

**ITALIAN-GERMAN
CO-PRODUCTION DEVELOPMENT
FUND**

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Preamble

In the past year Italian and German film professionals have taken initiatives to work together. In order to encourage the cooperation of producers in Italy and in Germany, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage Activities and Tourism, Directorate General Cinema (MiBACT) and the German Federal Film Board (FFA) have agreed to support the co-development of film projects that have the potential to develop into high quality films that will attract audiences in both countries and in the rest of the world. The following guidelines shall apply in accordance with the signed agreement on the organization of activity on development of co-production projects between Italy and Germany.

Support

- The development support aims at facilitating Italian–German co-productions by encouraging producers to start working together during the project development phase. It is therefore essential that at least one Italian producer (enrolled in the list of Mibact) and at least one German producer are committed to the project.
- The amount of the financial aid must not exceed 80% of the total development costs. Producers own investment should amount to at least 20%.
- The support will be a subsidy and does not have to be repaid.

- The subsidy will be paid in two instalments: 60% after signature of the subsidy agreement; 40% after the delivery of a final report on the implementation of the action, last version of the script and final detailed production budget including a cost report and final financing plan. These documents must be provided two years after the first payment of the grant at the latest.
- Payments will be made to a bank account, specifically opened for the supported project, as agreed upon by the producers.
- The principal photography should start within two years from the first payment of the grant. If principal photography has not begun in this period of time the producer has to give a declaration to that effect.

Eligibility Criteria

- Support can be granted for the development of full-length feature films of any genre destined to theatrical release produced as an Italian-German co-production.
- The projects must be of high artistic quality and display the potential to attract audiences in at least Italy, Germany and Europe.
- At least one German producer with a legal head office in Germany and one Italian producer with a legal head office in Italy must co-develop the film.
- The participation of the majority co-producer cannot exceed 80% and the participation of the minority co-producer cannot be lower than 20%. The technical and artistic share of each producer should be in proportion to the respective financial participation.
- Both producers have to prove their commitment to the project by presenting at the end of the development process a detailed substantiated production plan, including proof of contact to financing partners, distribution partners and possibly to broadcasters and a script.
- The rights of the script should be allocated according to the producer's share in the total development costs. Disproportional rights allocations are possible upon written consent of the co-producers.
- Projects included in previous applications for financial support for film production to be provided by any European, national, or regional fund, or in Statement of beginning of Principal Photography (DIL) are not eligible and therefore cannot apply.

Application

- Applications must be submitted according to the published deadlines (announced on the websites of the two partner institutions) in accordance with the stipulations noted in the application form. The project must be submitted in English **or** in the original language version **and** a corresponding translation (German or Italian). The application form must be signed by all producers¹.
- Costs for activities for which funding is applied may not have been initiated prior to the application date. The period of eligibility of costs will start on the date of submission of the application. Only the costs related to the acquisition of author's right are eligible retroactively for a period of 12 months preceding the date of the submission.
- The co-producers must nominate one co-producer to be responsible for the application. Applications should be discussed with the appropriate partner institution prior to submission. Normally, this is the majority co-producer. The nominated co-producer is responsible for the funding and will allocate it appropriately within the co-production structure.
- The producers must operate in accordance with the German legislation (Federal Film Subsidy Law and the respective guidelines) and respectively with the Italian legislation and the guidelines of MiBACT. Applications must adhere to the requirements noted in the official application form. The following documents and information have to be provided:

For the administrative dossier:

- 1 A list of the films produced by the Italian film company/ies
- 2 A list of the films produced by the German film company/ies
- 3 The deal memo or the co-development agreement
- 4 Contracts proving the acquisition of necessary rights (e.g. option contract, script writer's contract etc.)
- 5 Report on project development stages
- 6 Development budget
- 7 Development financing plan

For the artistic dossier

- 1 CV/Résumé of screenplay writer/s and, in case already selected, also of the director

¹ As for Italian majority projects, the projects should be submitted in Italian to Mibact and in English or German to FFA. Exception are accepted only for contracts that can be submitted in English with a Italian short-form translation. As for German majority projects, the projects should be submitted in English or German to FFA and could be submitted in English to Mibact.

- 2 Script writer's note
- 3 Director's note (in case the director has already been selected)
- 4 Producer's note
- 5 Brief summary (maximum 5 pages)
- 6 Treatment (maximum of 12 pages including two dialogue scenes)
- 7 Graphic development (only for animation films)
- 8 Project description and a concept for the implementation (only for documentaries)

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