



Locarno Film Festival

OPEN DOORS PROJECTS' HUB & PRODUCERS' LAB 2024 REGULATIONS

Update 26.10.23

1. Preamble

The Locarno Film Festival (LFF) proposes a section titled Open Doors 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 Rules & Regulations from time to time. Please check our website (www.locarnofestival.ch/opendoors) for the latest version.

2. Goals and eligible countries

The Open Doors section aims primarily at supporting directors and producers from countries in the South and the East, where independent filmmaking is particularly challenging.

The 2022-2024 cycle is focusing on the Latin America and Caribbean region, championing film projects, talents and producers from the following 22 eligible countries:

- Central America: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua;
- the Caribbean: Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines;
- and South America: Bolivia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela.

3. Professional programs online before and onsite during Locarno Film Festival

Every year, following a call for submissions, Open Doors selects projects and professionals to take part in the Open Doors Projects' Hub and the Open Doors Producers' Lab, two of the three main professional activities taking place online before and onsite during Locarno Film Festival.

Up to 8 feature-length projects from the countries in focus are chosen every year to take part in the Open Doors Projects' Hub: a training and co-production platform where teams of director and producer, after a preparation training, will meet potential European and international partners for their project.



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The Open Doors Producers' Lab is a training workshop, selecting 8 promising emerging producers or filmmakers-producers. Participants will take part in a tailor-made program including group and individual sessions, focusing on the role of the creative producer, providing tools to work within the international film industry.

Both initiatives will offer an on-site program during the Festival dates, preceded by an online preparatory phase over the month of July. In case of a successful application, the participation is mandatory for both phases.

4. Dates

The 77th Locarno Film Festival will take place from August 7th to 17th, 2024.

The Open Doors Projects' Hub and Open Doors Producers' Lab programs will run online from the 19th and the 29th of July 2024 and on site from the 8th to the 13th of August 2024. For selected participants, **participation to both online and onsite program in their full extension is mandatory.**

5. Entry Conditions

5.1 Open Doors Projects' Hub

- a) The director of the project submitted for the selection must be citizen or originally from one of the eligible 22 countries (see point 2. for the full list).
- b) We select feature-length projects of any genre, with potential for international co-production and/or distribution. Only projects of at least 70 minutes are eligible for the main prize "Open Doors Grant".
- c) Applying projects must be submitted with a complete dossier. Incomplete dossiers will not be taken into consideration. See paragraph 7.1 for details on the requested and order of the documents.
- 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 Projects' Hub.
- e) Projects that will be shot in any official or spoken language of the eligible countries are suitable for application to the Open Doors Projects' Hub.



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- f) A film director is eligible to apply with a project and as his/her own producer.

5.2 Open Doors Producers' Lab

- a) The applying producer must be a citizen or originally from one of the eligible 22 countries (see point 2. for the full list).
- b) The Open Doors Producers' Lab is selecting producers active in the region and who wish to build their regional and international network and career as creative producers.
- c) Producers are requested to apply with a feature-length project (any stage is accepted). This project will provide the working basis for the participant during the Open Doors Producers' Lab.
See paragraph 7.2 for the exhaustive list of requested and order of the documentation. Incomplete dossiers will not be taken into consideration.
- d) A director must be attached to the project (can be the same person as the producer).
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- e) The submission dossier must be presented in English. Knowledge of the English language is necessary to participate in the Open Doors Producers' Lab.
- f) Projects that will be shot in any official or spoken language of the eligible countries are suitable for application to the Open Doors Producers' Lab.

5.3 General conditions (valid for both Projects' Hub and Producers' Lab programs)

- a) Submission is free of charge.
- b) It is possible to apply to the Projects' Hub and Producers' Lab at the same time. The applicant can choose to submit the same project to both programs, or two different projects, as long as the requested documentation is provided and the motivation to take part in the programs is clearly stated (see paragraph 7 for specifications).
It is not possible to be selected for both Hub and Lab at the same time.
- c) A maximum of 2 different projects per applicant can be considered.



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6. Application process and deadline

The submission is completed through three mandatory steps:

1. Verify eligibility conditions, the complete list and order of required documentation.
2. Prepare your project documentation. Start now, don't wait the last minute!
3. Send us your project: complete the Online Entry Form at <https://bit.ly/4o6Vd3D> and upload the project documentation.

Online Entry Form available from November 13th, 2023 at 12PM (noon) CET until January 24th, 2023, at 12PM (noon) CET.

7. Requested documentation for application

Please find below the full list and order of requirements to complete your dossier for the Open Doors Projects' Hub and Producers' Lab.

For more details and suggestions on the documents to provide, please consult our resource on the Open Doors ToolBox: "How to Write a Good Film Project Application", available at <https://bit.ly/3Cjglm5> upon free registration (Menu > Development).

Please note that the available resource on the ToolBox is a reference for the content of the dossier, and not for its design and look.

Please note that projects lacking requested documentation may not be considered for selection.

7.1 Requested documents for the Open Doors **Projects' Hub**

Please include the documents **in the following order**:

- Main project's details (title, name of director, name of main producer)
- Technical details for the project (country, running time, aspect ratio, type, color, sound, language, genre – see ToolBox resource for more details)
- Short synopsis (half page)
- Long synopsis (2-3 pages)
- Director's statement (1-2 pages)



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- Visual concept (in form of a description)
- Additional visual elements (moodboard, reference pictures, teaser if any, etc.)
- Producer's statement (1-2 pages)
- Motivation letter: why do you want to participate in the program, what are your needs and expectations?
- Biographies:
 - o Biography / CV, selected filmography and picture of the director(s)
 - o Copy of ID of the director(s)
 - o Biography / CV, selected filmography and picture of the main producer
 - o Copy of ID of the producer
 - o Production company profile, including filmography and line-up
 - o Biography / CV and selected filmography and picture of the co-producer (if any)
 - o Co-production company profile (if any), including filmography and line-up
 - o Cast and crew (if any)

Within each biography, please make sure to specify clearly if the applicants are citizens, resident in, or originally from one of the eligible countries – and what are their activities within the reference country.

- Budget (1-page top sheet, in EUR or USD)
- Financing plan (1 page, in EUR or USD)
- Financing strategy (in written form)
- Timeline for the project (from development to distribution). In this paragraph, please include a tentative plan of possible new collaborations and status of the project foreseen by August 2024.
- Letter of intent, letter of commitment from co-producers, funders, investors (if any)
- Signed agreements of co-production, funding or else (if any)
- Links to at least 2 previous films made by the director (shorts and feature films are both accepted).

Previous work must be subtitled in English.

Links copied in the text shouldn't exceed one line of length (otherwise use link shortener programs such as bitly.com).

Please use Vimeo, Google Drive or another secured platform Instead of YouTube to avoid advertisements.



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Film links and passwords must be active until the end of the Locarno Film Festival, on August 17th, 2024.

- Script or advanced treatment (treatment must be min. 10 pages long)

NB: The documentation must be submitted in English and the dossier will be assessed based on this language.

However, if wished, it is possible to additionally attach the original Spanish or French version of the script, treatment and director's note.

7.2 Requested documents for the Open Doors **Producers' Lab**.

Please include the documents **in the following order**:

- Main project's details (name of the main producer, title, name of the director)
- CV/biography, filmography and picture of the applicant (producer)
Please mention your role(s) on each film; also mention clearly if you are citizen and resident in, or originally from one of the eligible countries and what are your activities within it.
- Copy of ID of the applicant
- Production company profile, including filmography and line-up (please mention your role on each film).
- Motivation letter of the applying producer
What are your goals for your career as producer, how do you see yourself in the local/regional film scene? Why are you applying to Open Doors Producers' Lab in particular? What do you expect from the program? Feel free to add more.

The applicants must include complete documentation on one feature-length project that they are working on (any stage is accepted). The documentation should be as complete as possible and include, in the following order:

- Technical details for the project (country, running time, aspect ratio, type, color, sound, language, genre – see ToolBox resource for more details)
- Short synopsis (half page)
- Long synopsis (2-3 pages)
- Director's statement (1-2 pages)



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- Visual concept (in form of a description)
- Additional visual elements (moodboard, reference pictures, teaser if existent, etc.)
- Producer's statement
- Biographies:
 - o Biography / CV, selected filmography and picture of the director(s)
 - o Copy of ID of the director(s)
 - o Biography / CV, selected filmography and picture of the co-producer (if any)
 - o Co-production company profile (if any), including filmography and line-up
 - o Cast and crew (if any)

Within each biography, please make sure to specify clearly if the applicants are citizens, resident in, or originally from one of the eligible countries – and what are their activities within the reference country.

- Budget (1-page top sheet, in EUR or USD).
- Financing plan (1 page, in EUR or USD).
- Financing strategy
- Timeline for the project (from development to distribution). In this paragraph, please include a tentative plan of possible new collaborations and status of the project foreseen by August 2024.
- Letter of intent, letter of commitment from co-producers, funders, investors (if any)
- Signed agreements of co-production, funding or else (if any)
- Links to 2 previous films of the producer (shorts and feature films are both accepted).
- Links to 2 previous films of the director, if different from the producer (shorts and feature films are both accepted).
- *Previous work must be subtitled in English.*
Links copied in the text shouldn't exceed one line of length (otherwise use link shortener programs like bitly.com).
Please use Vimeo, Google Drive or another secured platform instead of YouTube to avoid advertisements.
Film links and passwords must be active until the end of the Locarno Film Festival, on August 17th, 2024.
- Script or advanced treatment (treatment must be min. 10 pages long)



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NB: The documentation must be submitted in English and the dossier will be assessed based on this language.

However, if wished, it is possible to additionally attach the original Spanish or French version of the script, treatment and director's note.

Please submit all the above documents in one single PDF file.

NB: Producers' Lab applicants that reach the last round of selection will be contacted via e-mail and asked for a 30-minutes interview via Zoom with the Open Doors team, foreseen around mid-March (exact dates to be confirmed).

The interview will be conducted in English.

8. Selected participants: invitations and costs

The Locarno Film Festival will cover expenses for travel (to and from Locarno) and hotel (in Locarno area), and will provide daily allowances to lunch and dinner for:

- The director and main producer of each project selected for the Open Doors Projects' Hub (2 persons maximum per project)
- Each producer selected to take part in the Open Doors Producers' Lab

9. Awards

a) For the Open Doors Projects' Hub:

At the end of the event, the Open Doors Jury members will award the Open Doors Grant to some projects among those of the Open Doors Projects' Hub.

The Grant may range from CHF 5'000 to CHF 30'000 funded by the Swiss Fund visions sud est, with support from the SDC, and by 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 Projects' Hub will be announced before the event.

b) For the Open Doors Producers' Lab:

Professionals participating in the Open Doors Producers' Lab can benefit from several in-kind and/or scholarships awards; these will be announced before the event.



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10. If a project is selected for the Open Doors Projects' Hub or Producers' Lab, the following is compulsory:

10.1 Open Doors Projects' 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 June 2024 (date to be confirmed).

b) Until the end of the Festival

From the confirmation of selection to the end of the Festival (17th August 2024) any subscription or selection 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 Projects' 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:
 - i. At the opening credits: either the Open Doors logo or the written mention "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 include the logo of CNC in the end credits accompanied by the sentence "This film received CNC development grant as part of Open Doors – Locarno Film Festival".
 - 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.



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All publications using the Open Doors logo must receive approval from the Locarno Film Festival (marketing@locarnofestival.ch).

Logos of CNC, ARTE Kino and visions sud est will be provided by the respective organisations. For the logo of the City of Bellinzona, please refer to Locarno Film Festival.

- 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 rights-holder's prior approval.

10.2 Open Doors Producers' 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 June 2024 (date to be confirmed).

b) After the end of the Festival

- Producers with a project participating in the Open Doors Producers' 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.



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This information is necessary to keep track record of the participants selected in Open Doors and to keep our website updated.

- Once the project brought by the participant to the Producers' Lab is completed, the logo of Open Doors must appear in the closing credits.

The Open Doors logos will be provided directly by the Festival and must not be, in any case, altered.

All publications using the Open Doors logo must receive the approval from the Locarno Film Festival (marketing@locarnofestival.ch).

- Once the project participating at the Producers' 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 rights-holder's prior approval.

11. Force majeure and emergency measures

The 77th Locarno Film Festival will take place in Locarno from August 7-17, 2024. An eventual cancellation of the 77th 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 (including, but not limited to, situations resulting from an epidemic or pandemic, in particular with regard to COVID-19 and related consequences and effects) shall result in the cancellation of all and/or the majority of the screenings in theaters and in Piazza Grande and of the edition of the Festival and shall render all contractual obligations of the Locarno Film Festival null and void.

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, necessity or of safeguarding preeminent public or private interests (regarding, but not limited to, COVID-19 and related consequences and effects), cancel the 77th edition of the Locarno Film Festival and thus automatically rescind with immediate effect any contract or agreement with the participants selected.

Should any situation of force majeure or emergency arise, the Locarno Film Festival may at any time and when circumstances require it, for reasons of urgency, necessity or of safeguarding preeminent public or private interests, amend the format of the 77th edition of the Locarno Film Festival (regarding, but not limited to, by digital alternatives or reduction of the program).

In all the eventualities mentioned, the Locarno Film Festival undertakes to promptly inform all the participants of the submitted/invited films.