

Rules and Regulations

Pitching Session: European Short Pitch

An initiative by



in collaboration with



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1 Subject of agreement

European Short Pitch is an annual program aimed at discovering and supporting young European talents in the development and post-production of their short films and fostering coproduction and collaboration between industry professionals from all over Europe. European Short Pitch combines mentoring for short film projects at development or rough-cut stage with a pitching and networking event, the Coproduction Forum.

A short film project in development from Switzerland is automatically selected to participate in ESP in collaboration with Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur. The selection of the funded project is based on the judgement of a jury of experts following a pitch at Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur. The writer/director of the selected project gets a covered participation in the programme, which includes tuition, accommodation and board at the Coproduction Forum. The selected project will be announced at the Industry Award Ceremony of Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur.

2 Selection process

The call for submissions is announced approx. one months before the application deadline.

A panel consisting of representatives from Kurzfilmtage and European Short Pitch reviews the submissions.

Three selected projects will be invited to the festival to pitch in front of a jury of experts on Saturday, 9 November 2024 who will select the winning project. Travel and meal expenses are not covered.

The panel cannot accept previously submitted and rejected projects for re-evaluation. Each project can only be supported once.

The panel's decision is irrevocable and will be communicated to the applicants approx. two weeks prior to the pitching event. Applicants are not entitled to an explanation of the jury's decision.

3 General terms and conditions

The application must be signed by the author/director of the film.

Applications must be submitted in English and contain the following:

- Signed registration form
- Project synopsis (max. 1 page)

- Author(s)'s intention note(s) (max. 1 page)
- Links to previous audiovisual works (max. 2) and/or teaser/visual materials related to the submitted project: we will only accept links to watch online, please do not send us files to download
- Motivations and goals to take part in European Short Pitch (max. 1 page)
- Producer's note (if applicable, max. 1 page)
- CVs of team members (writer, director, producer/production company, if applicable)
- Script in English (no word-count limitation)
- Additional materials (optional): i.e. estimated budget, financing plan, etc.

All promotional materials as well as the film's opening and closing credits must contain the following information about the project's funding:

The logos of ESP and Kurzfilmtage placed before or after the credits listing all public and private institutions that supported the project. The ESP participation is mentioned under «Credits» as follows: Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur, European Short Pitch 2026.

4 Formal criteria

Swiss short film projects from the field fiction, documentary and animation are eligible for the award. School productions (including films by enrolled students, graduation projects of BA or MA programmes) can be submitted. The film's length must not exceed 59 minutes.

Installations, performative works, and didactic or instructional films are not eligible.

European Short Pitch is open to individual authors or creative teams developing international short film projects. It is therefore open to writers, directors, and producers.

Filmmakers and producers who are Swiss citizens or who have been living and working in Switzerland for at least four years can apply.

Applicants confirm their availability for all sessions. The working language of European Short Pitch is English; thus, a good knowledge of English is essential in order to participate.

5 Services

The awarded services to the winning project consist of

- Participation in the full programme of European Short Pitch 2025 consisting of:
 - Development workshop, 12-16 January, 2026 (dates TBC) – online
 - Intermediate sessions (revolving around production, sales, distribution, as well as pitching training), February – May 2026 (dates TBC) – online
 - Coproduction Forum, May/June, 2026 (dates TBC) on site at Leiden Shorts & online
- Tuition costs, accommodation and board will be covered for up to two participants attached to the project. Transport costs will not be covered.

The exact schedule and coordination will be arranged in exchange with European Short Pitch.

6 Applicable law

The present rules and regulations are subject to Swiss law. This provision also applies to all agreements based on these rules and regulations or on accompanying documents. The place of jurisdiction is Zurich, Canton of Zurich.

7 Final provisions

These rules and regulations enter into effect on 15 July 2025.

Any amendments to these rules and regulations must be approved by European Short Pitch.

8 Application deadline

Complete electronic dossier (with "European Short Pitch 2026" in the subject line) must be submitted no later than 2 October 2025, 23:59 to: industry@kurzfilmtage.ch