducts program evaluations and various studies to adjust its intervention strategy or tools to meet the needs of cultural enterprises. To this end, companies that have received financial assistance under this program must provide all records, documents or other information required in this regard for a period of five years following said financial participation by SODEC. The collected information is kept confidential and only aggregated data may be published and distributed by SODEC.

### **Specific regional agreements**

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SODEC may sign specific agreements with regional organizations to achieve regional development objectives. In such cases, SODEC will join forces with partners who are able to contribute to the growth of cultural enterprises.

### **Information return to the ministère du Revenu**

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Please note that SODEC will file an information return with the ministère du Revenu in respect of any contractual payment or grant made to a corporation or partnership, and to this end will send any beneficiary an RL-27 slip listing the amounts remitted over the course of the year.

### **Sustainable development**

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SODEC promotes the development of green and responsible business models and practices.