



*Ministry of culture*

DEPARTMENT FOR CULTURAL ACTIVITIES  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR CINEMA AND AUDIOVISUAL  
SERVIZIO II

## **FILM DISTRIBUTION FUND – Year 2025**

**Call for applications for granting contributions to support the distribution of Italian cinematographic works beyond national borders.**

**Having regard** to Law no. 633 of 22 April 1941, concerning copyright protection;

**Having regard** to Law no. 241 of 7 August 1990, concerning rules on administrative procedure and the right of access to administrative documents;

**Having regard** to Law no. 165 of 30 March 2001, concerning rules for Italian civil servant;

**Having regard** to Law no. 196 of 30 June 2003, concerning personal data protection;

**Having regard** to Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (General Data Protection Regulation);

**Having regard** to Law no. 220 of 14 November 2016 and subsequent amendments, concerning Film and audiovisual regulations and, in particular, article 10, paragraph 1, letter g), as for it Italian Ministry of culture conducts steering activities on internationalization programs of the Italian film and audiovisual industry and coordinates their implementation, in order to promote the international dissemination and distribution of Italian cinematographic and audiovisual works;

**Having regard** to Law no. 220 of 14 November 2016 and subsequent amendments, article 26 concerning also selective contributions for the international distribution of cinematographic and audiovisual works;

**Having regard** to Law no. 220 of 14 November 2016 and subsequent amendments, article 26, paragraph 2, as for it financial support are awarded on the evaluation of a Commission composed of experts appointed by the Italian Minister of culture among personalities with proven professional qualifications in the sector;



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**Having regard** to the Prime Minister's Decree of 11 July 2017 and subsequent amendments, concerning Italian nationality for cinematographic and audiovisual works;

**Having regard** to Italian Ministry for cultural heritage and activities and tourism Decree no. 344 of 31 July 2017, concerning deposit of cinematographic and audiovisual works recipient of public financial contributions;

**Having regard** to the Prime Minister's Decree of 8 January 2018 and subsequent amendments, concerning Public Register of cinematographic and audiovisual works;

**Having regard** to Italian Ministry of culture Decree no. 345 of 8 October 2024, concerning selective contribution for cinematographic and audiovisual works and, in particular, article 3, as for it financial resources allocated to selective contributions by the decree required by article 13, paragraph 5, of Law no. 220 of 2016 are used, among others, for supporting international distribution of Italian cinematographic and audiovisual works, and Directorate General for Cinema and Audiovisual of the Italian Ministry of culture issues one or more calls for applications to award contributions to actions established by the decree for allocation of financial resources as for article 13, paragraph 5, of Law no. 220 of 2016;

**Having regard** to article 12 of Italian Ministry of culture Decree no. 345 of 8 October 2024, "International distribution of cinematographic and audiovisual works" and, in particular the paragraph 1, that establishes contributions concerning article 12 are awarded by issuing one or more calls for applications to support international distribution of Italian cinematographic and tv works beyond national borders supported by Cinecittà S.p.A. without any others public resources, and the paragraph 3, that establishes Cinecittà can carry out, on behalf of Directorate General for Cinema and Audiovisual, all necessary activities for dissemination of cinematographic and audiovisual works in Italy and abroad;

**Having regard** to Italian Ministry of culture Decree no. 15 of 22 January 2025, concerning the cases of exclusion of cinematographic and audiovisual works from public financial contributions;

**Having regard** to Italian Ministry of culture Decree no. 55 of 6 March 2025, concerning allocation of cinematographic and audiovisual Fund in 2025 and, in particular, article, 3, paragraph 1, letter d), as for it two million euro are allocated to support international distribution of Italian cinematographic and tv works beyond national borders;



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## General Director

### hereby issues the following call

#### Article 1

##### *Subject Matter and Definitions*

1. This Call for Applications governs the criteria and procedures for awarding financial grants aimed at supporting the theatrical distribution, outside Italy, of Italian films whose run time exceeds 52 minutes.
2. For 2025, the Directorate-General for Cinema and Audiovisual (DGCA) of the Italian Ministry of culture establishes a dedicated fund amounting to EUR 1,600,000 (onemillionandsixhundred), in order to strengthen the distribution strategies of the above-mentioned films in foreign markets and to support their commercial circulation outside Italy. The Fund intends to support the international theatrical distribution of Italian films and the acquisition of theatrical exploitation rights by foreign distribution companies, as defined in article 1, paragraph 5, letter g), with registered offices in countries worldwide excluding Italy, San Marino and Vatican City.
3. The coverage of the Fund is guaranteed pursuant to the decree no. 55 of 6 March 2025, article 3, paragraph 1, letter d).
4. The definitions in Law no. 220 of 2016 shall apply to the purposes of the present call.
5. For the purposes of this Call, the following terms and abbreviations will be adopted:
  - a) «DGCA»: the Directorate General for Cinema and Audiovisual of the Italian Ministry of culture (Mic);
  - b) «film» or «cinematographic work», when the work is primarily intended for the public to view in movie theatres;
  - c) «documentary»: the work, whose creative emphasis is placed primarily on real events, places, or activities, including through the use of archive images, and in which any inventive or fantastic elements are instrumental in the representation and documentation of situations and facts;
  - d) «animated work»: the work consisting of graphically created images, that is to say, images animated by means of any type of technique and on any support;
  - e) «cinematographic work of Italian nationality»: cinematographic work meeting the requirements to acknowledge its Italian nationality, pursuant to Law n. 220 of 2016, Article 5, as specified in the Prime Minister's Decree pursuant to the same Article 5;



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- f) «producer»: the Italian cinematographic or audiovisual company whose object is the production and creation of cinematographic and audiovisual works and which is also the owner of the economic rights of exploitation of the work pursuant to Law n.633 of April 22, 1941, and subsequent amendments;  
as well as:
- g) «foreign distributor»: the distributor whose registered office is in countries worldwide, excluding Italy, San Marino and Vatican City;
- h) «international distributor»: the company, whose corporate purpose is the activity related to the distribution abroad, and that is the owner of the rights of international and worldwide exploitation of films which have been acquired from the producer or the producers through a regular rights transfer agreement. The terms “foreign seller” or “world sales” are synonyms according to market terminology.
- i) “Selection Committee”: the panel of experts appointed by Italian Ministry of culture, as for established by the article 26, paragraph 2, of Law no 200 of 2016.
6. Grants awarded are intended to foreign distributors for promoting sales of Italian nationality cinematographic works outside Italy, supporting distributors in the acquisition of theatrical exploitation rights in countries where they operate, with the aim of reducing their business risk and allowing the financed works to reach the widest possible diffusion abroad.
7. The operation of Fund for 2025 is governed by this Call for Applications and the financial support granted shall be of selective nature.
8. The grant shall be awarded by the Selection Committee, in accordance with what is set in article 6 of this Call.

### Article 2

#### *General conditions and deadlines for submitting grant application*

1. The contribution is non-repayable and it is intended to support theatrical release of the film in foreign distribution country. It may not exceed the Minimum Guarantee paid and, in any case, the maximum amount that can be granted per film and per country, in relation to theatrical distribution, shall not exceed EUR 50,000 (fiftythousand).
2. The grant for 2025 will be awarded in a single evaluation session.
3. Applications, including all the documents required by this Call, must be sent, under penalty of inadmissibility, to the following e-mail address: **filmfunddesk@cinecitta.it** **within the following strict deadline: from 3 July 2026 until 15 July 2026 at 23:59.**



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### **Article 3**

#### *Eligible applicants and requirements*

1. Foreign distributors may apply for the grant, provided:
  - they have their registered office in the country where the film is distributed;
  - they carry out theatrical film distribution as their main business activity;
  - they hold the theatrical distribution rights in the relevant country for eligible Italian works (as defined in article 4), under a Minimum Guarantee agreement;
  - they have borne all the costs related to the distribution of the film for which they are applying.
2. Sub-licensing between two distributors within the same country is not allowed. However, if the rights have been sub-licensed to a distributor in another country included in the original agreement, the sub-licensee may apply for the grant for distribution in its country, provided that the total amount of all grant applications does not exceed the maximum limit set out in article 3., paragraph 1.
3. Foreign distributors may apply for funding under this Call, provided that they managed the theatrical release of the films in movie theatres in the foreign country for which the contribution is requested during the period **between 1 January 2025 and 31 December 2025**.
4. Applications will be considered only if they are complete, consistent with the declared distribution plan, submitted in English, and received by email within the deadline indicated in article 2.

### **Article 4**

#### *Eligibility and exclusion criteria*

1. Below are the eligibility criteria for films that may apply for the grant:
  - a. films must be registered in the Public Register of Cinematographic and Audiovisual works, whose transfer agreements are duly filed on the Register in accordance with the Prime Minister's Decree of 8 January and subsequent amendments;
  - b. films must have been granted final Italian nationality, or at least have applied for it, and must have obtained a permit for public screening or the rating classification from DGCA. If final Italian nationality is not granted, the applicant will lose the right to the grant and, if already received, must repay it with accrued interest;
  - c. films must have deposited a final copy with the Italian National Film Archive;
  - d. films must have been produced within 24 months prior to the application date. The relevant date will be the one on which the public screening certificate or classification was issued by the DGCA;



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- e. films must have a distribution agreement with a foreign distributor that includes the transfer of theatrical rights with a Minimum Guarantee.
2. The following types of films are not eligible for the contribution:
  - a. films resulting to be co-production between Italy and the country of request, both majority and minority;
  - b. films for which a foreign distributor has acquired worldwide distribution rights;
  - c. films for which the theatrical rights have been sold for a Minimum Guarantee of less than EUR 2.000,00;
  - d. films whose application for contribution is less than EUR 2.000,00.
3. An “effective theatrical release” is defined exclusively the release taking place in theatres open to a paying audience. In order to get the grant, the foreign distributor must provide official evidence of theatrical release (such as box office reports, agreements with movie theatres) as follows:
  - a. for feature-length fiction and animation films: programming at least in 5 movie theatres for a minimum of 15 screenings within 21 days from its theatrical release date;
  - b. for feature-length documentary films: programming in at least 3 movie theatres for a minimum of 9 screenings within 21 days from its theatrical release date.
4. Note that for the purpose of this fund, any screenings at local festivals, retrospectives, special events, or previews will not be considered “theatrical releases”.

### **Article 5**

#### *Obligations of the beneficiary*

1. Only foreign distribution companies, as defined in article 1, paragraph 5, letter g), are eligible to apply for the grant, provided that they have their registered office in any country worldwide, excluding Italy, San Marino, and Vatican City. No legal entities other than companies are eligible
2. The foreign distributor undertakes to cover all costs related to the distribution of the film for which the grant is requested.
3. The distributor is required to provide evidence of the film’s theatrical release.

### **Article 6**

#### *Assessment of applications*

1. Applications will be assessed by the Selection Committee referred to in article 1, paragraph 5,





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letter i), of this Call, provided that applicants have the eligibility requirements set out in this Call and the submitted documents are complete and correct.

2. Applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:
  - a) reliability and experience of the applicant company in distribution activity, assessed through the company profile and track record of the films in catalogue, with a particular focus on Italian films already distributed;
  - b) completeness of documentation and information submitted within the time limit set by this Call;
  - c) consistency of Minimum Guarantee with the average market value of sales in the specific country requiring;
  - d) the distributor's business risk, assessed by comparing the distribution costs with the Minimum Guarantee provided in the contract;
  - e) film's promotional and distribution strategy, including:
    - how innovative the distribution model is;
    - how effective the distribution strategy is in giving the film the best possible chances of success;
    - the ability to attract and engage specific target audiences (e.g. young people, specific community, etc.);
    - accessibility aspects;
    - participation in festivals in the foreign Country where the film is distributed;
    - whether the film distributed has benefited from selective funding under Law No. 220/2016;
  - f) Consistency between the P&A costs and the promotional and distribution activities carried out, including:
    - coherence and consistency of the cost items;
    - the level of visibility achieved through press, social media, and other communication channels;
    - accessibility of the film for audiences with disabilities;
    - organization of events involving Italian talent;
  - g) whether the film has been pre-sold;
  - h) whether the film has been selected for major international film festivals.

### Article 7

#### *How to submit application*

1. In order to apply for the grant, both the distributor and licensor (world sales agent or producer)



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must send to the following documents by email [filmfunddesk@cinecitta.it](mailto:filmfunddesk@cinecitta.it), within the deadline set out in article 2:

### **Distributor section:**

- a) **Application Form** signed by the legal representative of the applicant company (the form can be downloaded from [www.cinecitta.com](http://www.cinecitta.com) under section named “Fondi Internazionalizzazione – Film Distribution Fund”);
- b) **Declaration of compliance with requirements** signed by the legal representative of the applicant company (the form can be downloaded from [www.cinecitta.com](http://www.cinecitta.com) under section named “Fondi Internazionalizzazione – Film Distribution Fund”);
- c) **Privacy Statement** signed by the legal representative of the applicant company (the form can be downloaded from [www.cinecitta.com](http://www.cinecitta.com) under section named “Fondi Internazionalizzazione – Film Distribution Fund”);
- d) **P&A Budget form and Financial Plan** signed by the legal representative of the applicant company (the form can be downloaded from [www.cinecitta.com](http://www.cinecitta.com) under section named “Fondi Internazionalizzazione – Film Distribution Fund”);
- e) company profile of the applicant, including track records: list of films released by the company and their box office results, highlighting any Italian films previously distributed;
- f) company registration to the local National Trade Register, both original language and English translation are required;
- g) a valid ID of the company’s legal representative;
- h) a copy of the signed long-form agreement for the exploitation rights. In the event of sub-licensing the complete chain of agreements between the parties must be provided;
- i) Marketing and Distribution Plan: a detailed report of the promotional and marketing activities carried out, compared with those originally planned, including the number of copies and screens.

### **Licensor section (world sales agent or producer), may also be submitted separately:**

- a) **Privacy Statement** signed by the legal representative of the applicant company (the form can be downloaded from [www.cinecitta.com](http://www.cinecitta.com) under section named “Fondi Internazionalizzazione – Film Distribution Fund”);



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- b) if the Licensor is a world sales company and not the producer, a copy of the agreement granting worldwide exploitation rights, duly registered in the Public Register of Cinematographic and Audiovisual Works in accordance with the Prime Ministerial Decree of 8 January 2018, as amended;
- c) if the Licensor is not Italian, it is necessary to send the registration of the company to the local national register of companies, both the original language and English translation are required;
- d) valid ID of the legal representative.

### Article 8

#### *Payment and reporting process*

1. The amount of the grant is determined by the Selection Committee. In any case, the maximum amount that can be awarded per title and per country, for theatrical distribution, shall not exceed EUR 50,000 (fifty thousand).
2. Within 90 days from the application deadline, the Director General will issue a formal decree approving the ranking list and awarding the grants. This decree will be published on the DGCA and Cinecittà websites.
3. Successful applicants, under penalty of forfeiture, must submit the following documents by email to **filmfunddesk@cinecitta.it** within **15 days** from the date of the award decree:
  - **Final P&A Report** signed by the legal representative of the applicant company (the form can be downloaded from [www.cinecitta.com](http://www.cinecitta.com) under section named “Fondi Internazionalizzazione – Film Distribution Fund”). All supporting accounting documents, under penalty of inadmissibility, must have a clear date, explicitly refer to the film title, and be addressed to the foreign distributor responsible for the theatrical release. Only traceable electronic payments directly related to the film’s theatrical release are eligible. Expenses for food and beverages are not eligible;
  - copy of the royalty report related to the first 60 days from the distribution;
  - Bank statements proving the payment of the Minimum Guarantee;
  - Evidence that the minimum exploitation requirements set out in article 4 have been met: the Distributor must send a copy of box office reports or the agreements with movie theatres in compliance with the minimums set out in article 4, paragraph 3;
  - Electronic copies of key promotional materials (posters, trailers, flyers, banners, etc.);
  - Press coverage related to the film.
4. If the final P&A costs are more than 10% lower than the original budget, the grant will be reduced proportionally.



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5. Within 90 days from the submission of the final payment request, and subject to a successful review, in accordance with this Call, a payment request form will be sent by email. This form must be signed by the legal representative of the applicant company and returned, together with bank details, within 5 days.
6. The grant cannot be assigned to third parties, nor can it be used as collateral or subject to any form of transfer in favor of third parties.

### **Article 9**

#### *Checks and penalties*

1. DGCA and Cinecittà reserve the right to request additional information or documentation (including financial records) and to carry out checks and inspections, both on documents and on-site, either through their own staff or external experts. Such checks, also following notification by the Selection Committee, are aimed at verifying and confirming compliance with the requirements of the Call to obtain the grant and ensuring that declared costs are genuine, supported by proper documentation, and actually incurred. In any event, DGCA may verify the accuracy and consistency of certified costs and may revoke the grant in cases of serious discrepancies or false declarations. It may also appoint an independent auditor to carry out such checks.
2. In the event of false statements, missing information, or fraudulent documentation sent for application of this Call, the grant will be revoked and must be fully repaid. In addition, under Article 37 of Law No. 220/2016, the beneficiary — as well as any related entities (including shareholders, directors, or legal representatives) — will be excluded from all funding under the same law for a period of five years.
3. Certifying independent auditor issuing false certifications are subject to administrative fines ranging from EUR 10,000 to EUR 50,000 for each false certification.

### **Article 10**

#### *Revocation and termination*

1. The DGCA may revoke, in whole or in part, the grants awarded if the distribution plan actually carried out significantly differs from the project that was originally approved for funding.
2. The grant will be revoked in the event of false statements, missing information, or fraudulent documentation submitted either at the application stage or at the final request stage, as well as in the cases set out in article 9.





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3. The grant will lapse if:
  - the eligibility requirements set out in article 3 are no longer met;
  - final Italian nationality is not granted, as required under article 4;
  - the beneficiary fails to comply with the obligations set out in article 5;
  - the terms and conditions set out in article 8 are not respected;
  - any other requirements or obligations under this Call are not fulfilled;
  - following checks, the DGCA determines that the grant has been improperly obtained or used, even in part.
4. In the event of revocation or termination, the DGCA will recover any amounts already paid to the beneficiary, together with the applicable legal interest accrued.

### **Article 11**

#### *Ministry Logo*

1. Beneficiaries are required to acknowledge the Ministry of Culture by displaying the DGCA–MiC logo together with the wording “*With the support of the Film Distribution Fund of Italian Ministry of culture*” on all promotional materials (including, but not limited to, posters, trailers, postcards, online materials, etc.).

Manager  
dott. Angelo Cagnazzo

General Director  
dott. Giorgio Carlo Brugnoni



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