



# 74 Locarno Film Festival 4-14 | 8 | 2021

## OPEN DOORS 2021 RULES & REGULATIONS

Update 13 October 2020

### 1. Preamble

The Locarno Film Festival (LFF) proposes a section titled Open Doors, under its label Locarno Pro, in collaboration with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA).

The organization of the section is guaranteed by the Festival, which consequently also allocates people responsible for the project.

The LFF reserves the right to change the Guidelines from time to time. Please check our website ([www.locarnofestival.ch/opendoors](http://www.locarnofestival.ch/opendoors)) for the latest version.

### 2. Goals

Organized with the collaboration of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, the Open Doors section aims primarily at assisting directors and producers from countries in the South and the East, where independent filmmaking is vulnerable.

For 3 years (2019 – 2021) Open Doors focuses on the following 9 countries: Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and Mongolia.

Every year, following a call for submissions, the Festival selects projects and professionals to take part in its two professional activities taking place during Locarno Film Festival, the Open Doors Hub and the Open Doors Lab.

Up to 8 feature-length projects from the countries in focus will be chosen every year to take part in the Open Doors Hub, a dynamic platform where the project-holders will meet potential European and international partners.

The Open Doors Lab will select 8 promising emerging producers or filmmakers-producers. Participants will benefit from a tailor-made program including group and individual sessions, aiming at better embracing the international market specificities and opportunities, increasing their professional skills and profile, and networking with the international players attending the Festival.



# 74 Locarno Film Festival 4-14 | 8 | 2021

Moreover, in order to introduce the Festival audience to the cinematographic and cultural landscape of the focus region, a number of feature-length and short films will be presented in the curated section Open Doors Screenings (August 4<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021), which is not subject to a call for submissions.

### 3. Dates

The 74<sup>th</sup> Locarno Film Festival will take place from August 4<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The days dedicated to the Open Doors Hub and to the Open Doors Lab will be from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> of August 2021.

The deadline for submissions to the Open Doors Hub and the Open Doors Lab is January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (23:59 CET).

### 4. Entry Conditions

#### 4.1 Open Doors Hub

- a) The director of the project submitted for the selection must be citizen of or originally from one of the eligible 9 countries: Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and Mongolia.
- b) We select feature-length projects with potential for international distribution. Only projects of at least 70 minutes are eligible for the main prize Open Doors Grant.
- c) Projects participating in the selection (feature-length fictions, documentary and animation films) must be submitted at advanced stage of development, in form of script or, if not possible, in form of treatment, and with a complete dossier and production plan (see paragraph 5. for details on the submission dossier), in order to be introduced to the international market in the best possible conditions.
- d) The submission dossier must be presented in English. Good knowledge and practice of the English language for at least one of the attending project representatives is necessary to participate in the Open Doors Hub.
- e) Projects that will be shot in any official or spoken language of the eligible countries are suitable for application to Open Doors 2021.



# 74 Locarno Film Festival 4-14 | 8 | 2021

## 4.2 Open Doors Lab

- a) The applying producer must be a citizen or originally from one of the eligible 9 countries: Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Mongolia.
- b) The Open Doors Lab is open to emerging producers/filmmakers-producers who wish to start working internationally and producing independent film projects.
- c) Producers/filmmakers-producers are requested to apply with a feature-length project in development (early stage is accepted), including a first draft of script or treatment, or a long synopsis. This project will provide the working basis for the participants during the Open Doors Lab.  
The applicant must also provide details on the line-up of project of his/her production company.  
See paragraph 5. for the exhaustive list of requested documentation for submission.
- d) The submission dossier must be presented in English. Knowledge of the English language is necessary to participate in the Open Doors Lab.
- e) Projects that will be shot in any official or spoken language of the eligible countries are suitable for application to the Open Doors Lab 2021.

## 4.3 General conditions (valid for both Hub and Lab programs)

- a) SUBMISSION IS FREE OF CHARGE
- b) Directors without producers and producers without directors are both eligible for submitting projects to the Open Doors Hub and/or Lab.
- c) It is allowed to subscribe to both Hub and Lab with one same project, as long as the requested documentation for both activities is provided (see paragraph 5 for specifications).
- d) A maximum of 2 different projects per applicant can be considered.



# 74 Locarno Film Festival 4-14 | 8 | 2021

## 5. Requested material for application

One submission is completed through two mandatory steps.

1. Fill in the online entry form at <http://opendoorsefo.pardo.ch/>.

This is a compulsory step. If the project is selected, the completed entry form is considered an agreement of participation between the representative of the project and the LFF.

2. The following material in English must be collected in one single PDF file and uploaded following the instructions provided via email **by January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (23:59 CET)**.

For the Open Doors Hub:

- Synopsis (max 2 pages)
- Full script or advanced treatment (min. 10 pages or 15.000 characters)
- Director's Visual Concept (in form of a description)
- Cast, crew and technical details
- Rough cut, first edited version if parts of the film have been shot already
- CV/biography and filmography for the director and the producer(s) (max 2 pages). Please make sure that everyone writes clearly if they are citizens / originally from one of the eligible countries.
- Director's Note in form of presentation letter
- Producer's Intention and Motivation Note in form of a presentation letter (ex: why Open Doors Hub in particular? Co-production and distribution strategy?)
- Production company profile(s) and line up of projects in development (with list of filmmakers)
- Budget top sheet in Euros or USD (i.e. one-page estimated budget with main budget development/production/post-production lines)
- Foreseen financing plan (in Euros or USD) and financing strategy
- Foreseen schedule including development (various script versions, funding applications), production, post-production and distribution stages (which international and national festival premieres? Ideal domestic release date/period)
- If available, financing agreements and/or letters of intent from financing partners
- If available, co-production / cooperation agreement(s)
- Portrait photo of the director and the producer – JPG Format (300 dpi / 1'000 pixels X 1'000 pixels)



# 74 Locarno Film Festival 4-14 | 8 | 2021

- At least 2 previous films by the director subtitled in English (shorts and features are both accepted).
- Accepted formats: previous films can be sent with any file sharing programs, by link if the film is uploaded on any website; if not possible, they can also be sent by regular post (DVD). In any case they must arrive in Locarno by the submission deadline, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- Film links must be active until the end of the Locarno Film Festival, on August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

## For the Open Doors Lab:

- CV/biography and filmography of the producer/filmmaker- producer (please mention your role(s) on each film; also mention clearly if you are citizen / originally from one of the eligible countries)
- Production company profile and line up of completed films and projects in development (shorts and features, fiction, documentary and animation, with mention of filmmakers' names, years of production, festival participations as well as awards if applicable)
- Submit a project (at early stage of development is accepted) at least with a treatment if possible (or with a long synopsis, 3 to 5 pages, with explanations of the dramatic structure including the number of acts in the story, or/and of the character development)
- Any other available project elements should be attached to provide us with the clearest idea of the production, financial and creative aspects of the feature film project (you can take the list of the requested documents for the Open Doors Hub as reference)
- Motivation and Expectation Note of the producer/filmmaker producer (why Open Doors Lab in particular?)
- Portrait photo of the applicant – JPG Format (300 dpi / 1'000 pixels X 1'000 pixels)
- At least 2 previous films produced by the applicant subtitled in English (shorts and features are both accepted).
- Accepted formats: previous films can be sent with any file sharing programs, by link if the film is uploaded on any website; if not possible, they can also be sent by regular post (DVD). In any case they must arrive in Locarno by the submission deadline, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- Film links must be active until the end of the Locarno Film Festival, on August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Projects lacking requested documentation might not be considered for selection.



# 74 Locarno Film Festival 4-14 | 8 | 2021

All requested material necessary for the submission process must be submitted online, following the instruction provided via the Entry Form.

If sent by post, the DVDs must be addressed to:

Locarno Film Festival  
Open Doors  
via Franchino Rusca 1  
CH-6600 Locarno

The LFF will not cover the postal expenses and the material sent will not be returned.

## 6. Delivery deadline

The deadline for submitting applications to the Open Doors Hub and Lab is January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 23:59 Central European Time (UTC +1).

## 7. Invitations

The Locarno Film Festival will take charge of travel (to and from Locarno) and hotel arrangements and expenses (in Locarno), and will provide daily allowances to lunch and dinner for:

- The director and producer of each project selected to participate in the Open Doors Hub (2 persons maximum per project)
- Each producer/filmmaker-producer selected to take part in the Open Doors Lab

Participants are expected to fully attend the activity for which they have been selected (Open Doors Hub or Open Doors Lab), also including the networking events (lunches, meet & greets).

## 8. Official Prizes and Jury

a) For the Open Doors Hub:

At the end of the event, the Open Doors Jury will award the Open Doors Grant to some projects among those of the Open Doors Hub. The Grant may range from CHF



# 74 Locarno Film Festival 4-14 | 8 | 2021

10'000 (about 9'000€) to CHF 50'000 (about 45'000€) funded by the Swiss Fund Visions Sud Est with support from the SDC and the City of Bellinzona.

Only feature-length film projects of at least 70 minutes are eligible for the Open Doors Grant.

Other prizes for the projects-holders of the Open Doors Hub will be announced in spring 2021.

b) For the Open Doors Lab:

Professionals participating in the Open Doors Lab can benefit from in-kind awards; these will be announced early summer 2021.

**9. If a project is selected for the Open Doors Hub and/or Lab, the following is compulsory:**

9.1 Open Doors Hub

a) Before the Festival

The result of the selection must stay strictly confidential until the official announcement by the Locarno Film Festival through its press release early May 2021 (date to be confirmed).

b) Until the end of the Festival

From the confirmation of selection to the end of the Festival (14<sup>th</sup> August 2021) any subscription to another co-production platform must be submitted to the Open Doors team in advance for approval.

c) After the Festival

- Producers, distributors and international sales agents of the selected projects agree to quote in their publicity and advertising the participation of the film project in the Open Doors Hub.
- The mention of the participation in Open Doors must appear on the opening as well as end credits once the film is completed. The mention should appear as follows:



74

# Locarno Film Festival

## 4-14 | 8 | 2021

- i. At the opening credits: either the Open Doors logo or the written mention "With the support of Open Doors – Locarno Film Festival"
- ii. At the end credits: the Locarno Film Festival – Open Doors logo that mentions the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).
- iii. The winning projects of the Open Doors Grant must as well include the logos of Visions Sud Est and the Township of Bellinzona in the end credits.
- iv. The winning project of the CNC Award must as well include the logo of CNC in the end credits.
- v. The winning project of the Arte Kino International Prize must as well include the logo of Arte Kino in the end credits.

The Open Doors logos will be provided directly by the Festival and must not be, in any case, altered without the LFF's approval.

All publications using the Open Doors logo must receive the printing approval from the LFF ([marketing@locarnofestival.ch](mailto:marketing@locarnofestival.ch)).

Logos of CNC, ARTE Kino and Visions sud est will be provided by the respective organisations. For the Township of Bellinzona logo, please refer to LFF.

- Directors and producers with a project participating in Open Doors must regularly inform the Open Doors Team concerning the developments of such project.  
We are especially interested in production status, date of national release, Festival selections (national and international), award nominations and prizes, any details regarding national or international distribution (including deals with sales agents).  
This information is necessary to keep track of the projects selected in Open Doors and to keep our website updated.
- Once the film is completed a screener (possibly an online download, other formats like online links or DVD are accepted) must be sent to Open Doors for archive purposes as well as to the organisation awarding the respective awards (Visions sud est, CNC, ARTE). One copy will be handed to the SDC for internal use only. The DVD will not be given to third parties without the director's or the producer's prior approval.





# 74 Locarno Film Festival 4-14 | 8 | 2021

## 9.2 Open Doors Lab

### a) Before the Festival

The result of the selection must stay strictly confidential until the official announcement by the Locarno Film Festival through its press release by early May (date to be confirmed).

### b) After the end of the Festival

- Producers with a project participating in the Open Doors Lab must regularly inform the Open Doors Team concerning the developments of their projects and careers.  
We are especially interested in: projects line up, date of national release, Festival selections (national and international), award nominations and prizes, any details regarding national or international distribution (including deals with sales agents) attendance of training initiatives and international platforms.  
This information is necessary to keep track record of the participants selected in Open Doors and to keep our website updated.
- Once the working project for the Lab is completed a screener (possibly an online download, other formats like online links or DVD are accepted) must be sent to Open Doors for archive purposes. One copy will be handed to the SDC for internal use only. The film will not be shown to third parties without the producer's prior approval.
- Mention of the participation in the Open Doors Lab is not mandatory and is at the producers' discretion.

## 10. Force majeure and emergency measures

Please note that an eventual cancellation of the 74<sup>th</sup> edition of the Locarno Film Festival by effect of law, decree or regulation issued by local, Cantonal, Federal or international authorities in the context of a situation of force majeure or emergency (among others, but not limited to situations resulting from an epidemic or pandemic, in particular with regard to COVID-19 and related consequences) shall render all contractual obligations of the Locarno Film Festival null and void.



**74**

# **Locarno Film Festival**

**4-14 | 8 | 2021**

Even where no such law, decree or regulation is issued by a competent authority, the Locarno Film Festival may at any time and when required by circumstances beyond its control, for reasons of urgency, of necessity or of safeguard of prevailing public or private interests (in particular with regard but not limited to COVID-19 and related consequences), cancel the 74th edition of the Locarno Film Festival and so automatically rescind with immediate effect any contract or agreement with the participant or participants of its selection or professional programs.

Upon the occurrence of a force majeure or emergency event, the Locarno Film Festival may at any time and when circumstances require it, for reasons of urgency, necessity or of safeguard of prevailing public or private interests amend the formula of the 74<sup>th</sup> edition of the Locarno Film Festival (among others, but not limited to digital alternatives or restricted program). In this eventuality, the Locarno Film Festival undertakes to promptly inform the participant or participants of its selection or professional programs.