



Federal Government Commissioner
for Culture and the Media

**GERMAN FEDERAL
FILM FUND
DFFF**

**GERMAN MOTION
PICTURE FUND
GMPF**

AT A GLANCE **2025**



Yellow Letters



The Phoenician Scheme



Unfamiliar



The Empress 3



Hunger Games – Sunrise on the Reaping



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WELCOME

2025 marks an important milestone for the German Federal Film Fund (DFFF) and the German Motion Picture Fund (GMPF). By increasing the funding rate to 30 per cent at the beginning of the year, we sent a clear signal that we are committed to strengthening Germany as a production hub. The response from the industry confirms this step in an impressive way: the number of funding applications has risen significantly when compared to the previous year. This shows that Germany continues to be attractive for national and international film and series productions.

It is particularly pleasing that this dynamic is also reflected in the visibility of funded projects. The film funding schemes have again supported productions that impressed the audience and film critics alike. The international success of the DFFF-funded film "Sound of Falling" by Mascha Schilinski, which was awarded the Jury Prize ex aequo at the Cannes International Film Festival, is especially worth highlighting.

Equally impressive is the enormous box-office success of "Manitou's Canoe" – also funded by DFFF I – whose high admission figures underscore the continuing attractiveness of German productions.

The DFFF and the GMPF are central pillars of our film funding policy. They create reliable framework conditions, make artistic freedom possible, and strengthen the competitiveness of the German film industry. The fact that we are continuing along this path is a shared success – supported by filmmakers, production companies, creative professionals, and all those partners who are committed with passion to Germany as a film hub.

Two handwritten signatures are shown side-by-side. The signature on the left is "Wolfram" and the signature on the right is "Anja".

Wolfram Weimer
Minister of State for Culture and the Media

FUNDING IN 2025

In 2025, the German Federal Film Fund (DFFF) and the German Motion Picture Fund (GMPF) allocated €183 million to a total of 140 national and international feature film productions and high-end series. The increase in the funding rate to 30 per cent of the recognised German production costs resulted in a record volume of approved funding.

The DFFF I scheme provided €65.4 million in funding to a total of 107 projects destined for theatrical release, including 66 feature films, 38 documentaries and three animated films.

German productions allocated funding included, for example, the love story "My Years With You" by Caroline Link, with Jella Haase as a climate activist and Jannis Niewöhner as an aspiring lawyer, and the historical film "Die Stille liebt es und die Nacht" by Nana Neul about Friedrich Schiller and the composer Andreas Streicher. The film version of Joachim Meyerhoff's eponymous novel "Oh, This Unspeakable Void", directed by Simon Verhoeven, received €2.2 million, the highest sum awarded to a feature film in 2025. Documentaries supported included "Checker Tobi 3 – The Hidden Queen of the Earth" and Fatih Akin's "Anatolian Dragon" about the Turkish singer Gaye Su Akyol.

Funding in the animation category was allocated to the lavishly produced children's book adaptation "Arnie & Barnie" which sees the ants from the "Maya the Bee" movies setting off on their own adventure. Numerous international co-productions have also been benefitting from DFFF I, including the Berlin-set romantic comedy "Any Other Night" by the Dutch filmmaker Michiel ten Horn, the German-Swiss literary adaptation "Eurotrash", directed by Frauke Finsterwalder and starring Barbara Sukowa and Alexander Fehling, and the German-French drama "My Wife Cries" by Angela Schanelec, which was invited to screen in the Competition at this year's Berlinale.

The DFFF II scheme allocated a total of €56.8 million to seven large-scale international projects.

Large-scale international productions generated economic effects many times over within the German

film industry, including the German-British sci-fi-action-film "Riddick: Furya", which received €18.9 million in funding, as well as Paul Greengrass' historical epic "The Uprising", which was awarded €7.9 million in funding – with a large part of both projects being shot in Bavaria. Numerous highly qualified German film professionals and more than 1,000 extras from Berlin, Brandenburg and North Rhine-Westphalia worked on the prequel "The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping". This project received the maximum funding amount of €25 million. Funding for VFX and animation work undertaken by German visual effects studios went to the science fiction production "Predator: Badlands" by 20th Century Fox, starring Elle Fanning, and the Marvel superhero film "The Fantastic Four: First Steps".

DFFF I and DFFF II funding resulted in follow-on investment of around €480 million in Germany as a film hub, meaning that national and international production companies thus invested four times the amount of DFFF state subsidies in Germany.

The GMPF supported 26 high-end series with a total of €60.8 million.

The highest level of funding went to such projects as the history series "Black Gold" for NDR/ARD Degeto, the second season of "Where's Wanda" for Apple+, and the sequel to "Murder Mindfully" for Netflix. Support in the field of documentary series went to the NDR project "Iran Unveiled", telling the history of Iran as seen from the perspective of women, and the ZDF/Arte production "Die großen Musikmetropolen". The GMPF funding attracted follow-on investment of around €242.2 million, equivalent to four times of the allocated funding.

DFFF I

in figures*

2025	Number	Total production costs	German production costs	Grant
Grants approved	107	€356,662,145	€273,665,590	€65,423,143
International co-productions	38	€47,922,114	€90,293,355	€22,494,905
German productions	69	€208,740,031	€183,372,235	€42,928,238
Feature films	66	€302,292,178	€232,469,575	€55,533,921
Documentary films	38	€25,181,601	€20,855,665	€4,596,826
Animated films	3	€29,188,366	€20,340,349	€5,292,396

* Sums may not add up exactly due to rounding.

More planning security, higher levels of follow-on investment

The increase in the incentive funding to 30 per cent led in 2025 to a significant improvement in financing security and the chances of high-end projects being realised – this has made Germany more attractive again for large-scale international productions. Taken together, the follow-on investment generated by the two DFFF schemes thus increased year-on-year.

Continued strong demand for international co-productions, Austria still the most frequent partner country

More than a third of the funding was allocated to international co-productions. German producers collaborated the most on co-productions with Austria, 12 times in total, including the German-Austrian tragicomedy "Kochschule Schwarz" by Dani Levy, which was shot in Munich, Nuremberg and Vienna.

Premieres and successes at A-category festivals

DFFF's strong year at festivals in 2025 kicked off with invitations for "What Marielle Knows" and "Yunan" to screen in the Competition at the 75th Berlinale. Two films shot in Germany – Wes Anderson's "The Phoenician Scheme" and Mascha Schilinski's "Sound Of Falling" – were in the Official Competition at Cannes. Schilinski was the first German director in the festival's history to receive the Jury Prize. The 82nd Venice Film Festival saw the European co-production "Silent Friend" by Ildikó Enyedi being screened in the Venezia Competition; the majority German co-production "Strange River" was shown in the Orizzonti sidebar. The 76th Berlinale will also open with a DFFF film: "No Good Men" is one of several DFFF-funded productions having their world premiere at this year's festival – they also include the competition films "Home Stories" by Eva Trobisch, "Yellow Letters" by İlker Çatak and "Rose" with Sandra Hüller. This shows that there is a continuous strong presence of DFFF-funded films at international festivals.

DFFF II

in figures

2025	Number	Total production costs, film segment	German production costs, film segment	Grant
Grants approved	7	€234,534,789	€206,865,501	€56,823,076

Funding of production services generated over €206 million spend in Germany's film industry

The increase in the funding rate to 30 per cent made a significant impact to the DFFF II scheme: the level of follow-on investment increased by €70 million compared to the previous year.

INTERNATIONAL CO-PRODUCTIONS

DFFF I 2007 – 2025

Total 788

of which in 2025

52

Ireland 19

United Kingdom 53

Belgium 69

France 149

Spain 22

USA 32

Canada 22

Other 98

Netherlands 46

Denmark 31

Luxembourg 42

Italy 51

Switzerland 107

Austria 150

Hungary 2

Greece 9

Turkey 3

Sweden 22

Latvia 2

Poland 24

Czech Republic 4

Slovakia 2

Romania 8

Finnland 25

Estonia 2

Lithuania 2

Russia 10

Israel 19

India 2

South Africa 6

Australia 7

DFFF I UND DFFF II

Overview 2007 – 2025



PRODUCTIONS

2,044



FUNDING DISBURSED

€1.33 BILLION



INVESTMENT IN FILM

PRODUCTION IN GERMANY

€7.30 BILLION

In the 19 years since DFFF was established, the programme has allocated total funding of €1.33 billion to 2,044 film productions. Of the DFFF I projects, 1,280 are German productions and 751 international co-productions. Since its introduction in 2017, DFFF II has distributed a total of €282 million to 51 projects. The funding from the Federal Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM) has to date resulted in follow-on investment of around €7.3 billion in Germany alone. In 2025, German producers collaborated in the most occasions with Austria (12) for co-productions, followed by partners with Switzerland (8).

GM^PF

in figures*

2025	Number	Total production costs	German production costs	Grant
Grants approved	26	€314,978,378	€242,198,974	€60,777,017
International co-productions	5	€54,653,808	€75,971,738	€10,462,273
German productions	21	€260,324,570	€166,227,236	€50,314,745
Series	19	€299,380,744	€191,449,554	€57,521,595
of which documentary series	7	€15,597,634	€50,749,420	€3,255,422

* Sums may not add up exactly due to rounding.

Continued focus on German series

The increase to the incentive had a similarly strong impact on the GM^PF: a total of 26 projects were supported with €60.8 million of funding. Compared to the previous year, this meant that the total funding allocated had almost doubled. The 19 high-end fiction series included the third season of the Emmy Award-winning Netflix series "The Empress", thus underscoring the international appeal of the funded series over and beyond their exploitation in Germany. The number of documentary series has also kept increasing.

2016 – 2025	Number	Total production costs	German production costs	Grant	Grant incl. additional appropriations*
Grants approved	181	€2,906,055,754	€2,121,519,608	€365,843,843	€366,424,995
Additional pandemic-related costs	3	€3,872,112	€4,592,398	€581,151	
International co-productions	46	€1,124,573,509	€655,961,080	€95,015,407	
German productions	135	€1,781,482,245	€1,465,558,528	€270,828,436	
Series	171	€2,715,170,409	€1,964,231,697	€324,104,513	
of which documentary series	15	€42,750,301	€72,687,605	€8,220,542	
Feature films	3	€175,287,710	€106,538,491	€6,000,000	

* Sums may not add up exactly due to rounding.

10 years of funding, 181 high-end series and feature films

Since its launch, the GM^PF scheme has supported 181 productions with a total of €366 million. €2.1 billion in German production costs made sure that the studios and Germany as a production hub were kept operating at a high capacity. National and internationally successful series like "Babylon Berlin", "Dark", "Dear Child", "Maxton Hall" and „The Zweiflers" could not have been made in Germany without backing from the GM^PF.

HOW TO APPLY

At a glance

The DFFF and the GMPF are automatic funding schemes in which funding is awarded in the form of a grant. Applications may be submitted at any time, as long as they are received at least six weeks before shooting begins. Funding may be granted if the application documents are complete, the criteria set down in the test of cultural characteristics are fulfilled, and 65% of the film's financing has been secured. If these requirements are met, the application will be accepted on the condition that sufficient funds are available.



DFFF I

Producers of feature, documentary and animated films are eligible to apply.

Grants:

Up to 30% of the approved German production costs, up to a maximum of €5 million.

Eligibility requirements:

- Total production costs for feature films of at least € 1 million, for documentary films € 200,000 and for animated films € 2 million.
- The film must be commercially released in German cinemas.
- At least 25 % of the total production costs must be spent in Germany; if total production costs are more than € 20 million, then at least 20 % must be spent in Germany.
- Generally, the German share of funding needs to amount to 20 % of total production costs.



DFFF II

Production service providers hired to produce a film or film segment are eligible to apply.

Grants:

Films: up to 30% of the approved German production costs, up to a maximum of €25 million.

Eligibility requirements:

- Total production costs of at least € 20 million.
- German production costs of at least € 8 million; for animated films, German production costs of at least € 2 million.
- The film must be commercially released in German cinemas.



GMPF

Producers of series and films that are not intended for first release in cinemas are eligible to apply.

Grants:

Series: up to 30% of the approved German production costs. The size of grants varies depending on the German production costs and the number of points in the test of cultural characteristics. The maximum amount is €20 million.

Films: up to 30% of the approved German production costs, up to a maximum of €5 million.

Eligibility requirements:

- Total production costs for fictional series of at least €30,000 per minute or at least €1.2 million per episode and at least €7.2 million per season.
- Total production costs for documentary series of at least €9,000 per minute or at least €360,000 per episode and at least €1.65 million per season.
- Total production costs of at least €25 million.
- At least 40% of the total production costs must be spent in Germany.
- Must be screened on German TV or be available via video-on-demand platforms accessible in Germany.

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Photo credits: Successful DFFF-supported films at the box office and festivals; internationally acclaimed GMPF-backed high-end series (selection):

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Twenty-Eight



Amrum



Woodwalkers 2



Mother Mary



Black Gold