



::: Guidelines :::

PRODUCTION FUNDING

::: for the special programme *World Cinema Fund Europe* :::

:: 1. *World Cinema Fund* - Responsible Body :::

The *World Cinema Fund* (hereafter referred to as *WCF*) is an initiative of the German Federal Cultural Foundation (Kulturstiftung des Bundes) and the Berlin International Film Festival (Berlinale).

The Kulturveranstaltungen des Bundes in Berlin GmbH/division Internationale Filmfestspiele Berlin (hereafter referred to as 'IFB') is the legal entity of this initiative.

Since 2015 additional funds are granted to the *WCF* by Creative Europe - MEDIA Programme of the European Union, for the special programme *WCF Europe*.

:: 2. Aims of the Fund :::

The *World Cinema Fund's* goal is to support films from and film distribution in regions/countries in which film production is threatened by political and/or economic instability.

Within the special programme *WCF Europe*, the films from the eligible regions/countries are to be co-produced with a European partner (*respectively coming from one of the [countries participating in the MEDIA sub-programme](#)*), and their chances of being seen by an international audience shall be improved. Furthermore, the aim is to create diversity in international cinemas.

Projects eligible for funding should deal with the cultural identity of their regions/countries and should contribute to the development of the respective local film industry.

:: 3. Eligible Films and Entitled Regions/Countries :::

Eligible for *WCF Europe* production funding are feature-length films/film projects (fiction, documentaries, animation) from a [WCF Europe entitled region/country](#).

A film will be considered to be from a particular region if it is mostly shot in this region and if the director has the citizenship of one of the *WCF Europe* entitled regions and countries.

Projects from the following regions and countries (*WCF Europe* entitled regions/countries) are eligible for funding under these guidelines: Latin / Central America, the Caribbean, Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia, South East Asia and the Caucasus, as well as Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal, and from Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine.

Exceptions can be made if a director with a different citizenship but originally from an entitled region or country can prove that he/she doesn't have the former citizenship due to political/historical/biographical reasons (Ex. "refugee").

For the special programme *WCF Europe*, projects from Turkey, Georgia and Armenia can only be considered if they are submitted by a European company (respectively coming from one of the countries participating in the MEDIA sub-programme) in co-production with a company from another country from the *WCF Europe* entitled regions/countries which is neither participating in the MEDIA sub-programme nor Eurimages.

:: 4. Funding / Eligible Applicants / Financial Structure ::

:: 4.1 Production Funding:

The amount of funding should normally not exceed 50% of the total production costs. The maximum amount of funding per project is € 60,000.

The applicable submission deadlines can be found at www.berlinale-worldcinemafund.de

:: 4.2 Eligible to apply or/and receive funding are:

- Projects (must be) submitted by audiovisual entities established in one of the countries participating to the MEDIA Sub-programme and owned directly or by majority participation, by nationals from such countries.
- Projects (must be co-produced^[1]) with at least one producer from a country which is neither participating in the MEDIA Sub-programme nor member of Eurimages.

^[1] The structure of the co-production shall be attested by a duly signed co-production agreement. For the purposes of the project selection procedure, a deal memo may exceptionally be accepted provided it contains detailed provisions on the following essential aspects of the co-production:

- clear indication of the participation of each co-producer in the financing of the project;
- joint ownership of all the rights;
- sharing of the revenues between the co-producers (exclusive and/or shared territories);
- definition of the total budget, spending requirements and the event of over-budget;
- reference to the treaties applicable.

- The share of the co-producer(s) coming from countries participating in the MEDIA sub-programme must amount to a minimum of 20%. Under no circumstances the share of the co-producer(s) coming from countries participating in the MEDIA Sub-programme can exceed 70%.
- No other eligibility criteria can be proposed by the selected funds, except when related to the definition of lists of third party countries. The funding of projects cannot in any way be restricted to operators of the country in which the coproduction fund is based.
- The maximum amount of funding per project is EUR 60,000 for production.
- The funding agreement offered by the fund can only be concluded with an entity from a country participating in the MEDIA Sub-programme. The funding does not need to be spent in Europe.

In the opening and closing credits of the funded film, as well as in all promotional and advertising material, the Creative Europe MEDIA support is to be named.

:: 4.3 Special remarks:

As “audiovisual entities” we can consider:

- Registered film production companies established in one of the [countries participating in the MEDIA sub-programme](#) and owned - directly or by majority participation - by nationals from such countries, who can prove cooperation with a director and a coproduction company from the [WCF Europe entitled regions/countries](#).
- Registered world sales and distribution companies established in one of the countries participating in the MEDIA sub-programme and owned - directly or by majority participation by nationals from such countries, who can prove cooperation with a director and a production company from the *WCF Europe* eligible regions/countries.
- Registered film production companies from *WCF Europe* entitled regions/countries that can prove their cooperation with a director from a *WCF Europe* entitled region/country and with an audiovisual entity (e.g. a production company) established in one of the countries participating in the MEDIA sub-programme and owned - directly or by majority participation by nationals from such countries.

The cooperation between partners must be in place at the time of application (at least in the form of an LOI). The duly signed co-production agreement must be provided not later than three months after the funding recommendation has been made. During that selection process (end of application deadline until *WCF* Jury recommendation) a deal memo can be sufficient. The deal memo shall contain the following essential aspects: clear indication of the participation of each co-producer in the financing of the project; joint ownership of all the rights; sharing of the revenues between the co-producers (exclusive and/or shared territories); definition of the total budget, spending requirements and the event of over-budget and reference to the treaties applicable.

The contracting party and funding recipient is always the project's partner from Europe (respectively from one of the countries participating in the MEDIA sub-programme). The *WCF Europe* funding amount must be attributed to the *WCF* contractual partner's share in the financing plan of the film.

The funds must be used for the film project that has been earmarked to receive the funding and should be spent for the production of the film in the abovementioned [WCF Europe eligible regions/countries](#). Exceptions can only be made with the prior written consent of the *WCF*. If the funding is not used for the project it was earmarked for, it must be paid back immediately.

The funding recommendation normally expires if the complete financing of the project cannot be confirmed three months after the initial approval of the *WCF*. Any exceptions on behalf of the funding applicant must be applied for in writing to the *WCF* and are subject to approval.

Projects (co-)produced by German production companies which are submitted to the *World Cinema Fund* are automatically considered for the special programme *WCF Europe*, too.

Projects submitted to the *WCF* by companies from *WCF* regions and countries and co-produced by European companies participating to the MEDIA sub-programme are automatically considered for the special programme *WCF Europe*, as well.

Double funding (by *WCF* and *WCF Europe*) is excluded.

Project submissions with production companies and directors from Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine are only eligible for the special programme *WCF Europe* (as these countries are not part of the usual *WCF* focus regions).

:: 5. Selection & Award Criteria:::.....

In the framework of the *WCF Europe* funding activities the international *WCF* Jury will recommend to support the production of film projects according to the following criteria:

- Strong stories, innovative content and film language: Projects will primarily be selected and awarded on the basis of their creative/artistic merit.
- A *WCF Europe* supported project/film should be able to reach international success being at the same time deeply rooted in the cultural identity of a particular region/country, beyond any kind of exoticism.
- The feasibility of the projects, and the speed at which the projects can progress to production. The projects must be in advanced stage and structured as international co-productions between the countries of origin and European countries (*respectively [countries participating in the MEDIA sub-programme](#)*) when they are submitted, and they should preferably be ready to go into production within three months after the Jury's funding recommendation.
- The cultural and political relevance.

- The impact that the production of a supported film could have on the production structure/film industry of a particular region/country.
- The impact that the production of a supported film could have on the cooperation/coproduction efforts between companies from countries included in the list of the [WCF Europe regions/countries](#) and from the countries participating in the MEDIA Sub-Programme.
- Furthermore special consideration will be given to production companies from countries with a lower production capacity from the *WCF Europe* eligible regions/countries, and to production companies from Europe (*respectively from one of the countries participating in the MEDIA Sub-programme*) which are not yet a firmly established part of the international co-production landscape.

:: 6. Payment / Repayment / Non-commercial Rights ::

:: 6.1 Payment of funding:

The *WCF Europe* funding recipient and contracting party must always be the partner from Europe (*respectively from one of the countries participating in the MEDIA Sub-programme*). The *WCF* funding must be entirely spent on production costs incurred in one of the *WCF Europe's* entitled regions/countries. The funding recipient may retain overhead fees of up to 7,5% of the total *WCF Europe* funding amount. The overhead fees shall not be subject to regional spending obligations.

Installment 1:

- 50% upon signing the funding agreement and after positive verification of the total film financing including the verification of the total European share (*respectively from the countries participating in the MEDIA sub-programme*) and duly signed co-production agreement.

Installment 2:

- 42,5% upon submission of the rough cut of the film and *WCF's* approval.

Installment 3:

- 7,5% after completion of the film, approval of the cost report, final financing plan and proof that the *WCF Europe* funding (except for the overhead fee) was spent on production costs of the film in the *WCF Europe* entitled regions/countries and delivery of 15 DVDs. The report of expenditure of funds must be submitted to the *WCF* at the latest 18 months after signing the funding agreement or
 - *in case of a funding by WCF Europe Programme V (2018-2021) by March 31, 2021;*
 - *in case of a funding by WCF Europe Programme VI (2019-2023) by March 31, 2023.*
- The cost for the required auditor's certificate can be part of the budget.
- Entitlement to funding will be revoked and the funding reclaimed in case of failure to observe the time-limits.

- Any exceptions on behalf of the funding applicant must be applied for in writing to the *WCF* and are subject to approval.

:: 6.2 Non-Commercial Rights:

The funding recipient hereby commits to assigning non-commercial exploitation rights in the funded film to the *WCF*, by means of the funding agreement. The final terms of assignment are to be outlined in the funding agreement. Pursuant to the funding agreement, the *WCF* is entitled to assign these rights to other partner organisations. The *WCF* can, where appropriate and as stated in the funding agreement, also exploit the film for limited purposes, such as to create a *WCF* DVD edition.

:: **7. Procedural matters** :::

:: **7.1** Funding must be applied for in order to be received. Applications are to be submitted to the *WCF* including all documents mentioned in the application forms. Application forms for funding are available at the following website: www.berlinale-worldcinemafund.de

:: **7.2** The *WCF* sets application deadlines for production funding. These will be updated on www.berlinale-worldcinemafund.de

:: **7.3** The *WCF* assembles a jury of independent film-related professionals who make recommendations regarding the films to be funded. The international jury consists of the programme management team of the *WCF* and three other members. The jury meetings will be convened by the *WCF*. The jury will make its decisions in closed sessions. Its recommendations will be made solely on the selection and award criteria mentioned under number 5 above. The *WCF* is solely responsible for adherence to all other requirements regarding funding and makes the final decisions.

:: **7.4** The *WCF* reserves the right to grant a recipient a smaller amount of funding than applied for. There is no legal right to *WCF* funding. Legal claims to payment can only enter into effect upon the signing of the funding agreement. The *WCF* is under no circumstances obliged to explain its reasons for declining any funding application.

:: **7.5** In the opening and closing credits of the funded film, as well as in all printed and digital promotional material, the *WCF* is to be named as an initiative of the German Federal Cultural Foundation (Kulturstiftung des Bundes) and the Berlin International Film Festival (Berlinale), in cooperation with the Federal Foreign Office and with further support by the Goethe Institute, and the special programme *WCF Europe* was created with the support of Creative Europe – MEDIA Programme of the European Union. Details will be listed in the funding agreement.

:: **7.6** The *WCF* can only make funding payments upon signature of a funding agreement it has drawn up. The funding agreement contains conditions relating to the utilisation of funds, the execution of the project, and proof that the funding is used for its intended purpose. A breach in any of the guidelines

in the funding agreement by the funding recipient can result in the WCF revoking and reclaiming, in part or totally, the funding previously granted.

:: 8. WCF Europe and Other Funds :::

WCF Europe funding can be matched with funding from other funding bodies except further production funding from Creative Europe MEDIA [e.g. Hubert Bals Fund + Europe (Hubert Bals Fund of International Film Festival Rotterdam), IDFA Bertha Fund – Europe (IDFA Bertha Fund of International Documentary Festival Amsterdam, Sarajevo City of Film Fund (Sarajevo Film Festival), TFL Co-Production Fund (Torino Film Lab)]. German or European law that sets the maximum limit for accumulation of state funding must be adhered to, as this also applies to WCF funding.

As of June 2020