Production Contacts

Key sources for international productions in Germany · As of 15 November 2026

FILM IN GERMANY

Funding – key sources

Source	What you find
Spotlight On – Film Funding in Germany 2026	All federal and regional funds on a few pages (FFA / Federal Government)
German Films – Co-production	National film agency: co-production contacts and treaties
Focus Germany	Umbrella of the major regional funds, list of German co-production partners
FFA – German Federal Film Fund (DFFF, GMPF)	Federal rebate 2026 (closed for new applications): 30 % of approved German costs. DFFF II for service productions: min. budget €20m, min. €8m spent in Germany, cap €25m
FFA – International co-productions	Minority co-production fund, German-French and German-Polish funds
Eurimages	Council of Europe co-production fund (Germany is a member)
Broadcasters: ZDF Studios · ARTE · ARD Degeto	Co-production contacts (Degeto: German site). Private TV and streamers: via German producers

Status 15 Nov 2026: 2026 federal applications closed on 21 Aug 2026. New system from 2027 with three funds at 30 % (draft caps: €10m cinema, €10m TV/streaming, €25m per film / €20m per series for service productions); applications from 17 Nov 2026, producers first only for shoots starting by 30 Jun 2027: FFA: new incentive 2027 (German only). Guidelines subject to EU approval; 2027 budget €200.7m after the budget committee, final vote 27 Nov 2026.

Regional funds and film commissions

Region	Regional fund	Film commission
Berlin & Brandenburg	Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg	Berlin Brandenburg Film Commission
Bavaria	FFF Bayern	Film Commission Bayern
North Rhine-Westphalia	Film- und Medienstiftung NRW	Film Commission NRW
Hamburg & Schleswig-Holstein	MOIN Filmförderung	Film Commission Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein
Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia	MDM (German only)	MDM Film Commission
Hesse	HessenFilm und Medien	Film Commission Hessen
Baden-Württemberg	MFG Baden-Württemberg	Regional film commissions (German only)
Lower Saxony & Bremen	nordmedia	nordmedia Film Commission
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	MV Filmförderung (German only)	MV Film Commission (German only)

Filming permits

Topic	Source	Note
Berlin	BBFC: filming permits	Application forms in German
Hamburg	MOIN: permits for shooting	
Frankfurt	Filmhaus Frankfurt: filming	
Cologne / NRW	Film Commission NRW: shooting permits	Permits issued by each city
Munich, Leipzig	City of Munich / MDM Film Commission	German only
Child actors	BBFC: filming with children	Under 3: no exception · 3–6: 2 h · over 6: 3 h · 15–17: 8 h, until 23:00
Drones	Luftfahrt-Bundesamt: cross-border operations	Foreign operators: allow 6+ months
Railway / airports	Deutsche Bahn · BER · Munich Airport	BER: at least 8 weeks' notice
Non-EU equipment	BBFC: customs regulations	ATA Carnet; fully digital since June 2026

Service directories by region

Region	Directory	Language
Germany-wide	Crew United – crew & company search	English
Berlin & Brandenburg	BBFC Production Guide	English
Hamburg & Schleswig-Holstein	MOIN Production Guide	English
Bavaria	Film Commission Bayern Production Guide	English
Hesse	HessenFilm Production Guide	English
Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia	MDM Production Guide	German interface
Baden-Württemberg	film-bw.de	German interface
Lower Saxony & Bremen	nordmedia mediahub	German interface

Region	Directory	Language
North Rhine-Westphalia	No public directory – ask Film Commission NRW	

Studios

Location	Studio	Profile
Potsdam	Studio Babelsberg	21 stages, backlots, workshops, water tank, LED volume
Berlin	Studio Berlin Adlershof	9 studios, mainly TV (German site)
Hamburg	Studio Hamburg	6 studios, post-production
Munich	Bavaria Studios	12 stages, backlot
Cologne	MMC Studios	20 studios (German site)
Leipzig	Media City Leipzig	Studios and media campus (German site)

Crew, cast, insurance, software and payroll

Topic	Source
Crew	Crew United (crew & company search) · BBFC Crew Guide
Cast	e-TALENTA · Bundesverband Casting
Labour law	Filmhaus Frankfurt: labour law for foreign productions · BBFC: wage regulations TV FFS: full text · rate card (German only). Max. 12 h/day, 60 h/week; minimum wage €13.90/h (2026)
Production insurance	Deutsche FilmversicherungsGemeinschaft (DFG)
Software	Fuzzlecheck (scheduling) · SESAM (budget, payroll, accounting) · LockitScript (script supervision)
Payroll for extras	adag Payroll Services – extras, background actors, dubbing; takes over the employer's duties

Tax, social security and visas

Topic	Source	Key point
Withholding tax on non-resident talent	BZSt: withholding tax	15 % + solidarity surcharge (15.825 %); none up to €250 per performance; treaty relief via BZSt certificate
VAT refund	Non-EU companies · EU companies	Deadlines 30 June (non-EU) / 30 September (EU) of the following year
Crew from EU countries	German Customs: A1 certificate	Home social security for up to 24 months; German minimum wage applies
Artists' social levy	touring-artists.info: KSK levy	4.9 % (2026), 5.0 % (2027) on fees to self-employed artists
Work permits	Make it in Germany: artists	Non-EU crew sent by a foreign employer for a film/TV production: no permit up to 90 days within 12 months
Visas	Federal Foreign Office	Depends on nationality (Schengen rules)

Markets and industry events 2027

Event	Dates	Focus
Berlinale Co-Production Market · EFM	EFM 10–16 Feb · Co-Pro 13–16 Feb, Berlin	Features and series seeking co-producers; submissions open in August
Filmfest München – Industry Days	25 Jun – 4 Jul, Munich	Co-production meetings, pitches
Seriencamp Conference	8–10 Jun, Cologne	Series
DOK Leipzig – DOK Co-Pro Market	late Oct, Leipzig	Documentaries, animated features
Connecting Cottbus	3–5 Nov, Cottbus	East–West co-production market

Funding obligations: ecological standards · accessible version and cinema release (DFFF I FAQ, list of distributors)

On set and rights: Sunday and holiday work (BBFC) · Themis – safe sets · GEMA – music rights · Glossary of German production terms: filmingermany.com

Producers' associations (member lists): Produktionsallianz · Produktionsallianz Commercials · PROG · AG DOK (German sites except Commercials)

Crew guilds (member lists): BHP – production managers · BvP – production · BVL – location scouts · BVK – camera · ADU – ADs · BVB – lighting/grip · bvft – sound · VSK – design · Maskenbild – make-up · BFS – editing · VES Germany – VFX · VdA – actors' agents · all associations

Industry information: filmportal.de (film and credits database) · German Films newsletter · FFA market statistics · Cineuropa: Germany

Federal incentive mechanics: cultural points test, applicant (producer or German service company), payment after audit or in instalments, combining with regional funds up to 50 % of costs: DFFF guidelines 2026 · GMPF guidelines 2026

Digital production and VFX (service company applies): Medienboard Digitale Filmproduktion (up to 25 %, max. €1m) · MFG line producer funding (up to 20 %, max. €1m) · Green production: ecological standards 2025

Employer costs: social security about 21.7 % on top of gross fees (2026, up to the contribution ceilings) plus accident insurance; TV FFS holiday, time account and fee rates are minimums: contribution rates (German only) · Recent international productions: FFA – DFFF and GMPF at a glance 2025