INSTITUTE OF DOCUMENTARY FILM

GUIDELINES
FOR APPLICANTS

East Doc Platform 2027

East Doc Forum
East Doc Market for Films in Development and Production
East Doc Market for Rough Cuts and Finished Films

Practical guide to the application · version 1.3 · 10.11.2026

At a glance

What	International industry platform for creative documentary projects from Central and Eastern Europe – pitching forum and one-on-one market meetings with industry professionals.
For whom	Producers and directors of creative documentaries (feature-length or short) and factual documentary series whose production company or a co-producing company is based in an eligible country and which are connected to Central and Eastern Europe through the team or the story. Details in chapter 5.
Sections	East Doc Forum · East Doc Market for Films in Development and Production · East Doc Market for Rough Cuts and Finished Films
Call open	10 November – 13 December 2026
Deadline	**13 December 2026, 23:59 CET**
Results	no later than 26 January 2027
Application fee	none
Participation fee	East Doc Forum: **EUR 350 per project** East Doc Market for Films in Development and Production: **EUR 300 per project** East Doc Market for Rough Cuts and Finished Films: **EUR 200 per project** Included in the fee: two industry passes per project Mandatory, on top of the fee: sustainability fee of EUR 10 per attending person Charged separately: networking lunches and refreshments; accommodation, if arranged by the Organizer All fees are exclusive of VAT. Details in chapter 11.
Working language	English
When and where	5–12 March 2027, Prague, Czech Republic 23–24 March 2027 online
Apply	online form at dokweb.net **Apply with an upcoming project** (development, production – feature-length, series) **Apply with a completed film** (rough cut, finished film – feature-length, short, series)

About these Guidelines

This guide complements the Call Conditions. It introduces East Doc Platform, explains the three programming sections, and provides practical guidance on preparing and submitting an application.

The Call Conditions contain the binding rules for the call, including the eligibility and exclusion criteria, the evaluation criteria and their weighting, the participation fees, the data protection provisions, and the procedure for objections. Where these Guidelines and the Call Conditions differ, the Call Conditions prevail.

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Is this platform for you?

East Doc Platform is built around one question: who does your film need to meet next – a co-producer, a broadcaster, a fund, a sales agent, a festival? The East Doc Platform brings creative documentaries from Central and Eastern Europe together with international industry professionals who can move them forward.

Apply if:

- your project is a **creative documentary** – story- or character-driven – a feature-length film, short film or a factual documentary series;
- your production company or a co-producing company is based in an eligible country, and your project is connected to Central and Eastern Europe – through the team (the director, the producer or a co-producer is based in the region) or through its story;
- you know what your project needs from international partners – financing, co-production, broadcast, sales, distribution or festivals;
- you and your team can present and discuss the project **in English**;
- your audiovisual materials are in English or have English subtitles;
- you can attend the dates of the section you apply to.

Do not apply if:

- your film is finished and you want to pitch it at the East Doc Forum – finished films can apply only to the East Doc Market for Rough Cuts and Finished Films;
- you cannot commit to the full East Doc Forum programme – the director and the producer must attend the whole preparatory workshop and the pitching session;
- you have no visual material yet – every section works with a trailer, teaser, rough cut or film.

If you are unsure which section fits your project, write to us before the deadline (contact at the end of this document). We would rather answer a question in November than reject an application in January.

1. How to submit an application

Applications must be submitted exclusively through the online application forms available on the DOKweb website (dokweb.net). **Submitting an application is free of charge**. Before starting your application, please read these Guidelines and the Call Conditions carefully to make sure your project meets the eligibility requirements and that you select the correct section.

Choose the appropriate application form:

- **Apply with an upcoming project** (development or production – feature-length film or series)

- **Apply with a completed film** (rough cut or finished film – feature-length, short film or series)

Application period and deadline

The call is open from **10 November to 13 December 2026**. Your application must be received by the online system no later than **13 December 2026, at 23:59 CET**. For the full schedule, please see chapter 12.

Important rules for submitting an application

- **One application per project, in one section.** Select the section that corresponds to the current stage of your project (see chapter 3). Do not submit multiple applications for the same project.
- **The submission time determines whether your application is on time.** The relevant time is when the online system receives your application, not when you start filling it in. We strongly recommend submitting well before the deadline, as uploading videos and other large files may take longer than expected.
- **Submitted applications cannot be edited.** If you need to make a correction before the deadline, please contact us. We will assess whether an amendment is possible.
- **Prepare your application texts in advance.** We recommend drafting your answers in a separate document and then copying them into the online form. This will help prevent losing your work if the form is interrupted for any reason.

2. About the East Doc Platform

East Doc Platform is the annual industry platform of the Institute of Documentary Film for creative documentary projects from Central and Eastern Europe. It connects filmmakers with international commissioning editors, funds, co-producers, sales agents, distributors and festival programmers through pitching, training and pre-arranged one-on-one meetings.

The 2027 edition consists of the **Preparatory pitch workshop** on 5–10 March 2027, the **Industry Days** on 10–12 March 2027, and the **Online Market** on 23–24 March 2027. Selected projects receive accreditation to the industry programme and networking events of the East Doc Platform.

3. East Doc Platform sections

You apply to **one** section, based on the stage of your project and your needs.

East Doc Forum

Pitching for creative feature-length documentaries and factual documentary series **in development or production**. The programme includes a preparatory pitch workshop, a pitch rehearsal, the public East Doc Forum presentations in front of international

industry professionals, and individual meetings with industry professionals interested in the project.

Feature-length documentaries and documentary series have their own workshop schedule. The director and the producer attend together.

East Doc Market for Films in Development and Production

Pre-arranged one-on-one meetings for creative documentaries **in development and in production** with international industry professionals, producers, financiers and commissioning editors.

East Doc Market for Rough Cuts and Finished Films

This section is for short and feature-length documentaries and documentary series that are available as a rough cut, picture lock, or finished film. Participants get pre-arranged one-on-one meetings with industry professionals, festival selectors, and sales agents.

How the Market meetings work
Industry professionals receive the catalogue of selected projects before the East Doc Platform and mark the projects they are interested in. You receive the list of industry professionals and select who you would like to meet. You will receive your personal meeting schedule before the event, which is based on the preferences of both sides. Each meeting lasts 15 minutes.

4. East Doc Platform participation process

Following selection, selected projects go through several stages of preparation and participation in East Doc Platform:

1. **Selection and Confirmation** – notification of acceptance, confirmation of attending team members and accommodation requirements.
2. **Participation Agreement** – completion and signing of the participation agreement.
3. **Catalogue and Promotional Materials** – submission of project information, photographs and other materials for the East Doc Platform catalogue and promotion.
4. **Accreditation and Payments** – registration of participants, issuing of invoices and settlement of participation fees and additional costs.
5. **Meeting Preferences** – submission of preferences and interests to help us arrange relevant individual meetings.
6. **Individual Meeting Schedule** – preparation and distribution of personalised meeting schedules before East Doc Platform.

7. **Preparatory Pitch Workshop** – preparation for project presentations at the Forum (for Forum participants).
8. **Industry Days** – Forum presentations, Market meetings, networking activities and other industry events.
9. **Online Market** – online one-on-one meetings between selected projects and industry professionals.

5. Who can apply

The call is open to creative documentary projects whose production company or a co-producing company is based in an eligible country (see the list of eligible countries) and which are connected to Central and Eastern Europe – either through the team (the director, the producer or a co-producing company is based in the region) or through the story, subject or characters (Call Conditions, Article 3). Where the director is based does not by itself make a project eligible.

The applicant is the production company. The application is submitted on behalf of the production company of the project – a legal entity or a self-employed person with a company ID – which concludes the participation agreement and is invoiced for the participation fee. If the project is selected, companies based in the European Union must provide a valid VAT number before the invoice is issued. Companies based outside the European Union do not need one.
You can check your VAT number in the EU's VIES system (ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/vies).
The team. For the East Doc Forum and the East Doc Market, the team is the director and the producer, and both must be proficient in English.

6. What to prepare for your application

This section explains what to prepare for each section, in line with the Call Conditions, Article 7.2. **Please note:** the application form must be completed in English, and all uploaded documents must be in English. Audiovisual materials must be in English or have English subtitles.

For all sections

- Basic project information: title, director, producer, production company, countries of production, running time or number of episodes, production stage.
- Logline – **maximum 220 characters including spaces.**
- Synopsis – **maximum 1,400 characters including spaces.**
- Three film stills (file upload).

- Bio and filmography of the director; bio, filmography and company profile of the producer.
- Photos of the director and the producer.
- Company details: registered business name, registered address, company ID and VAT number, if available.
- Declaration of honour – part of the form (see below).

East Doc Forum – in addition

- Treatment, or detailed descriptions of episodes for a series – **maximum 5,500 characters including spaces.**
- Short budget and financing plan.
- Link to the trailer or teaser.
- Author's presentation video (see below).

East Doc Market for Films in Development and Production – in addition

- Treatment, or detailed descriptions of episodes for a series – **maximum 5,500 characters including spaces.**
- Short budget and financing plan.
- Link to the trailer or teaser.
- Author's presentation video (see below).

East Doc Market for Rough Cuts and Finished Films – in addition

- Link to the film – rough cut, picture lock or finished film. A link to the trailer or teaser is optional, but an advantage.

Author's presentation video

For the East Doc Forum and the East Doc Market for Films in Development and Production, provide a link to a **2–5 minute** video in which the director and/or the producer explain why they are making this film and why they want to present it at East Doc Platform. The video may be filmed on a phone or a computer; production value is not assessed.

Declaration of honour

It forms part of the application form. At the end of the form you confirm that the information you have provided is accurate, that the project and the team meet the eligibility conditions, and that you hold the rights to all submitted materials.

Links

All links must remain accessible **until the end of the objection period (Call Conditions, Article 11)**. If a link is password-protected, include the password in the application. Do not use services with expiring links, such as file-transfer services. We recommend Vimeo, YouTube (unlisted) or a similar platform.

7. Application checklist

Before you submit, check that you have:

ELIGIBILITY

- ☐ My project is a creative documentary film or factual documentary series
- ☐ The production company or a co-producing company is based in an eligible country, and the project is connected to Central and Eastern Europe through the team or the story
- ☐ I have selected one section that matches the stage of my project
- ☐ Only one application is being submitted for this project
- ☐ The team can work in English and attend the dates of the section
- ☐ The application is submitted on behalf of the production company

MATERIALS, ALL IN ENGLISH

- ☐ Application form and basic project information completed
- ☐ Logline, max. 220 characters including spaces – counted
- ☐ Synopsis, max. 1,400 characters including spaces – counted
- ☐ Treatment within the limit, max. 5,500 characters – where required
- ☐ Short budget and financing plan – where required
- ☐ Three film stills
- ☐ Photos of the director and the producer; bios and filmographies
- ☐ Link to trailer, teaser or film – valid, accessible, English subtitles
- ☐ Presentation video, 2–5 minutes – where required
- ☐ Company details including a VAT number, if available (if selected, EU companies must provide a valid one before invoicing)
- ☐ Declaration of honour confirmed in the form

8. Selection of projects

Applications are evaluated in four stages: a formal check of completeness and eligibility; a first round, in which the IDF programme team assesses eligible applications and draws up a shortlist for each section; a second round, in which a selection committee of international documentary professionals and representatives of the Organizer assesses the shortlisted projects; and the final selection. Eligible projects that are not selected may be placed on a waiting list.

CRITERION	WEIGHT
Artistic quality and originality	30%
International potential	20%
Regional connection	20%

CRITERION	WEIGHT
Team and track record	15%
Readiness and fit with the section	15%

The criteria and their weighting are set out in the Call Conditions, Article 9.3, which is the binding source. Where projects are assessed as comparable, the committee gives preference to projects from low audiovisual capacity countries, first- or second-time directors and under-represented groups (Call Conditions, Article 9.4).

9. What happens after submission

WHEN	WHAT HAPPENS
immediately	You receive an email confirming that your application has been received. If it does not arrive, check your spam folder and then contact us – do not assume the application went through.
January 2027	**Formal check** – if something is missing, we may ask you to supply it within five working days. Watch your inbox, including the spam folder.
January 2027	**Selection** – first round by the IDF programme team, second round by the selection committee.
by 26 January 2027	**Result by email** – to every applicant, whether selected or not. Selected projects receive the acceptance letter.
by 1 February 2027	Selected projects confirm participation by signing and returning the acceptance letter, including the attending persons and accommodation needs.
February – early March 2027	You receive the participation agreement and the invoice in early February, followed by the catalogue draft for updates, the accreditation form and the meeting preference form, each with its deadline. The participation fee is due by **17 February 2027**.
within 10 working days of notification	**Objection** – you may submit a reasoned objection to the selection procedure (Call Conditions, Article 11).

Can I withdraw my application? Yes. Write to us before the deadline and we will remove your application from the selection.

Can I update my application after submitting? Not on your own. You may request an amendment before the deadline and we will act on the request.

10. Conditions of participation

Selected projects are expected to:

- confirm participation by 1 February 2027 and conclude the participation agreement;
- pay the participation fee by 17 February 2027;
- submit the catalogue materials, accreditation and meeting preferences on time;
- for the East Doc Forum: attend the entire preparatory workshop, the pitch rehearsal and the pitching session – both director and producer;
- attend all scheduled meetings and let us know without delay if a meeting cannot take place;
- allow the presentation materials of the project (such as the trailer or teaser, project stills and the recording of the pitch) to be made available to accredited industry professionals in the East Doc Platform online library and pitch library (Call Conditions, Article 14);
- respond to short follow-up questionnaires on the project's progress 6, 12 and 18 months after the East Doc Platform;
- travel by train or other public transport where a reasonable connection is available, especially from neighbouring countries, and state your mode of travel in the accreditation form;
- include in the credits of the completed film and in its promotional materials the IDF logo and the text set out in the Call Conditions, Article 14, together with the acknowledgement of the East Doc Platform's supporters where they are listed. The logo is available at dokweb.net/storage/idf-ENG.zip; we will also send it with the exact wording together with the participation agreement.

The agreement and invoicing are handled through the applicant's production company. If the agreement is not concluded within ten working days of the draft being sent, the Organizer may offer your place to a project from the waiting list (Call Conditions, Article 9.4).

11. Participation fee

Selected projects are subject to a participation fee per project and a sustainability fee per attending person, which is mandatory and not included in the participation fee, as detailed in the table below. Additional costs, including networking lunches, refreshments and accommodation, are charged separately.

SECTION	ELIGIBLE FORMATS	PARTICIPATION FEE	LUNCHES AND REFRESHMENTS	SUSTAINABILITY FEE
East Doc Forum (6 days workshop + pitching + 2 days meetings + Online Market)	feature-length, series	EUR 350 per project	Extra payment per day and per person (prices in the acceptance letter)	EUR 10 per person
East Doc Market for Films in Development and Production (2 days + Online Market)	feature-length, series	EUR 300 per project	Extra payment per day and per person (prices in the acceptance letter)	EUR 10 per person
East Doc Market for Rough Cuts and Finished Films (1 day + Online Market)	feature-length, shorts, series	EUR 200 per project	Extra payment per day and per person (prices in the acceptance letter)	EUR 10 per person

The participation fee includes **two industry passes**. Networking lunches and refreshments are part of the event's programme and are charged separately per person, according to the number of attending team members and the duration of their participation. Their prices, the price of additional industry passes and the accommodation options are communicated with the acceptance letter.

Accommodation is not included in the participation fee. Upon request, the Organizer can arrange accommodation for participants, with the cost added to the final invoice.

The final amount payable is calculated based on the applicable participation fee, sustainability fee, networking lunches and refreshments, and any accommodation arranged through the Organizer.

The sustainability fee supports the East Doc Platform's sustainability measures. IDF is certified to ISO 20121:2024, the international standard for sustainability management of events.

The fee must be paid by 17 February 2027, based on an invoice issued to the applicant. All amounts are invoiced together. Projects that fail to pay by this deadline will be excluded from participation. Full terms relating to fees, including cancellation conditions, are set out in Article 8 of the Call Conditions. If you cancel by 17 February 2027, the sustainability fee, lunches, refreshments and accommodation are not charged. All fees are stated exclusive of VAT. VAT is charged in accordance with the applicable legislation.

12. Key dates

The dates below apply to all sections unless stated otherwise.

10 November 2026	●	call opens
13 December 2026, 23:59 CET	●	**application deadline**
January 2027	●	selection
26 January 2027	●	**announcement of selected projects**
1 February 2027	●	confirmation of participation
February 2027	●	preparation of selected projects (detailed deadlines sent with the acceptance letter)
5–10 March 2027	●	**East Doc Forum Preparatory Pitch Workshop**
10–12 March 2027	●	**Industry Days**
23–24 March 2027	●	**Online Market**

13. Frequently asked questions

My film is finished. Can I apply?

Yes – to the East Doc Market for Rough Cuts and Finished Films. Finished films are not eligible for the East Doc Forum.

Can I apply to more than one section?

No. You submit one application. Choose the section that matches the stage of your project; if you are unsure, ask us before the deadline.

Can documentary series apply?

Yes. Factual documentary series can apply to all three sections: in development or production to the East Doc Forum or the East Doc Market for Films in Development and Production, and as a rough cut or finished series to the East Doc Market for Rough Cuts and Finished Films.

Does my project have to be from Central and Eastern Europe?

Not necessarily. The production company or a co-producing company must be based in an eligible country (see the list of eligible countries), and the project must be connected to Central and Eastern Europe – either through the team (the director, the

producer or a co-producer is based in the region) or through its story. A director based in an eligible country is not enough on its own.

Do both the director and the producer have to attend?

For the East Doc Forum, yes. Both the director and the producer are expected to attend the entire workshop and pitching session.

For the East Doc Market, the director and the producer attend as well. The participation fee includes two industry passes. Additional team members are welcome, but extra fees will apply for each additional person (prices are sent with the acceptance letter).

Is the fee per person or per project?

The participation fee is per project (two attending team members); the sustainability fee is per attending person (see chapter 11). The sustainability fee is mandatory and is paid in addition to the participation fee.

Do you cover travel?

No. Travel costs are paid by the participants. We ask participants to travel by train or other public transport where possible, especially from neighbouring countries.

Do we need a VAT number?

Not for the application. If your project is selected, companies based in the European Union must provide a valid VAT number before we issue the invoice; you can check it in the EU's VIES system. Companies based outside the European Union do not need one. All fees are stated exclusive of VAT and VAT is charged in accordance with the applicable legislation.

Can I submit materials in another language?

No. The application form and all documents must be in English. Audiovisual materials must be in English or have English subtitles.

Will I be told why my application was not selected?

Yes. Upon request, we can send a brief evaluation (Call Conditions, Article 10).

Are my materials confidential?

Yes. Application materials are made available only to the selection bodies and the people administering the East Doc Platform. Submitting an application does not transfer any rights in your project. If your project is selected, the information you submit through the form is published in the catalogue for industry professionals (Call Conditions, Article 14). Our supporters, including the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), and their auditors may access application records for monitoring and audit purposes.

How long do you keep my application?

If your application is not selected, we delete your materials 12 months after the announcement of the results and keep only the list of applications and the record of the selection, as our supporters' audit rules require. If it is selected, the application and the documentation of your participation are kept for 5 years after the final payment of the related public funding (Call Conditions, Article 13).

I have a question that is not answered here.

Write to us (contact at the end of this document). Answers relevant to other applicants are published anonymously on dokweb.net, so that everyone has the same information.

14. Common mistakes

- **An incomplete application.** If there is missing information in the form, the application may be rejected.
- **The wrong section.** A finished film in the Forum, or a project without a rough cut or finished film in the East Doc Market for Rough Cuts and Finished Films. Check chapter 3.
- **A logline, synopsis or treatment over the limit.** Count characters including spaces in a text editor before putting it in the form. Texts that are over the limit will be cut by the system.
- **Writing about the topic instead of the film.** The strongest applications show the story, the characters and the cinematic approach – and say clearly what the project needs from the East Doc Platform.
- **No English subtitles.** Industry professionals and the committee must be able to follow your trailer or film.
- **A dead or expiring link.** Links must work until the end of the objection period. File-transfer services expire. If a link is password-protected, include the password.
- **Missing or invalid VAT number.** If your project is selected, companies based in the EU must provide a valid VAT number before the invoice is issued. Check it in the VIES system in advance.
- **Submitting in the last hour.** What counts is the time your application is received, not when you started filling it out. Take into consideration that large uploads can take time.

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Accessibility

If you have any accessibility requirements relating to the application process or to participation in the East Doc Platform, get in touch with us. We will find a solution with you.

Supporters

Creative Europe – MEDIA,
Czech Audiovisual Fund
Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic
City of Prague
Audiovisual Producers' Association (APA)