

LOW BUDGET AND DEBUTS FUNDING IN EUROPE

CYPRUS

Due to the crucial economic crisis that Cyprus is currently going through, there is the risk of the National Film Institute from 2013 - 2016 not to be able to support any low-budget films or debuts. There is a substantial cut of our Cinema Fund which will mean no schemes for development or for scriptwriting or for production. As a result, Cyprus will be highly dependent on the MEDIA Programme or will enter a time of obscurity in terms of their Cinema production.

CZECH REPUBLIC

There's no special kind of support for debuts or low-budget projects. State Fund for the Cinematography may grant in exceptional cases support to these projects in the amount of 70% instead of the usual 50%.

DENMARK

The Danish Film Institute (DFI) is the government agency responsible for supporting and encouraging film and cinema culture and for conserving these in the national interest. DFI operations extend from participation in the development and production of feature films, short and documentary films, over distribution and marketing, to managing the national film archive and the cinematheque. There are two different support schemes for low budget and/or debut films at the DFI.

1) NEW DANISH SCREEN (TALENT DEVELOPMENT)

Established in 2003, New Danish Screen is a talent development subsidy scheme providing support for fiction and documentary films. New Danish Screen is founded on a partnership between the Danish Broadcasting Corporation DR, TV2 and the Danish Film Institute (DFI), and abides by the current Film Policy Accord. Funds of roughly 15 million euros have been allocated to the scheme over the Accord term 2011-2014.

Through this support scheme new generations of filmmakers are given the opportunity to push their limits and create new experiences for cinema and TV audiences. New Danish Screen aims at utilising the energies and directions of talented creators, rather than guide them in well-defined directions.

New Danish Screen is aimed at new talents working on the professional level as well as less experienced filmmakers. What counts is enabling manifested talents to develop, test out new ideas or change course from their past productions.

Email: nikoliner@dfi.dk

Web: <http://www.dfi.dk/Service/English/Funding/New-Danish-Screen.aspx>

2) THE FILM WORKSHOP

The Film Workshop is a unit under The Danish Film Institute. The Film Workshop's goal is to promote professional and experimental film art and talent development.

The Film Workshop supports the development and production of projects by mainly young directors. The support is given as knowhow – in the form of equipment and guidance. The Film Workshop also initiates and seeks out experimental projects and organizes workshops for the film industry. Around 50 productions in all genres are supported each year. The support is up to 2600 euro per project and gives access to AV equipment and editing facilities

The Film Workshop is located at the Danish Film Institute's main address in central Copenhagen.

The Film Workshop

Tel: +45 3374 3480

Email: filmworkshop@dfi.dk

Web: www.filmworkshop.dk

ENGLAND

British Film Institute

The BFI Film Fund now has a strand which selects features from first-time directors (and which are budgeted under £2,000,000).

<http://www.bfi.org.uk/film-industry/funding-first-time-directors>

Microwave

http://microwave.filmlondon.org.uk/get_the_funding/microwave

Microwave is Film London's micro-budget feature film-making scheme, challenging film-makers to shoot a full length feature film for up to £120,000 including cash and in-kind support. In partnership with BBC Films and supported by Skillset, the UK Film Council and the Mayor of London, this unique training-through-production scheme offers fledgling talent an avenue into feature production.

iFeatures2

<http://ifeatures2.com/about.html>

Supports the development of 16 projects and the production of 3 films on budgets of £350,000. Having begun life in 2009 as an initiative focused on Bristol, they have now widening the net to a search for stories that reflect England.

Creative England

<http://www.creativeengland.co.uk/index.php/portfolio/funding/>

New funds to support talent development, production and business growth will be launched in Autumn 2013.

In **Northern Ireland** there is also:

Northern Ireland Screen

<http://www.northernirelandscreen.co.uk/sections/23/short-films.aspx>

The Short Film Fund is administered through two awards: New Entrants and Emerging Filmmakers.

FINLAND

In Finnish Film Foundation there is no specific fund for low-budget films or debuts.

FLANDERS

There is a low budget bonus at the Flanders Audiovisual Fund, from which producers of low budget films can receive an extra fee (parallel to the first profits of the film).

Website in Dutch - <http://www.vaf.be/steunaanvragen/low-budget-bonus/>.

FRANCE

No financial support exists in France for the low-budget productions neither the debuts from national Film Institute. There are some private investors or foundations which help the debuts yet not for low-budget productions.

GERMANY

National Film Fund

<http://www.ffa.de/>

None of the funding is especially made for low-budget or debuts but they are not excluded. The FFA can grant project funding for the production of a film as a conditionally repayable, interest-free loan if the producer's application makes it likely - on the basis of the screenplay, budget, the financing plan, the cast and crew lists and, if applicable, the distribution contracts - that the film looks set to improve the quality and profitability of German cinema. A grant committee consisting of twelve members decides on the applications. As a rule, the project funding can amount to some eight to ten percent of the production costs, respectively of the German financing share - in specific cases up to € 1m in. Grants of up to € 10,000 can be allocated to the production of film treatments and for the preliminary stage of scripts for full-length feature films; € 30,000 can be granted for the development of screenplays, in exceptional cases up to € 50,000. This funding is decided by a sub-committee consisting of five members. The maximum possible grant for further development of a screenplay is € 30,000. This funding is decided by the awarding committee.

BKM

National Film Fund

http://www.bundesregierung.de/Webs/Breg/DE/Bundesregierung/BeauftragterfuerKulturundMedien/medien/filmfoerderung/_node.html

The BKM (Bundesministerium für Kultur und Medien) is providing development and production funding up to 250.000 Euros for Low-Budget and Debuts. The funding is not especially made for low-budget or debuts but they are not excluded.

Filmförderung Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein

Regional film Fund
<http://www.ffhsh.de>

There is a special Committee for productions under 800.000 Euros that is taking into account especially documentaries, smaller productions, low-budget projects etc. The Filmwerkstatt Kiel that is a regional office of the FFHSH is supporting low-budget projects especially development funding and equipment.

Film- und Medienstiftung NRW
(Düsseldorf)
Regional film fund
www.filmstiftung.de

An annual budget of 1.5 mio Euros is available for low-budget productions amounting to max.1 mio. Euros from the region of NRW (North Rhine-Westphalia). A grant of max. 100.000 Euro per project is available for documentaries, low-budget projects, short films etc. In addition, production companies from outside NRW can apply for an interest free loan (max. 70% of overall costs) for productions with a budget of max. 750.000 Euros.

Nordmedia
(Hannover)
Regional film fund
<http://www.nordmedia.de>

There is no specific funding for Low-Budget or Debut Productions but it is possible to apply for the "regular" funding schemes for script development, project development and production. Script development: up to a maximum of 25 000 Euros. Scriptwriter remuneration is granted up to a maximum of 12 000 Euros for a period of six months. Project development: up to 80% of the calculated costs of the preproduction (max. 100 000 Euros): options on rights, dramaturgical consultation, (location-) research, casting, fundraising etc. Production: up to 50% of the budget.

Hessische Filmförderung
(Frankfurt/Main)
<http://www.hessischefilmfoerderung.De/>

No explicit funding system for Low Budget or Debuts but not excluded in the funding schemes.

Mfg Filmförderung Baden-Württemberg
(Stuttgart)
<http://www.mfg.de/>

No explicit funding system for Low Budget but not excluded in the funding schemes.

Funding Schemes for young filmmakers in the region: „Young Documentary“:
The funding program „Young Documentary“ ,established 1998, is a cooperation of Film Academy Ludwigsburg, broadcaster SWR and funding body MFG for diplomands and graduates of the film academy.

„Debut im Dritten (debut in the 3rd programs)“:
„Fifty-Fifty“ is another special funding program that has been created by MFG together with SWR and the 2nd German tv channel ZDF and their beginner's slot "Das kleine Fernsehspiel". The program provides new funding means for debut projects.

FFF Bayern
(München)
Regional film Fund
<http://www.fffbayern.de/en/funding/upand-coming-film-makers/>

There is no specific funding for Low-Budget projects but they can apply to the development, the production and the screenplay funding schemes.

Funding for “Up and coming film makers”

An annual total of EUR 1.6 million is available for up and coming film makers in the form of production support, which as a rule is awarded as a grant and not in the form of a loan. Talented young filmmakers, who did not study at a film academy or university, can also receive financial support in the category “other” up-and-coming support. The filmmaker must have completed schooling or vocational training and have gained professional experience in the film industry. Filmmakers who intend to apply to a film academy are not eligible for support. Feature and short films may receive funding, however in the case of short films, the amount applied for may not exceed 25,000 €; in the case of feature films the amount applied for may not exceed 30,000 €.

Medienboard Berlin- Brandenburg
Regional Film Fund
<http://www.medienboard.de/>

Funding of experimental low budget films

For production companies and filmmakers out of the region and film with a budget of not more than 100.000 € production budget. Once a year, grant of maximum 10.000€ for short films, up to 25.000 € for middle length films and up to 40.000 € for long films.

Debut Funding for directors, writers or newcomer companies:

1st – 3rd film of an upcoming writer / director generally based in the region. Graduation films by directors /writers studying at the film universities DFFB (Berlin) or HFF (Potsdam). Maximum of 200.000 € per project, conditionally repayable loan.

MDM
Regional Film Fund
<http://www.mdmonline.de/>

There is no explicit funding scheme for debut or low budget films, but it’s possible to get funding for debut projects by directors/writers based in the region. In 2012 the MDM invested 2,8 Mio € in the production and 75.000 € in script development of debut films.

ICELAND

In Iceland there is no support scheme run by the Icelandic Film Centre dedicated for low budget films.

ITALY

There aren't any regular national support schemes for low-budget productions in Italy.

This year the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Youth Department) launched a call for projects "In Contatto" to support the youth creativity for the production of low budget audiovisual works. They give 3.000 euros to 10 selected projects.

<http://incontatto.cineama.it>

Last year the 'Biennale di Venezia' launched the project "The Biennale College-Cinema" organized in partnership with Gucci this year at its second edition. It's a higher education workshop for the development and production of micro-budget full-length feature films for emerging directors and producers from all over the world. It is open to teams formed by directors at their debut or second film, and producers who have completed at least 3 audiovisual products distributed and/or presented at festivals. The 2013/14 edition will select 12 projects that will be announced during the 70th Venice International Film Festival in September. The 3 finalist projects, announced after an initial workshop to be held in Venice, will then be funded with a contribution of 150,000 euro each, and the 3 feature-length films will be presented at the 71st Venice Film Festival 2014. The call for participation of the second edition, which has been online since May 8th, will close on July 10th 2013.

<http://www.labiennale.org/en/cinema/collegecinema/>

LATVIA

Due to the severe cut in financing in 2009 Latvia can finance 1 – 2 film productions per year and normally the film can be financed in 2 years (e.g. one year they get support for shooting and the next year for post-production, however, once the production agreement is signed, the financing for post-production is included in the financing plan and guaranteed.).

Development funding options:

Separate scheme for co-financing of film projects supported by EU funds – it is a competition not an automatic support but still it gives much more chances for the projects to receive financing than 'ordinary' competition. It motivates producers even more to apply to MEDIA.

Every other year there's script development support being granted to 4-5 scripts (the competition decision is taken based on the script) and then the script is developed together with a script consultant (the condition is that you have to have a script consultant on board);

Every other year there's also development support granted, mainly for fiction and animation projects.

MALTA

The Malta Film Fund (grants for development and production) inevitably addresses low budget and debut films because the indigenous industry in Malta is in its infancy. The financial incentives for films filmed in Malta address 'low budget' films and 'difficult' films. In the Guidelines for certification of Audiovisual Productions (Clause 5.3.2. and 5.3.3) these are defined as follows:

A difficult film means one which would have little if any prospect of commercial success because of its

experimental nature or because it represents a high level of creative risk.

A low budget film means a feature film with a total production budget of not more than €100,000 (or foreign currency equivalent).

Malta Film Fund

<http://www.mfc.com.mt/page.asp?p=21541&l=1>

Financial Incentives

<http://www.mfc.com.mt/page.asp?p=14253&l=1>

THE NETHERLANDS

In Holland the Dutch Film Fund has the following support schemes for debuts/low-budget films:

New Screen NL. Budget 4,1 million euro for 2013.

Support for:

-Development feature film (debut & low-budget) and development via cooperation projects:

<http://www.filmfonds.nl/aanvragen-filmproductie/new-screen-nl/ontwikkeling>

-Production feature film (debut & low-budget), production film experiment, documentaire Wild Card (for students graduating with a documentary) and production cooperation projects (àvarious schemes, called "De oversteek", "One Night Stand", "Kort!", "De Verbeelding" and "Ultrakort")

<http://www.filmfonds.nl/aanvragen-filmproductie/new-screen-nl/realisering>

PORTUGAL

There's a special kind of support for debuts, but none for low-budget projects.

SCOTLAND

Creative Scotland have a low budget initiative called Lo-Fi - operated by Screen Academy Scotland in Edinburgh. Closed now but potentially re-opening.

<http://screenacademyscotland.ac.uk/lo-fi>

Creative Scotland deal with first time feature talent through our usual funds - development and production.

<http://www.creativescotland.com/funding/film-and-television>

Creative Scotland also have our two talent development programmes - Bridging The Gap, BTG+ and Digicult.

<http://www.scottishdocinstitute.com/apply/bridging-the-gap/>

SLOVAKIA

Slovak Audiovisual Fund supports debuts within all schemes (Development, Production). In 2012, there was a special scheme „Minimal“ for projects with costs up to 150 000.- EUR. This scheme is not open at the moment.

SLOVENIA

Slovenian Film Centre, a public agency:

FIRST FEATURE FILMS

Slovenian Film Centre supports first feature films with a special yearly public call that has somewhat adapted criteria for evaluation compared to regular production public call. An adapted points threshold is applied for first feature films where the emphasis is more on the script and less on references of the director and producer.

The maximum amount of financial support that the first feature film can be granted is determined by each public call and on the last one the co-financing sum was set to 350.000 €. At the last public call the whole agency's budget intended to feature film debuts support was 500.000€.

LOW BUDGET PRODUCTION

As for low budget productions: low budget projects can apply on Slovenian Film Centre's regular public call for production that is published (usually) once per year. Agency can co-finance the project normally up to 50%, but there are few exceptions, one of them being low budget projects – they can be financially supported by the Slovenian Film Centre up to 80% of their total budget.

SPAIN&CATALONIA

There's no special kind of support for debuts or low-budget projects.

SWITZERLAND

There is no special national support scheme for debuts or low-budget productions.

The national film funding law however makes special mention of newcomer's films (newcomer is a person who has collaborated at no more than 2 long films).

Since 2012 film students are allowed to apply for national film funding if they have a proper producer attached. As a consequence their applications increased.

Projects submitted by newcomers or involving newcomers « may be treated with preference » during the selection process.

An augmentation of newcomer's projects is mentioned as one of the goals of the law and newcomer's projects are specially mentioned in the publication of the funding decisions.

WALES

Cinematic was just launched by BFI, S4C, BBC, Film Agency Wales and Soda Pictures. This will support three films with budgets around 300k.

Additionally, even without a specific funding strand, they supported a number of films made for less than 500k, including projects with iFeatures (In The Dark Half, circa 300K) and Microwave (The British Guide To Showing Off, circa 120k).