



::: Guidelines :::

DISTRIBUTION 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 strand of the European Union, for the special programme *WCF Europe*.

:: 2. Aims of the Fund :::

The *World Cinema Fund's* goal is to support film distribution and dissemination from/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 [WCF focus regions and countries](#)*), and their chances of being seen by an international audience shall be improved. Furthermore, the aim is to create diversity in international cinemas.

Projects and films 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* distribution funding are feature-length fiction films and feature-length documentaries and animation from a [WCF Europe entitled region/country](#).

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

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

Furthermore a film submitted to *WCF Europe* in order to get distribution funding must have been co-produced following a structure involving at least one co-producer from a country participating in the MEDIA strand and owned directly or by majority participation by nationals from such countries and at least one co-producer from a country belonging to the *WCF Europe* regions and countries which is neither participating in the MEDIA strand nor member of Eurimages.

The share of the European co-producer(s) respectively of those coming from countries participating in the MEDIA strand must amount to a minimum of 20%. Under no circumstance the share of those co-producer(s) can exceed 70%.

With the application, the structure of the co-production shall be attested by a duly signed co-production agreement, supported by a financing plan, provided that those documents contain 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 and reference to the treaties applicable.

:: 4. Eligible applicants / Financial Structure / Payment / Non-commercial rights ::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::

:: 4.1 Distribution funding:

To be eligible to receive *WCF Europe* distribution support, films must be submitted by a joint group of at least three international distributors (with at least one participant in the MEDIA strand and at least one from a *WCF Europe* eligible region/country) (see Sec. 4.2) lead by an international world sales, who should act as main applicant and recipient of the funding. The maximum amount of funding per project is € 30,000 [total amount for the release of the film in all the (at least three) countries involved, with a maximum of € 10,000 per distribution territory].

WCF Europe funds can only be granted, if they do not exceed more than 50 % of the total distribution cost in all distribution territories. The same applies with regard to each distribution territory, i.e. *WCF Europe* funds for each distribution territory as specified above cannot exceed 50 % of the distribution cost in the respective distribution territory.

Applications for distribution funding can be made at any time. A consultation with the *WCF* beforehand is highly recommended. Applications should be made at least four months before the first planned cinema release of the film.

:: 4.2 Eligible to apply and receive funding are:

Registered world sales companies established in one of the countries participating in the MEDIA strand owned directly or by majority participation by nationals from such countries which aim to release a co-produced film from the *WCF Europe* eligible regions/countries in at least three distribution territories.

By the time of applying, there must be distribution partners in at least three countries. At least one based in one of the countries participating in the MEDIA strand and at least one based in a *WCF Europe* country or region.

The funding will be solely granted to cover the costs of releasing the film in all (at least three) co-applicants' countries. The *WCF Europe* funding amount can only be used for covering distribution costs which are issued after the date of submission to the *WCF*. The world sales company, one of the European audiovisual entities (*respectively an audiovisual entity coming from one of the countries participating in the MEDIA sub-programme*) serves as the main beneficiary, is party to the funding agreement with the *WCF* and receives the funding - in order to distribute it to all distribution partners in accordance with the *WCF* funding agreement.

For taking on the responsibility for its partners and for the coordination between all partners, the world sales company (the beneficiary) is entitled to an allowance fee of maximum 10% of the total *WCF Europe* funding amount.

:: 4.3 Payment of funding:

Installment 1:

- 50% upon signing the funding agreement and upon positive verification of the film's total distribution financing and a fixed date of release of the film

Installment 2:

- 25% after proof of release in all distribution territories. Proof has to be made by adequate and usual footage (e.g. cinema programme, newspaper articles).

Installment 3:

- 25% after approval of report of expenditure of *WCF Europe* funds, delivery of 3 DVD copies and checking of the final reports/final accounts. The cost for a required auditor's certificate can be part of the budget.

Approved funding normally expires if the release in all applicants' territories does not take place within 6 months after the funding recommendation. The cinema release has to start in all and any of the distribution territories within 6 months after payment of the first installment, otherwise funds already paid must be paid back.

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

:: 4.4 Non-commercial Rights:

All involved funding recipients commit to assigning non-commercial exploitation rights in the funded film to the *WCF*, by means of the funding agreement - insofar as they are entitled to do so. 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.

:: 5. Selection & Award Criteria :::

In the framework of the *WCF Europe* distribution funding activities the international *WCF* jury will recommend to support the distribution of films according to the following criteria:

- Strong stories, innovative content and film language: Films will primarily be selected and awarded on the basis of their creative / artistic merit.
- A *WCF Europe* supported 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 impact that a supported film could have on the distribution structure of a particular region, thus contributing to reach a wide and motivated audience.
- The impact that a supported film could have on international cooperation between distributors from different regions and countries
- Special consideration will be given to films co-produced between countries with a lower production capacity from the *WCF Europe* eligible regions and countries participating and countries participating in the MEDIA strand, that are not yet firmly part of the international co-production landscape, so called "small players". This consideration will be also extended to applicant distribution companies from countries with less distribution capacity from both, *WCF Europe* eligible countries and regions and countries participating in the MEDIA strand.
- Furthermore special consideration will be given to distribution companies from countries with a lower distribution capacity from the *WCF Europe* eligible regions/countries, and to distribution companies from European countries (*respectively from one of the countries participating in the MEDIA strand*) which are not yet a firmly established part of the international distribution landscape.

:: 6. Procedural Matters :::

:: 6.1 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, deadlines and all the information a available at the following website: www.berlinale-worldcinemafund.de

:: **6.2** 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.

:: **6.3** 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.

:: **6.4** 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-Institut, and the special programme *WCF Europe* was created with the support of the Creative Europe – MEDIA strand of the European Union. Details will be listed in the funding agreement.

:: **6.5** 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 utilization of funds, the execution of the project, and proof that the funding is used for the 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.

:: **6.6** The report of expenditure of the *WCF Europe* funds must be provided

- within 8 months after the last release of the film in the distribution territories, and at the latest by March 31, 2025.

:: 7. *WCF Europe* and Other Funds ::

WCF Europe funding can be matched with funding from other funding bodies except further distribution funding from Creative Europe MEDIA. 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.