

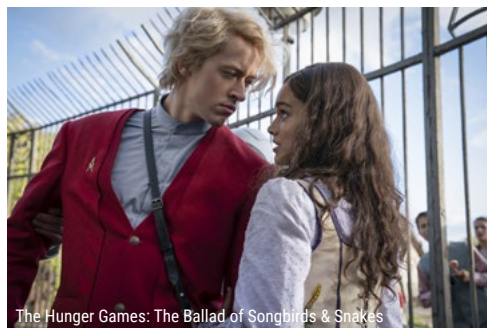


Federal Government Commissioner  
for Culture and the Media

**GERMAN FEDERAL  
FILM FUND  
DFFF**

**GERMAN MOTION  
PICTURE FUND  
GMPF**

AT A GLANCE  
**2023**



The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes



From Hilde, with Love



The Promised Land



Dear Child



A Whole Life



## A MESSAGE OF WELCOME


**Minister of State Claudia Roth**

We can look back on 2023 as a successful year not only for German cinema, but also for film funding. As in previous years, the German Federal Film Fund (DFFF) and the German Motion Picture Fund (GMPF) contributed to successful productions which were enthusiastically received by film critics and audiences alike. I am especially delighted that Ilker Çatak's drama *The Teachers' Lounge*, which received a DFFF I grant, did so well at the German Film Awards. And I'm crossing all my fingers that it wins the Oscar® for Best International Feature Film!

The number and quality of the productions funded clearly shows that, when it comes to making films, Germany and its talents are in great demand. I believe it is very important to enhance the conditions for making films in Germany from year to year, and to make federal funding for our film industry even more internationally competitive. Our reform of federal film funding is advancing apace, and we have also developed a very concrete proposal for a new funding model to promote Germany as a good place to make films. We are working to put this model in place soon. I am confident that film producers in this country and abroad will continue to find Germany's creative talents, highly skilled workforce, first-class production conditions, excellent infrastructure and fantastic locations irresistible – not least because of the attractive funding opportunities. And I want to make sure that we continue to offer the best possible conditions for cinema and film-makers in the coming years as well.



Claudia Roth, Member of the German Bundestag  
Minister of State for Culture and the Media



# FUNDING IN 2023

**In 2023, a total of 121 national and international theatrical film productions and high-end series received grants from the German Federal Film Fund (DFFF) and the German Motion Picture Fund (GMPF). Total federal funding of €121.5 million generated more than €645 million in follow-on investment in Germany, creating significant economic effects.**

**In 2023, the DFFF I scheme provided more than €44.5 million in funding for a total of 86 films for theatrical release, including 55 feature films, 26 documentaries and five animated films.**

This number includes German productions such as September 5, directed by Tim Fehlbaum, about the terrorist attack at the 1972 Olympics in Munich; Constanze Klaue's Punching the World, based on the novel Mit der Faust in die Welt schlagen and shot in Saxony, Berlin and Brandenburg; and the third film in the successful children's series The School of Magical Animals, which received funding of €2.9 million, the largest DFFF I grant awarded in 2023. Documentary films that received funding included a portrait of the U.S. writer Siri Hustvedt, and one of the grant recipients in the category Animation was the elaborately produced family drama Heidi – Rettung der Luchse. Numerous international co-productions also received funding, including Julia von Heinz's tragicomedy Treasure, which will celebrate its world premiere at the 74th Berlinale; and Nikolaj Arcel's historical drama The Promised Land, with Mads Mikkelsen in the leading role, which had its world premiere at the 80th Venice International Film Festival.

**In 2023, the DFFF II provided funding for 13 international high-budget projects, more than double the number funded in 2022.**

Grant recipients included a sequel to the 1993 action film Cliffhanger, starring Sylvester Stallone, which was largely filmed in Bavaria; and the independent production Mother Mary, starring Academy Award winner Anne Hathaway and filmed in North Rhine-Westphalia. The demand for funding for VFX and animation work on

international blockbusters was especially strong: over the course of the year, eight segments were produced in German visual effects studios with DFFF II funding, including the sequels Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom and The Marvels.

DFFF I and DFFF II funding generated follow-on investment by national and international production companies of some €380 million in Germany's film industry, five times the amount of the government's DFFF grants.

**In 2023, the GMPF funding scheme awarded grants to 22 new high-quality and internationally marketable high-end series.**

Among the projects funded is the series Nine Perfect Strangers, starring Nicole Kidman, for Amazon Prime, which received the largest grant of €10 million, and the second season of the German Netflix series The Empress; and the Paramount+ series Zeit Verbrechen featuring fictionalised criminal cases from the podcast of the same name. Two documentary series received funding: the historical docudrama A World Divided, produced by the SWR public television broadcaster, and the Amazon Prime series JMX, about a petty criminal in Hamburg who gets caught up in the 1990s drug war.

GMPF funding led to follow-on investment of some €266.5 million, or six times the amount approved in grants, which received funding of €2.9 million, the largest DFFF I grant awarded in 2023.

# DFFF I

in figures\*

2023	Number	Total production costs	German production costs	Grant	Grant incl. additional appropriations**
Grants approved	86	€315,142,058	€242,195,420	€44,483,458	€44,536,990
Additional pandemic-related costs	4	€974,811	€308,705	€53,532	
International co-productions	33	€161,207,790	€98,665,869	€18,884,159	€18,884,159
German productions	53	€153,934,267	€143,529,551	€25,599,299	€25,652,831
Feature films	55	€251,432,882	€196,373,514	€35,416,615	€35,448,545
Documentary films	26	€14,867,817	€12,727,957	€2,084,586	€2,092,009
Animated films	5	€48,841,358	€33,093,949	€6,982,258	€6,996,436

\* Sums may not add up exactly due to rounding.

\*\* Grant incl. additional pandemic-related costs

## A funding year under exceptional conditions

Although the number of applications remained about the same as in the previous year, production companies needed more time to finance their films. Compounding the problem, months-long strikes by writers and actors in the U.S. film industry had impacts extending all the way to Germany. The difficult economic conditions in this funding year meant that only 86 projects were approved – 21 fewer than in 2022. This reduction affected German productions the most. Four projects benefited from additional funding to cover costs related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Strong demand for international co-productions continued; more animated films funded

More than one-third of funding went to 33 international co-productions. The number of animated film projects receiving funding increased to five, more than doubling the amount of follow-on investment in this area

# DFFF II

in figures

2023	Number	Total production costs, film segment	German production costs, film segment	Grant
Grants approved	13	€166,328,540	€137,306,628	€32,188,433

## More than €137m spent on film production in Germany

The number of grants approved in 2023 was more than double the number of the previous year. Total follow-on investment in the production of film projects increased by €20 million compared to 2022, to a total of €137.3 million.

compared to the previous year.

## Premieres at major film festivals

Many DFFF I-funded films were represented at international festivals and award ceremonies: Christian Petzold's *Afire*, Angela Schanelec's *Music* and Christoph Hochhäusler's *Till the End of the Night* were shown in competition at the 73rd Berlin International Film Festival, the Berlinale, where all three were awarded a Silver Bear. The *Teachers' Lounge*, a drama by Ilker Çatak, had its world premiere at the Berlinale in the section Panorama. At the German Film Awards, it won the Film Award in Gold for Outstanding Feature Film as well as four other prizes, and it has been nominated for an Oscar® in the category Best International Feature Film. Wim Wenders' 3D documentary film *Anselm* celebrated its world premiere in Cannes, and the historical adventure *The Promised Land* was invited to compete at the Venice International Film Festival. The latter film, a Danish–German–Swedish co-production, went on to win three European Film Awards.

# GMPF

in figures\*

2023	Number	Total production costs	German production costs	Grant	Grant incl. additional appropriations**
Grants approved	22	€369,514,554	€266,448,835	€44,824,929	€44,824,929
International co-productions	7	€184,984,837	€110,996,944	€17,936,475	
German productions	15	€184,529,716	€155,451,891	€26,888,454	
Series	22	€369,514,554	€266,448,835	€44,824,929	
of which documentary series	2	€11,279,283	€7,407,633	€1,182,380	

\* Sums may not add up exactly due to rounding.

\*\* Grant incl. additional pandemic-related costs

## Fewer projects, more German series

A saturated market for series, strikes in Hollywood and the retreat of some streaming services all had a major impact on the German Motion Picture Fund (GMPF) in 2023: the number of GMPF-funded projects fell by nearly half compared to the previous year. Out of the 22 high-quality, internationally marketable high-end series, including two documentary series, that received funding, only seven were international productions.

2016 – 2023	Number	Total production costs	German production costs	Grant	Grant incl. additional appropriations**
Grants approved	134	€2,344,271,874	€1,690,469,793	€272,582,918	€273,164,069
Additional pandemic-related costs	3	€3,872,112	€4,592,398	€581,151	
International co-productions	36	€1,017,077,084	€550,540,442	€80,091,334	
German productions	98	€1,327,194,790	€1,139,929,351	€192,491,583	
Series	131	€2,168,984,163	€1,583,931,302	€266,582,918	
of which documentary series	8	€27,152,667	€21,938,185	€3,564,214	
Feature films	3	€175,287,710	€106,538,491	€6,000,000	

\* Sums may not add up exactly due to rounding.

\*\* Grant incl. additional pandemic-related costs

## Eight years of funding, 134 high-end series and feature films

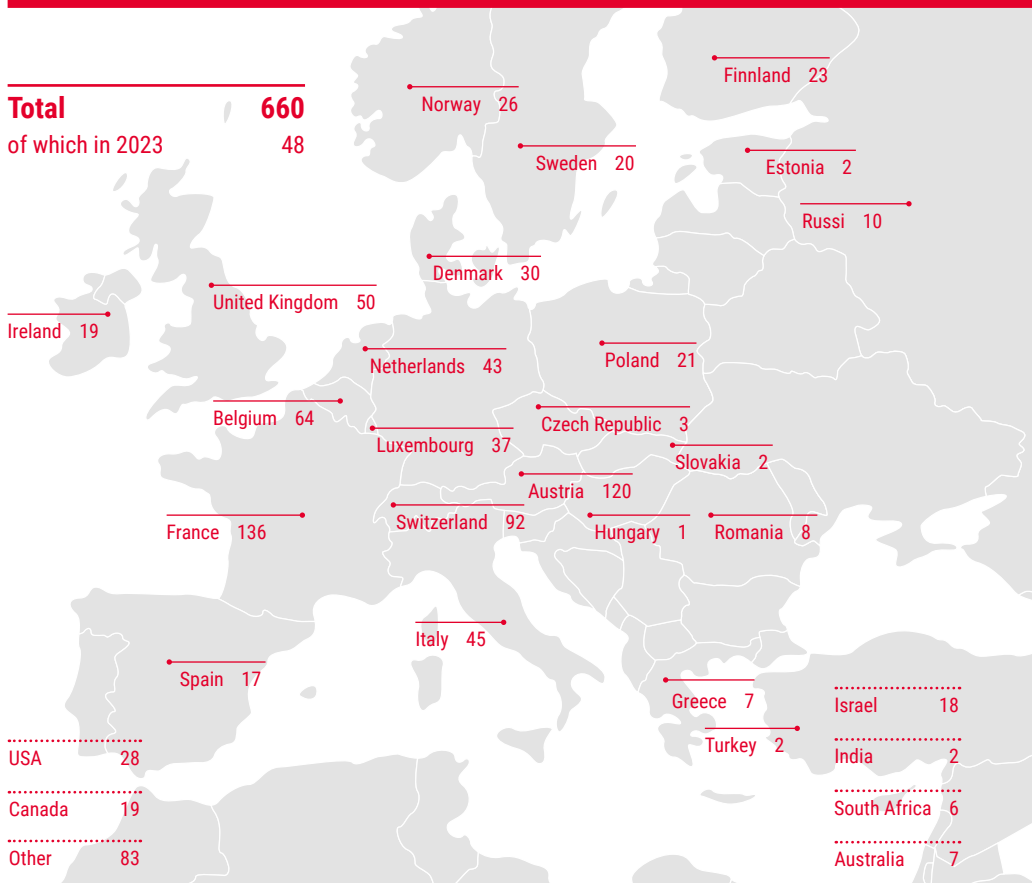
Over the past eight years, the GMPF has provided total funding of €273 million for 134 productions, whose German production costs totalling €1.7 billion kept studios and film production in Germany running at full capacity. During that time, German and international production companies invested six times the amount they received in government grants in Germany. Babylon Berlin (seasons 1–4), Dark, The Empress (seasons 1–2), and many other nationally and internationally successful series, such as The Queen's Gambit, One Trillion Dollars and Dear Child could not have been made in Germany without GMPF funding.

# INTERNATIONAL CO-PRODUCTIONS

DFFF I 2007 – 2023

**Total 660**

of which in 2023 48



## DFFF I UND DFFF II

Overview 2007 – 2023



### PRODUCTIONS

1,809



### FUNDING DISBURSED

€1.12 BILLION



### INVESTMENT IN FILM PRODUCTION IN GERMANY

€6.35 BILLION

In the 17 years since it was established, the DFFF scheme has provided total funding of €1.12 billion to 1,809 film productions. Projects funded with DFFF I support comprised 1,149 German and 660 international co-productions. Since its introduction in 2017, the DFFF II funding scheme has approved €193.7 million for 38 productions. This funding from the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM) has led to follow-on investment amounting to some €6.35 billion in Germany alone. In 2023, German producers teamed up most often with Swiss (7), Austrian (6) and French (5) partners on co-productions.

# HOW TO APPLY

## At a glance

The DFFF and the GMPF are automatic funding schemes in which funding is awarded in the form of a grant. Applications may be submitted at any time, as long as they are received at least six weeks before shooting begins. Funding may be granted if the application documents are complete, the criteria set down in the test of cultural characteristics are fulfilled, and 75% of the film's financing has been secured. If these requirements are met, the application will be accepted on the condition that sufficient funds are available.



## DFFF I

Producers of feature, documentary and animated films are eligible to apply.

### Grants:

Grants may be worth up to 20% of approved German production costs, or up to 25% if the German production costs exceed € 8 million. If the project has been granted funding from the German Federal Film Board (FFA) or from the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM), then the grant increases to 25% or 30% respectively. Maximum funding is € 4 million.

### Eligibility requirements:

- Total production costs for feature films of at least € 1 million, for documentary films € 200,000 and for animated films € 2 million.
- The film must be commercially released in German cinemas.
- At least 25% of the total production costs must be spent in Germany; if total production costs are more than € 20 million, then at least 20% must be spent in Germany.
- Generally, the German share of funding needs to amount to 20% of total production costs.



## DFFF II

Production service providers hired to produce a film or film segment are eligible to apply.

### Grants:

Films: up to 25% of the approved German production costs, up to a maximum of € 2.5 million.

### Eligibility requirements:

- Total production costs of at least € 20 million.
- German production costs of at least € 8 million; for animated films, German production costs of at least € 2 million.
- The film must be commercially released in German cinemas.



## GMPF

Producers of series and films that are not intended for first release in cinemas are eligible to apply.

### Grants:

Series: up to 20% or 25% of the approved German production costs. The size of grants varies depending on the German production costs and the number of points in the test of cultural characteristics. The maximum amount is € 10 million.

Films: up to 20% of the approved German production costs, up to a maximum of € 2.5 million.

### Eligibility requirements:

- Total production costs for fictional series of at least € 30,000 per minute or at least € 1.2 million per episode and at least € 7.2 million per season.
- Total production costs for documentary series of at least € 9,000 per minute or at least € 360,000 per episode and at least € 1.65 million per season.
- Total production costs of at least € 20 million.
- At least 40% of the total production costs must be spent in Germany.
- Must be screened on German TV or be available via video-on-demand platforms accessible in Germany.

# CONTACT

The DFFF and the GMPF are administered by the German Federal Film Board (FFA) on behalf of the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM).

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**Photo credits:** DFFF-funded films have been successful at the box office and at festivals; internationally acclaimed GMPF-funded high-budget series (selection):

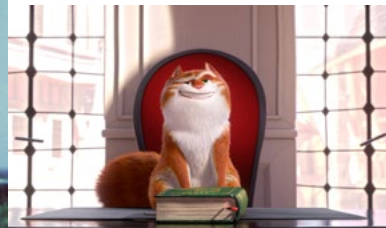
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Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom



Sun and Concrete



The Amazing Maurice



One Trillion Dollars



Lars Eidinger – Sein oder nicht Sein