

SUPPORT TO THE NEW WAVE OF KOSOVO FILMMAKERS

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATION

'Furthering Democratic Society through the use of Arts and Culture' is a program of DokuFest that aims to respond to the challenges of contemporary society, such as, erosion of democratic institutions and lack of dialogue and inclusion, by merging arts and culture with wider relevant social issues.

One of the key elements of this program is provision of grants to support local talent of young storytellers, directors and producers for the production and distribution of local stories to international markets, thus promoting local stories seen from the perspective of young and creative artists.

These grants are intended to provide alternative funding for filmmaking in Kosovo and are dedicated to filmmakers who can develop and deliver the project within a set timeframe. Beneficiaries of these grants may be individuals who are ready to engage with young producers, through registered film production companies.

Individuals born after 31 December 1994 who are citizens of the Republic of Kosovo will be eligible to apply for funding for completion of the film until 31 December 2024 including delivery of the final cut of the film. To be eligible for funding, individuals have to register a personal Fiscal Number at the Tax Administration of Kosovo, or be associated with a Film Production Company registered at Kosovo Cinematography Center (QKK). The maximum budget requested for funding from this call for one grant should not exceed EUR 7,000.

BACKGROUND

DokuFest's commitment over the years in development and promotion of Kosovo's young filmmakers has been recognized as one of the instrumental supports in development of overall film scene in Kosovo.

Through a grant agreement with The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), DokuFest will further create models for effective Cultural Diplomacy by serving as a hub for exchange of information in real time, integrating and nurturing interdependency between cultural workers, storytellers, activists engaged with communities, regional partners, international institutions and with specific focus with diaspora.

One of the integral components of the agreement includes provision of new opportunities to further strengthen the new wave of Kosovar filmmakers, with particular focus on young filmmaking talent. For this purpose, DokuFest has developed a grant scheme over three years to support minimum five film projects for filmmakers under 30 years old who are focused on human interest stories from Kosovo.

The film project detailing the genre, themes, plot, structure, setting and characters for the original short film with a maximum length of up to 30 minutes will be granted with funding to complete the production until 31 December 2024.

A priority will be given to projects with a potential for films that bring local stories and that have potential capacity for international distribution. In addition, all projects that apply will be encouraged and supported to find additional funding from Public and Private institutions (and in exceptional cases international film funding).

DokuFest will provide a cash budget of 7,000 Euros, along with a professional camera and in-kind production and distribution support. Additionally, the selected filmmakers will receive mentoring over a six-month period to help create vibrant and thought-provoking contemporary stories. After the DCP versioning of the completed project, DokuFest will make final testing in the cinema prior to the premiere of the film.

DokuFest will premiere these films in Kosovo at DokuFest, except in cases when the film is ready for international premiere in advance and is selected for any of the A list film festival internationally. DokuFest will support the international Festival Distribution, whereas the VoD and other international distribution modalities will be completed through a specialized International Distribution Agency, which will be identified during and after the completion of the first project.

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF CALL REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility Criteria

In order to be eligible for application, applicants need to fulfil the following criteria:

- Be individuals (citizens of the Republic of Kosovo) born after 31 December 1994, who have registered a Personal Fiscal Number at Tax Administration of Kosovo, or associated with film production companies registered at Kosovo Cinematography Center (QKK)
- Be individuals who can attest for their artistic work in past (film, video, new media, visual art, and any other audiovisual example as a proof)
- Be a Director associated with a Producer at the time of application (signed partnership by both at the time of application).
- Be directly responsible for production of the film. Partnerships with other Production companies, NGOs, Initiatives are allowed only if approved by DokuFest in advance.
- Are not led or managed by Politically Exposed Persons

Timeframe and budget

Applicants will be eligible to receive a funding for film projects must be completed by 31 December 2024. The maximum budget requested for funding from this call should not exceed EUR 7,000.

Types of film supported

Vibrant and thought-provoking contemporary stories.

Length

For the purpose of this call, total length of the film, including credits, should not exceed 30 minutes.

Content

Projects with human interest stories on the topic of Democracy, Human Rights, Gender Equality, Cultural Diversity, Climate Change, Rights and Needs of Marginalized groups and other Social Issues will be prioritized in the selection process.

Eligible Costs

To be considered eligible, costs should meet the following criteria. Eligible costs are:

- necessary for the completion of film project (crew and cast fees, equipment rentals, clearance of rights - music, archive, images etc.);
- reasonable, justified and are calculated based on fairness and cost-efficiency;
- in compliance with the requirements applicable by tax-legislation in Kosovo;
- costs that incur during the implementation of the grant;
- clearly indicated in the proposed budget;
- identifiable and verifiable: All costs should be identifiable through invoices, service contracts, and bank transfers as a proof of processed payments.

Ineligible costs

The following costs are ineligible:

- Interventions that are directly affiliated with or are supportive of political parties;
- Purchase of equipment and Capital Investments (excludes storage devices for archiving and transfer of data);
- Customs and import duties;
- Debt or payments for losses;
- Loan and interest repayments;
- Currency exchange fees;
- Equipment depreciation expenditures;
- Purchase of land or immovable property;
- Purchase of vehicle or generator;
- Payment of expenses covered by other funders;
- Credit to third parties

Questions and Information

All questions related to the application procedure can be submitted electronically to apliko@dokufest.com until March 24, 2024, by midnight.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Mandatory Documents

In addition to the application form published together with the guidelines, applicants should provide the following:

- Budget Form
- Treatment and/or Script of the Film Project
- ID's of the Director and Producer
- Written and signed Agreement between the Director and Producer
- Associated production company documents (Valid Registration Document and Fiscal Certificate)
- Director's Statement
- Bank Account Confirmation (issued by bank)
- Signed PEP Guideline
- Stills that show the visual style of the project

In case of confirmed co-financing, a confirmation letter from the donor should be also attached.

Submission of applications

Completed applications can only be submitted electronically through email at apliko@dokufest.com.

The e-mail must include the completed application form and all mandatory documents specified in the call for application. Applicants will be required to verify that their application is complete using the checklist presented in the application form. DokuFest will confirm the receipt of the application by replying to the applicant with an acknowledgement email. Applications that do not comply with the rules of these guidelines will not be reviewed.

The application form consists of a series of questions regarding your filmmaking team and the project itself. You will be asked to include links to relevant samples of the director's previous work along with any other visual materials you think might be relevant, e.g. mood reels, images etc..

Please remember that we will be reviewing a considerable number of applications and have to turn down many more projects for funding than we are able to support, so it is important to make an impact with your application.

Deadline for application submission

Deadline for applications for this call is: **5 April 2024 by midnight.**

Evaluation and Notification

Evaluation of applications will be done in two phases:

1. Administrative Control

During this phase all applications are assessed if the following has been respected/submitted:

- All administrative and technical requirements indicated in the application form;
- Mandatory documents, including the eligibility of applicants;
- Budget;
- Grant duration;

Applications that do not meet the specified criteria will be automatically rejected.

The results of the administrative control will be communicated to each applicant in written form.

2. Content and Artistic Evaluation

Only projects that have been cleared by Administrative Control will be considered for Content of Artistic Evaluation. The Evaluation committee, composed of at least one film professional from Kosovo and two international film professionals will assess the project on the following criteria:

- The strength and originality of the treatment/script, (30%)
- The originality and urgency of the story, (30%)
- The vision and ability of the director, team strength (20%) and
- The financial feasibility and cost-effectiveness of the project (20%).

The maximum evaluation per application is 100 points.

Six applications with maximum points will be shortlisted for a pitching session of their projects to the Evaluation Committee consisted of diverse group of local and international film professionals. The Pitching session will be observed by representatives of SIDA, Municipality of Prizren and Kosovo Cinematography Center (QKK).

Following the Evaluation of the applications and of the Pitching Session, the Evaluation Committee will recommend two projects for a grant to a film project with a local story with the greatest potential for international distribution.

Donors have a veto right if recommended project for a grant is considered against the values promoted by the donor or are overlapping with other similar interventions.

Successful applicant, prior to contracting, will be assisted by DokuFest in a mentoring session to finalize their dossier and agree on the final timeline for delivery of the film.

Final Decision and Notification

Each applicant who has participated in the application process will receive a response regarding the evaluation process and the result of their application latest by 15 April 2024.

Unsuccessful applicants may request clarifications. In case they consider their proposal was not evaluated based on merits even after receiving additional clarifications, applicants may submit an official complain at apliko@dokufest.com.

Notification of winners and assignment of Mentors will be done by May 3, 2024.