

FAQ

EFM Doc Series Pitch — Submissions for Documentary Series Projects

Key information for production companies submitting to the EFM Doc Series Pitch.

Submission window: **August 18 – October 1, 2026.**



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General Requirements

Who can apply?

Projects can only be submitted by production companies, not by individuals or sales companies. It is not possible to apply without a producer on board. The call is open to brand-new documentary series projects across all subjects and IPs that have not previously been presented at an industry event, festival or market.

When and how can a production company apply?

Our project submission period is between mid-August and October 1st, 2026. During this time, the link to the respective online application forms is active on our website. You are invited to submit your project if it complies with our requirements and if you can provide the required materials on time.

Is co-production experience required?

It is recommended that the producer, the production company or the co-production company has completed at least one international co-production before submitting. Minority co-productions also count, as do co-produced feature-length documentaries.

Would we still be eligible to apply if this is our first international co-production?

You cannot apply for the EFM Doc Series Pitch selection if neither the producer nor co-producers have any international co-production experience. Please check if you may be eligible to apply for the Talent Project Market.

What about shooting timelines?

As a rule of thumb, you should allow at least around six months (after the EFM Doc Series Pitch in February) for your newly-found co-producers to acquire support from their national funds, before the project can go into production. Please consider thoroughly if your production schedule allows for this before applying.

We already did a week of shooting — can we still apply?

Projects which have already started shooting cannot apply IF the project has already been presented at another industry event, festival or market internationally. The industry professionals attending the EFM Doc Series Pitch anticipate solely brand-new projects.

How many projects can we submit?

You can submit up to two projects, but only one project per company can be selected. We are looking for well-developed projects with a solid structure that are ready to be presented at an international level. If you submit more than one project, please clearly indicate the status of each project's financing, development and the foreseen production timeline.

What are the additional costs if a project gets selected?

The EFM Doc Series Pitch cannot cover any travel or accommodation costs. If your project is selected, we will provide the project representative(s) with one (or maximum two) complementary market badges, as these are required to access the EFM market's online services and on-site locations.

Required Materials

Please make sure to send us all required material in the requested formats. Without these materials, we cannot assess the projects on an equal basis.

When should the script or bible be available?

We want to make sure that the selected projects have a viable script and/or bible at hand at the time of the market, so you can then send it to your meeting partners directly.

Can a project be submitted without a treatment?

No. We need a max 5-page treatment. A well-written treatment is indispensable for our selection process. Please submit a prose text which details the entire story from the beginning and including the end. The main topic or characters, the tone and rhythm of the action should come across in an engagingly written text. Comments on your intent, step outlines, director's notes and storyboards are not part of this text.

Our treatment is 20 pages long. Is it possible to apply with that one?

Please shorten the treatment to approx. 5 pages in a reader-friendly format. Do not reformat to save pages — it's not an advantage if you are making it hard for us to read your treatment.

Our treatment is two pages long. Is it possible to apply with that one?

In your own interest, no. Please send us a longer treatment to give us a more detailed idea of your project (an exposé of 5 pages in a reader-friendly format).

Which information should the financing plan contain?

Please upload a detailed financing plan in tabular form (Excel), calculated in Euros, stating: the names of partners/ companies attached (sorted by country) and the type of finance they are providing (e.g. producer's investment / presale / development support / production support / in-kind investment, etc.). Use an extra column to indicate clearly which amounts are confirmed / applied for / in negotiations / to be applied, and the timeline when answers are expected.

What kind of documents can be submitted via the "Additional uploads" section?

If you have further documents relevant to the assessment of your project — for example a sustainability concept, marketing concept, project dossier, or LOIs — please upload them in the "Additional uploads" section. Feel free to merge several documents into one single PDF.

Can the documents be submitted in any other language than English?

No. All materials need to be submitted in English.