DOK Exchange
XR Showcase and XR Prototyping Zone
Application Guidelines 2025

DOK Exchange XR Showcase and XR Prototyping Zone are now open for applications.
Final entry deadline: 14 August 2025

1. General Information

DOK Exchange XR (part of the DOK Industry Programme) strives to develop and nourish an international XR community of creators, experts, researchers, producers, storytellers, curators and distributors. We focus on building openness and equality in the process of knowledge exchange. We critically look at and analyse new directions for the development of XR projects and transmedia storytelling to better understand and take sustainable decisions on design, production and distribution processes.

In 2025, the DOK Exchange XR Programme explores diverse and innovative approaches in immersive media, games, and AI-driven content. The focus is on the politics of perception, including themes such as memory and cultural narratives, experimental XR and game practices, technology literacy for diverse creators and audiences, and ethics in XR design. The programme highlights new storytelling methods, cross-platform integration, and responsible use of immersive technologies to foster inclusivity and deepen understanding of identity and experience.

2. DOK Exchange XR Structure

DOK Exchange XR gives you the opportunity to connect with cutting-edge experts, consult your work-in-progress projects and keep in touch with the international XR community. It will take place on 30–31 October 2025 .

It is composed of three parts:

DOK Exchange XR Showcase – features max 6 XR and new media projects at all stages of development that do not have a prototype or do not need to present one. Presentations, in front of both an on-site and online audience, includes feedback from experts in research, creation, funding, curation, distribution, and creative technology. Additionally, we are planning an online XR showcase for experts who cannot attend onsite (two weeks before the meeting in Leipzig), ensuring wider participation and exchange — to be confirmed. Jury selection.

DOK Exchange XR Prototyping Zone – features max 3 XR prototypes. Presentations take place on-site and support projects in improving and receiving feedback by experts on narrative, creative aspects, user experience, as well as exhibition and future distribution strategies. The prototype showcase does not mark the debut of the project, as it is not a public event and does not present the finalized project. Curated by DOK Exchange XR.

DOK Exchange XR Conference – the 2-day event with speakers keynotes, panels discussions and artistic programme taking place on-site (access with a full or one-day accreditation).

3. What Kind of Projects Are We Looking for?

DOK Exchange XR Showcase is looking for XR projects and new storytelling formats (Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, Mixed Reality, 360°film, webXR), immersive podcasts, new media installations, cross-media projects, documentaries on interactive, engaging internet platforms and multimedia that are in development or early stages of production.

DOK Exchange XR Prototyping Showcase is looking for prototypes of XR projects and new storytelling formats listed above. We are open to exploring unconventional new media works.

4. Application Procedure

The application form can be found in the [myDOK section](#) of DOK Leipzig website during the application process (19/6–14/8/2025).

We only accept applications in English. The submitter must be authorised to submit the work to the festival by the rights holders – and possibly confirm a selection in DOK Exchange XR programme.

We ask you to provide all materials and links important for the processing. Please name your online content the same as the title of your work in your application form. DOK Leipzig will download your materials for viewing, but **please make sure not to add download links that expire within a short time frame.**

5. Application Fee

Application for DOK Exchange XR is free of charge. However, projects selected for the DOK Exchange XR will be charged a participation fee of **150 €** (plus 7% VAT if applicable) and will **receive two accreditations** for the entire festival as part of the fee.

6. Application Deadline

The first and final application deadline is **14 August 2025**, midnight CEST (UTC+2). A later application is only possible after consulting the DOK Exchange XR department by email (exchange@dok-leipzig.de).

7. Selection Process

During our selection process, DOK Exchange XR Showcase Committee will carefully review all proposals and choose max 6 XR or transmedia projects for the XR Showcase. The DOK Exchange XR team will choose max 3 XR prototypes. Please make sure to be available for additional questions after the application deadline.

The final decision of DOK Exchange XR Showcase will be announced in September. Please note, we are unable to give feedback on why a project has not been selected.

8. Participation

If selected for DOK Exchange XR Showcase, we require you to be on-site for a presentation, meeting with experts and discussion with the audience on 31 October 2025. Additionally, we are planning an online XR showcase for experts who cannot attend onsite, ensuring wider participation and exchange. This online XR showcase may take place two weeks before the DOK Exchange XR event in Leipzig (TBC).

If selected for DOK Exchange XR Prototyping Zone, we require you to be on-site on 30–31 October 2025 for presentation, meeting with experts and audience, tests and discussion, as well as a panel discussion dedicated to prototypes during the second day of the Conference (31 October). Please note that we do not provide equipment or technical support during the tests, but

volunteers will be available to assist. If your prototype will be selected, you are obligated to arrive in Leipzig with your own equipment.

Presentation guidelines will be sent to selected projects. The selected projects will also receive the invitation to participate in DOK Exchange XR Conference and 2 accreditations per project for the International Leipzig Festival for Documentary and Animated Film.

9. Data Protection Regulation

By applying an XR work-in-progress or a XR prototype, the applicant agrees to the use and storage of the basic work information for archive and research use in our database, even if the applied work will not be selected.

The festival reserves the right to use and archive recordings of online presentations of selected XR projects for internal purposes and non-commercial, non-public educational work and to our knowledge base for future participants of DOK Exchange XR selections. Commercial use of the archived view copies by the festival is excluded. Find more information about the use and storage of your data in our Data Protection Declaration.

10. Contact

DOK Exchange XR Coordinator
Weronika Lewandowska

exchange@dok-leipzig.de

DOK Exchange XR Application FAQ

I have several projects that I would like to apply. Can I submit all of them?

You may only apply with up to 2 projects per the creative team / production company. However, only one project per creative team or production company may be selected for the programme.

Which project team member should apply?

We encourage an XR creator or a producer to apply.

Which application form should I use?

Once you have completed the registration for myDOK and logged in, you see the application options. Please choose the button "Apply to Exchange XR". If you choose the incorrect form, you will have to go back to the menu and complete a new application.

I submitted my project before I was finished with my application. What should I do?

Once you have clicked the apply button at the bottom of the form, you cannot make changes to the form anymore. You can either start a new application or if you would like to make changes to a submitted application, please do so by emailing DOK Exchange XR Coordinator. Please respect our capacity for answering emails: the earlier you contact us, the easier it is to react.

I am not sure if I can make the deadline. Can I get an extension?

The deadline is 14 August 2025, midnight CEST (UMT +2). Do not wait until the final moment to submit, the server might be overwhelmed. Even more important, please do not send us panicked emails, we are reasonable and if you get in touch early on, it is possible to give extensions. In this case, please contact us on exchange@dok-leipzig.de.

Can I apply with a project without any secured funding?

Yes, you can apply without any secured funding. We are open to projects in the early development stage.

How many team members can participate in DOK Exchange XR Showcase?

This is an event designed for XR creators in particular. We have limited capacity and can only welcome 2 team members per project.

Is there a application fee?

Applications for DOK Exchange XR are free of charge. However, projects selected for DOK Exchange XR will be charged a participation fee of 150 € (plus 7% VAT if applicable) and will receive two accreditations for the entire festival as part of the fee.

How will I get information about selected projects?

If your project is selected for DOK Exchange Showcase or Prototyping Zone, we will inform you by email in September. The result will also be announced on our website. Selected projects will receive detailed presentation guidelines after the announcement.

Do I have to be in Leipzig to present my XR prototype?

If your prototype is selected, you will be required to arrive in Leipzig and provide your own equipment and technical support for the tests. Volunteers will be available to assist.

Can I conduct a survey or an audience interview after the XR prototype tests?

You are more than welcome to conduct the survey or interview following the prototype tests. If you plan to do so, please prepare a format that does not exceed 15 minutes. We are open to discussing your presentation needs to ensure you can make the most of this opportunity.

Are there any special requirements to present a prototype?

Projects are obligated to arrive in Leipzig and provide their own equipment and technical support for tests. Suspending items from the ceiling or walls is not feasible. Installation, if required, must be non-invasive.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to email our team: exchange@dok-leipzig.de.