
DOK Short n' Sweet 2025 Application Guidelines

The 9th DOK Short n' Sweet pitch is now open for applications.
Final project application deadline: 14 August 2025

1. General Information

DOK Short n' Sweet is a short film pitch focusing on the financing and distribution of short documentary, animated documentary and animated films as well as series. The 9th edition of DOK Short n' Sweet will take place in Leipzig on 29 October 2025.

The selected filmmakers present their project in front of an international panel of buyers, programmers and distributors. Each presentation lasts 7 minutes: 3 minutes to pitch the idea and 4 minutes to answer questions by the panellists.

The project teams meet the panellists in short individual meetings for more concrete feedback and networking.

This programme includes an online workshop (around 4–5 hours) before the festival to support the selected project teams in preparing their pitches, attending DOK Industry, and connecting with each other.

2. What kind of projects are we looking for?

- Short film projects at any stage of production; development to complete
- All forms of documentary, animated documentary and animated film as well as series
- Shorts with a strong point of view, creative vision and cinematic approach
- Lengths of maximum 30'
- Projects from all over the world

3. How to apply

1. You can apply with your project via the entry form [on our website](#). You will need to log in to [myDOK](#) to complete the application form. (If you don't have an account, please register first).
2. Once you are logged in (or have registered for a new account), you will see all the open call options. Please choose the button "Short n' Sweet".
3. Fill in all the necessary project information (see below). The form saves automatically. You can start your application and complete it at a later moment.
4. Go to the end of the form and click the "Submit" button. Your application is complete.

Please note: The deadline is 14 August 2025 (midnight, CEST/UTC+2). We accept applications in English only.

4. Information needed

To help you prepare, here is a list of the materials and information you need for your application.

4.1 Project Information

- International Title (English Title)
 - Production Company
 - Country/-ies of Production
 - Project Stage
 - Category (Documentary Film, Animated Film, Animated Documentary)
 - Length/s
-
- Logline: maximum of 150 characters (summarise your project in 1 or 2 sentences)
 - Synopsis: maximum of 1,300 characters
 - Director's Note: maximum of 2,000 characters (explain the connection to the story)

Visual Material

If you have visual material, please share. We recommend a teaser or a research piece (depending on your stage of development), preferably a screener link (on Vimeo platform). We also accept high-quality film stills.

What is your goal at DOK Short n' Sweet? Which kind of partners are you looking for?

Please explain how DOK Short n' Sweet can support moving your short film project forward and finding financing and creative partners. It serves as a *roadmap* for the selection committee to understand what kind of partners you are looking for at DOK Industry.

4.2 Film Team

- Director(s)
- Producer(s): if applicable
- Co-Producer(s): if applicable
- World Sales: if applicable

4.3 Attachments

You may optionally upload CVs (director, producer, DOP, editor, sound), a treatment or financing plan. These are not a requirement. You can share anything that is important to your project but you have not mention anywhere else in the application.

5. Selection process

Representatives of the DOK Industry team will select up to eight projects. We will inform you of your selection by the end of August.

Please note, we are not able to share feedback with every project team due to time capacity.

6. DOK Short n' Sweet Participation and Fees

If selected, we require you to be in Leipzig on Wednesday, 29 October 2025 (mid-morning to evening) to present your project and attend the meetings. The event is in English only.

The participation fee is EUR 150 (ex. VAT) per project for up to two participants. Please note, you have to cover your travel and accommodation expenses yourself.

This fee grants you access to the following benefits:

- Pitching your project in front of a panel of international short film buyers, programmers and distributors.
- Publication of your project online and in a printed brochure, which is accessible to targeted experts attending the business platform.
- Individual meetings with the panelists after the pitching event fostering mutual exchange and inspiration.
- A preparatory workshop prior to the event designed to support all project teams grow the impact of their participation. The workshop will focus on honing your pitching skills in an off-the-stage setting, carried out online via Zoom in early October (TBA). We will share a community agreement with the attendees beforehand.
- Up to two Festival & Industry accreditations for the project representatives that grant you access to the DOK Leipzig Film and Industry Programme.

We wish you the very best of luck with your application. Please find the FAQs below.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to call or email our team.

Contact

DOK Short n' Sweet Coordinator
Anne Rethfeldt (she/her)

rethfeldt@dok-leipzig.de

FAQs

Which project team member should apply?

We encourage either the director or the producer to apply. Directors without a producer attached are eligible to apply.

Where can I find the entry form?

Once you have completed the registration for myDOK and logged in, you see the entries options. Please choose the button “Short n’ Sweet”. If you choose the wrong form, you will have to go back to the menu and start a new entry.

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

Once you have clicked the “Submit” button at the end of the form, you cannot make changes to the form anymore. If you need to make changes, please email us (rethfeldt@dok-leipzig.de).

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 (UTC +2). Do not wait until the final moment to apply. 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.

How many team members can participate at DOK Short n’ Sweet?

We have limited capacity and can only welcome two team members per project, either a producer, two producers or a producer and director.

We keep our market and events small and exclusive, focusing on opportunities to meet and build a sustainable network. We are only able to do so by restricting the number of participants.

Is there a participation fee?

Yes, the participation fee is EUR 150 (ex. VAT) per project for up to two participants. You can find further details in the application guidelines. Please note, you have to cover your travel and accommodation expenses yourself.

Is there a cancellation fee?

Please note that late cancellations (10 days before the festival) will still be subject to paying the participation fee.

I am a first-timer at a project presentation platform. Is there a possibility to receive training?

We foster knowledge exchange through the DOK Industry Programme. We are happy to advise you on your participation or how to position your written materials for the project overview, e.g. via Zoom.

We also offer a workshop (online) before DOK Short n’ Sweet that will focus on honing your pitching skills in a supportive environment.