SPOTLIGHT ON FILM-FUNDING IN GERMANY

FEATURE FILMS
ANIMATED FILMS
DOCUMENTARIES
HIGH-END TV & SERIES
Good news from Germany for film-makers:

MORE FUNDING AVAILABLE!

This brochure offers key information about attractive increases in funding for films made in Germany.
"I love creating something no one has ever seen before", Roland Emmerich once said about his cinematic ambitions. Anyone with that kind of creative power and passion for film will find that Germany provides ideal conditions for unleashing their creative potential and achieving economic success.

Germany as a place to make films not only has a wide variety of fantastic and multifaceted locations to offer. It is also home to top-class studios, internationally renowned VFX companies, and excellently trained and internationally experienced professionals. At a time when demand is rising, film producers need reliable partners and attractive incentives to be able to exploit their full potential.

That is why Germany has put together a comprehensive package of funding programmes to support word-class productions – from films destined for cinematic release to top-quality TV series. Germany is proud of the diversity of its creative industry and filmic tradition. Come and see for yourself. We look forward to welcoming you here.

Monika Grütters
Germany offers a wide range of attractive opportunities through federal and regional film funding programmes which are also available for international co-productions. Many of these programmes are specially designed to support the production of theatrical motion pictures and high-end TV & series. Germany is one of the top film and media locations in Europe, and more than €300 million a year in film subsidies is available to the film and TV industry.

**FEDERAL FUNDING BKM**

in total €157 million

- DFF and GMPF €135 million
- Cultural film funding €22 million

**REGIONAL FUNDING**

in total €115 million

**FEDERAL FUNDING**

in total €31 million

**FEDERAL FUNDING FROM NATIONAL AND REGIONAL FILM FUNDS CAN BE COMBINED**

* figures for 2018
** figures for 2017
The Office of the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM) has several programmes providing attractive funding opportunities for international co-productions—especially now that the DFFF II budget has been boosted to €75 million. The BKM’s German Federal Film Fund (DFFF) and German Motion Picture Fund (GMPF) provide up to 25% of production costs spent in Germany, up to €25 million in funding per film production.

**German Federal Film Fund for film productions for cinema release (DFFF I and II)**

- For producers of small and medium-sized productions with total production costs of up to €20 million
- A minimum of 25% of total production costs must be spent in Germany
- Funding of up to 20% of approved German production costs; projects with German production costs of more than €8 million receive a grant of up to 25%

Max. amount per project **€4 million**

- For production services providers hired to produce a film or film segment for projects with total production costs of €20 million or more
- German production costs of at least €8 million for feature films or at least €2 million for animated films and films with virtually animated components
- Funding of up to 25% of approved German production costs

Max. amount per project **€25 million**

**German Motion Picture Fund for high-end TV & series (GMPF)**

- For producers of series with total production costs of at least €1.2 million per episode
- For producers of films not for cinema release with total production costs of at least €25 million per film
- Funding of up to 20% of approved German production costs

Max. amount per project **€4 million**

**THE ADVANTAGES OF THE DFFF I, DFFF II & GMPF IN A NUTSHELL**

- Non-repayable grant
- Transparent, automatic support
- First instalment paid by the start of physical production

**MORE FUNDING AVAILABLE THAN EVER**
HOW TO APPLY FOR

GMPF FUNDING

You plan to produce a theatrical motion picture or high-end TV/VOD film or series

TV/VOD

TV/VOD film

Your total production costs must be at least €25 million

NO

GMPF 20%
(max. €2.5 million)

TV/VOD series

Your total production costs must be at least €1.2 million per episode

YES

GMPF 20%
(max. €2.5 million)

Your German production costs are more than €20 million

GMPF 20%
(max. €4 million)

GMPF 20%
(max. €2.5 million)

GMPF 20%
(max. €4 million)
You intend to shoot on location or your project is mainly an animated fictional film/VFX-driven film produced in Germany.

Location shooting in Germany

Your total production costs must be at least €20 million.

Your minimum German production costs are €8 million.

Your German production costs are at least €8 million.

DFFF II 25% (max. €25 million)

DFFF I 20% (max. €4 million)

Your German production costs are more than €8 million.

DFFF I 25% (max. €4 million)

FOR MORE FACTS SEE NEXT PAGE
Germany’s regions offer a wealth of opportunities for shooting at diverse locations. Here are a few examples of Germany’s breathtaking locations, varied architecture and cultural spaces.

The films listed below are just some of the more than 1,200 projects which the DFFF and GMPF have funded in recent years.
Baltic Sea

**BENEFITS OF FILMING IN GERMANY**

- All regions welcome film productions and provide specialist assistance
- Unique locations
- Highest-quality studio facilities
- Outstanding animation and VFX specialists
- Excellent post-production services
- Experienced, multilingual crews
- Transparent and automatic grants from Federal Government film funds; additional funding available in the regions

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Actors like Cate Blanchett, George Clooney, Matt Damon, Ralph Fiennes, Tom Hanks, Diane Kruger, Jude Law, Jennifer Lawrence, Nick Nolte and Kate Winslet have all enjoyed the warm welcome and benefitted from the motivated crews and excellent infrastructure in Germany.

- World-famous directors like Steven Spielberg, Oliver Stone and Quentin Tarantino and many more have returned after convincing themselves of the benefits of filming in Germany
- Oscar-winning productions such as THE WHITE RIBBON, GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL and BRIDGE OF SPIES were shot in Germany
- US blockbusters such as THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY – PART 2, CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR were made by German high-tech visual effects companies and were shot here
- Successful high-end drama series like BABYLON BERLIN or DARK come from Germany

Top-quality studio facilities (selection)

1 Bavaria Studios & Production Services, Munich
2 Studio Babelsberg, Potsdam
3 CCC Filmstudios, Berlin
4 MMC Studios, Cologne
5 Studio Hamburg, Hamburg/Berlin
6 VFX, CGI and 3D animations in many regions (e.g. Stuttgart, Munich, Berlin, Cologne, Hamburg, Leipzig)

DARK SEASON 1 & 2
- Director: Baran bo Odar
- Cast: Louis Hofmann, Oliver Masucci, Jördis Triebel, Maja Schöne

NEVER LOOK AWAY
- Director: Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck
- Cast: Tom Schilling, Sebastian Koch, Paula Beer

CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR
- Directors: Anthony Russo, Joe Russo
- Cast: Chris Evans, Robert Downey Jr., Scarlett Johansson
DFFF I, DFFF II, GMPF

Are there any deadlines?
- The DFFF and GMPF have no application deadlines. Applications can be submitted at any time, but at least six weeks prior to the start of principal photography.
- The grant can be awarded once all eligibility criteria are met and 75% of the financing is secured.

Who can apply?
- Because the funding aims to ensure the competitiveness of film production in Germany and support the existing infrastructure, you will need a German partner. Applications can be submitted by a German-based co-producer (DFFF I & GMPF) or production service provider (DFFF II).
- The German financial contribution must be at least 20% of the total production costs (DFFF I and GMPF only).

Is there a minimum spend in Germany?
- DFFF I: At least 25% of the total production costs must actually be spent in Germany.
- DFFF II: The German production costs must be at least €8 million and the total production costs at least €20 million.
- GMPF: The German production costs must be at least 40% of the total production costs.

Any other requirements?
- All projects need to pass a test of cultural characteristics.
- Projects receiving DFFF I or DFFF II funds must be commercially released in Germany.
- High-end TV series and TV/VoD films receiving GMPF funds must be shown on German TV and/or VoD platforms which are accessible in Germany.
EXAMPLES OF FINANCING

Feature Film

DFFF I

Approved German production costs

€14 million

- DFFF I non-repayable grant €3.5 million
- Selective Regional Loan I of up to €1 million
- Selective Regional Loan II of up to €1 million

You could receive up to €5.5 million!

DFFF II

Approved German production costs

€38 million

- DFFF II non-repayable grant €9.5 million
- Selective Regional Loan I of up to €1 million
- Selective Regional Loan II of up to €1 million

You could receive up to €11.5 million!

High-end TV series

GMPF

Approved German production costs

€21 million

- GMPF non-repayable grant €4 million
- Selective Regional Loan I of up to €1 million
- Selective Regional Loan II of up to €1 million

You could receive up to €6 million!

* "Approved German production costs" means all German production costs except, for example, overheads, insurance fees and financing costs.
If you would like more information on how to finance your next film, don’t hesitate to contact the federal and regional film funding institutions.

**Funding institutions on the federal level are:**

The Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM) and the German Federal Film Board (FFA)

For more information, go to [www.filmfoerderung-bkm.de](http://www.filmfoerderung-bkm.de) and [www.ffa.de](http://www.ffa.de)

**Funding institutions on the regional level are:**

- **Film- und Medienstiftung NRW**
  Cologne, North Rhine-Westphalia
  [www.filnstiftung.de](http://www.filnstiftung.de)

- **FilmFernsehFonds Bayern**
  Munich, Bavaria
  [www.fff-bayern.de](http://www.fff-bayern.de)

- **Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg**
  Postdam Babelsberg, Brandenburg
  [www.medienboard.de](http://www.medienboard.de)

- **Filmförderung Hamburg-Schleswig-Holstein**
  Hamburg, Schleswig-Holstein
  [www.ffhsh.de](http://www.ffhsh.de)

- **Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung**
  Leipzig, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt & Thuringia
  [www.mdm-online.de](http://www.mdm-online.de)

- **Mfg-Baden-Württemberg**
  Stuttgart, Baden-Württemberg
  [www.mfg.de](http://www.mfg.de)

- **HessenFilm und Medien**
  Frankfurt/Main, Hesse
  [www.hessenfilm.de](http://www.hessenfilm.de)

- **Nordmedia**
  Hannover, Lower Saxony & Bremen
  [www.nordmedia.de](http://www.nordmedia.de)

To qualify for regional funding you must also spend the money in the respective region.

All eight regional institutions are represented by their umbrella organization **FOCUS GERMANY**.

For more information, go to [www.focusgermany.de](http://www.focusgermany.de)
The German Federal Film Board (FFA) is responsible for administering the German Federal Film Fund (DFFF) and the German Motion Picture Fund (GMPF). The DFFF and GMPF team will be pleased to answer any questions and help you complete your application.

German Federal Film Fund | DFFF
German Motion Picture Fund | GMPF
c/o Filmförderungsanstalt | FFA
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DFFF
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GMPF
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www.gmpf-ffa.de