

2026 MEETINGS ON THE BRIDGE FILM DEVELOPMENT PLATFORM REGULATIONS

1. DATES

The 21st Meetings on the Bridge Film Development Platform will be held from 14 to 16 April 2026 as part of the 45th Istanbul Film Festival, organized by the Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (İKSİV), which will take place from 9 to 19 April 2026.

2. PURPOSE

The Platform's goals are:

- To support the development of the film industry in Türkiye,
- To promote dialogue between Turkish and international filmmakers and encourage the first steps towards co-productions,
- To support filmmakers in producing feature-length fiction and documentary films,
- To help directors and producers bring their projects to international platforms,
- To establish a sustainable communication network among film professionals and ensure the continuity of knowledge exchange.

3. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Feature-length fiction and documentary projects in development are eligible to apply to the platform.
- Projects applying to the platform must submit the documents listed under the 'Application' section in PDF format, in both Turkish and English.
- Projects that have previously applied to the Meetings on the Bridge Film Development Platform are not eligible to apply again. However, if a page outlining major changes to the treatment is included, the project may be reconsidered.
- A production company can apply to different platforms within Meetings on the Bridge with different projects, but cannot submit multiple projects to the same platform. A project may only be submitted to one platform.
- Feature-length fiction and documentary film projects from Türkiye with an estimated duration of 60 minutes or more may participate in the Film Development Platform.
- Projects that have already begun shooting cannot apply to the Film Development Platform. Selected projects cannot start shooting prior to the Meetings on the Bridge closing ceremony on 16 April 2026.
- The director must have previously directed at least one short film, documentary, or feature-length fiction film; a link to the film will be requested.
- Project teams are required to attend all training sessions, presentations, and meetings held within Meetings on the Bridge. If the producer or director does not participate in the Film Development Platform, the selected project cannot qualify for awards.
- Training sessions will be provided by local and international trainers. Project presentations and one-on-one meetings within the platform, attended by a large number of international filmmakers and institutional representatives, will be conducted in English. Therefore, the project's director and/or producer must be proficient in English.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

- After completion, films developed through the Film Development Platform are required to **feature the Meetings on the Bridge logo in their opening and ending credits**. The Meetings on the Bridge logo must be **clearly visible** in the credits.
- Projects receiving awards must feature the Meetings on the Bridge logo, as well as the logos of award sponsors, in both the opening and closing credits.
- The Meetings on the Bridge and award sponsor logos must appear on all printed materials, social media announcements, websites, and promotional videos related to the film.
- Once the film is completed, **a screening link of the final version** must be shared with the Meetings on the Bridge team.
- The Meetings on the Bridge team must be informed about the film's international festival submissions, as well as its national and international premieres, screenings, and release announcements.
- Award-winning films from Meetings on the Bridge are expected to hold their Turkish premiere at the Istanbul Film Festival. If the premiere schedule changes, the Istanbul Film Festival must be notified and consulted first.

5. APPLICATION

- Projects for the Film Development Platform are selected by a Selection Committee consisting of experts, including both local and international directors, producers, screenwriters, distributors, film fund managers, TV channel managers, and representatives of sales companies.
- The Meetings on the Bridge Selection Committee will select up to 10 projects from the applicants to participate in the Film Development Platform.
- The platform aims for diversity in its selection. Therefore, the call is open to projects of various topics and genres, including documentaries, animation, genre cinema (horror, fantasy, etc.), children's films, comedies, and interdisciplinary and hybrid works.
- Priority will be given to projects that have not previously participated in similar platforms or co-production markets.
- Applications must be submitted by the project's producer by 5 December 2025. The projects for the Meetings on the Bridge Film Development Platform will be chosen from the applications.
- Applications must be submitted in both Turkish and English.
- Applications must be submitted online by **5 December 2025 at 18:00**, at <https://projects-iksv.festicine.pro/en/mob>

Required Documents for Application

Please upload documents in both Turkish and English in PDF format.

- Logline (max 270 characters including spaces)
- Synopsis (max. 1800 characters including spaces)
- Treatment (min. 7, max. 15 pages)
- Director's statement (max. 1800 characters including spaces)
- Producer's statement (max. 1800 characters including spaces)
- Audience targets and impact
- Biographies, filmographies, and photos of the director, screenwriter, and producer (max. 750 characters each, including spaces)
- Financing plan (TL and EUR)

- Financing strategy
- At least one previous film by the director, with English subtitles (online screening link)
- Moodboard (Upload a visual moodboard illustrating the project's tone, atmosphere, and artistic direction)
- Moodreel (Upload a short promotional video of up to 3 minutes that reflects the project's tone, atmosphere, and visual world)

6. PROGRAMME

- Directors, producers, and screenwriters of selected projects will participate in preparatory sessions with international trainers and experts. The schedule will be shared with selected projects, and the director, producer, and screenwriter presenting the project are required to participate. The working language will be Turkish or English, depending on the trainer, and no translation will be provided.
- During the three-day platform at the festival, project owners will present their projects to international producers, distributors, festival, and fund representatives, broadcasters, market and platform managers and Film Development Platform juries, followed by one-on-one meetings with participants.
- Awarded projects will be announced at the closing ceremony on 16 April 2026.

7. SCHEDULE

The tentative schedule for the Meetings on the Bridge Film Development Platform is as follows:

4 November 2025: Opening of Film Development Platform Applications

5 December 2025: Film Development Platform Application Deadline

14-15-16 April 2026: Meetings on the Bridge Film Development Platform

16 April 2026: Film Development Platform Awards Ceremony

The schedule for the Film Development Platform training programmes and awards to be presented will be announced later.

Istanbul Film Festival – Meetings on the Bridge reserves the right to make changes to the programme and these regulations.

By applying, directors and producers accept the terms of the regulations.

For announcements, please visit:

<https://film.iksv.org/en/meetings-on-the-bridge>

https://www.instagram.com/kopru_bridge/

<https://x.com/koprudebulusma>

<https://www.facebook.com/koprudebulusmalar>

For any questions, please contact: onthebridge@iksv.org