

Youth IT | CH | FR | UK
C-FILMS (CH)

My Life as a Zucchini CH | FR
RITA Productions (CH)

Clouds of Sils Maria FR | DE | CH
CAB Productions (CH)

Coproducing with Switzerland



Everybody Sometimes Falls

by Niccolò Castelli

Imago Film (CH)





Switzerland – The essence of European diversity

Switzerland offers a wide range of landscapes within very short distances (4 hrs max.), connected by a uniquely dense network of highways and railway: Snowy mountain tops in the Alps, palm-lined lakeshores in Ticino, rivers, forests, valleys, medieval castles. Urban surroundings with luxurious hotels, modern architectural and technological centres and scientific campuses like CERN and the EPFL/ETH universities are to be found in the cities of Geneva, Lausanne and Zurich while ancient city panorama characterise the UNESCO World Heritage town of Berne. The countryside can easily double for any Northern, Western or South European landscapes.

Profitable working regulations and infrastructure

A highly skilled multilingual workforce and state of the art postproduction facilities complete the picture. Labour costs in Switzerland are similar to those in neighbouring countries, but you can benefit from lower social costs and tighter production schedules. In addition, Switzerland is blessed with moderate levels of taxation. International airports are to be found in all regions: Zurich, Geneva, Basel, Berne and Lugano, accessible within max. 30 minutes.

Front: **Clouds of Sils Maria** by Olivier Assayas
CAB Productions (CH)
FR 45,3%, DE 42,4%, CH 12,3%
Budget € 5,1 Mio

Facts and figures Switzerland (2018)

General data

+ 8.5 Mio inhabitants

+ 7.7% VAT

+ 1 €* = 1.12 CHF
*this rate (April 2019) has
been used in this brochure

Film industry

+ 610 screens

+ 12.1 Mio cinema admissions

+ 1.42 admissions per person per year

+ 164 Mio € box office

+ More than 60 production companies
have an output of at least one feature
film per year

+ 25 distribution companies

Feature films produced

+ 74 in total
48 national productions
14 majority coproductions
12 minority coproductions

+ 49 Documentaries

+ 25 Fictions

Market share

+ 6.4% Swiss market share

+ 33.2% non-US market share

Wonderland by M. Krümmeracher,
J. Gassmann, L. Blatter, G. Frei,
B. Jaberg, C. Jaquier, J. Meier,
T. Nölle, L. Rupp, M. Scheiwiller
Contrast Film Bern / 2:1 Film (CH)

Coproduction treaties

Switzerland has ratified the European Convention on Cinematographic Coproduction. This allows for a minimum participation of 20% in bilateral and a minimum of 10% in multilateral coproductions between the 43 signatory states. Separate coproduction treaties exist with the following countries:

Country & minimum participation	
Austria & Germany (3 Parties agreement)	10%
France	10%
French Community of Belgium	10%
Italy	10%
Luxemburg	20%
Canada	20%
Mexico	20%





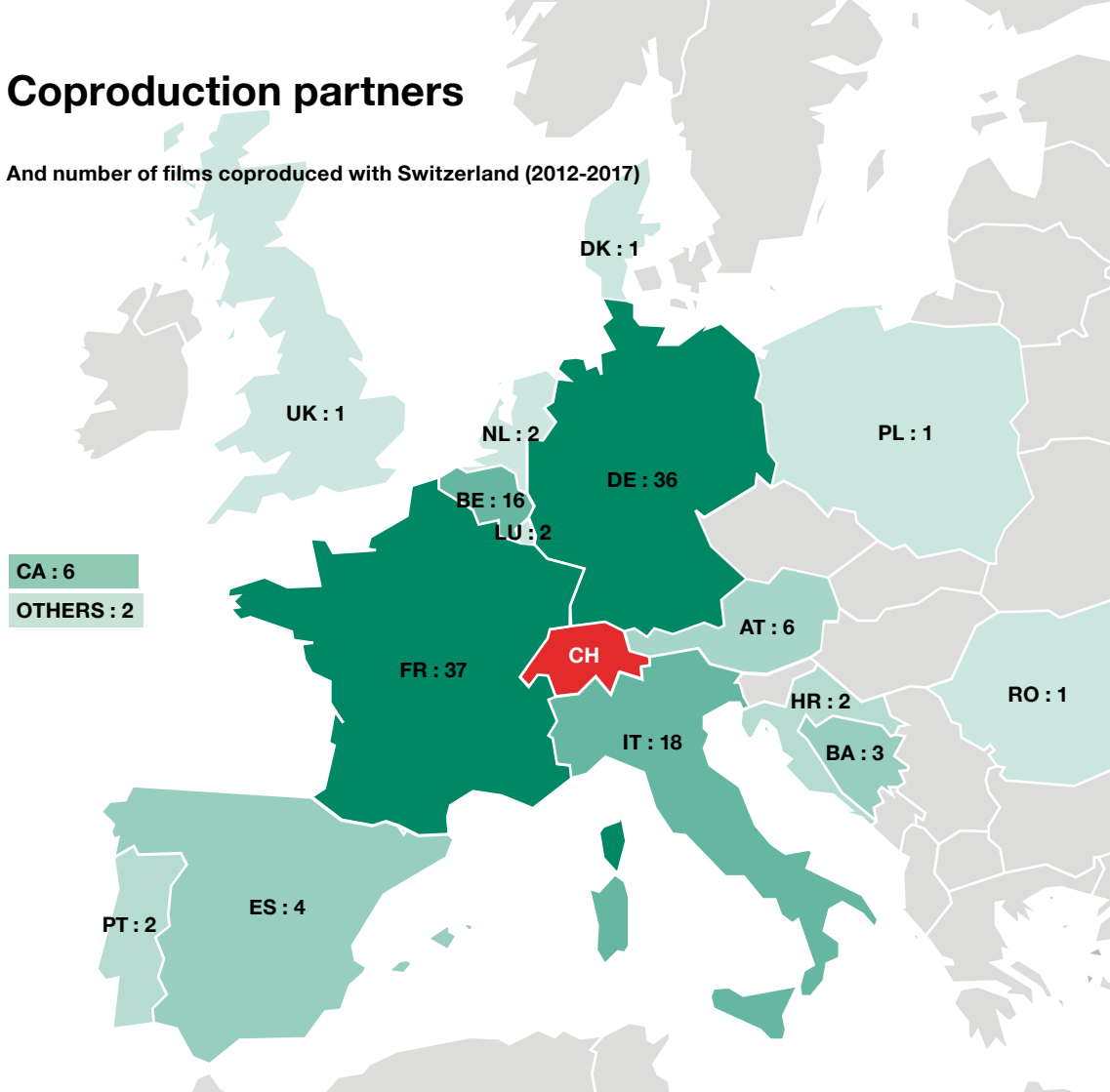
Station Horizon

by Pierre-Adrien Irlé and
Romain Graf

JUMP CUT Production (CH)

Coproduction partners

And number of films coproduced with Switzerland (2012-2017)

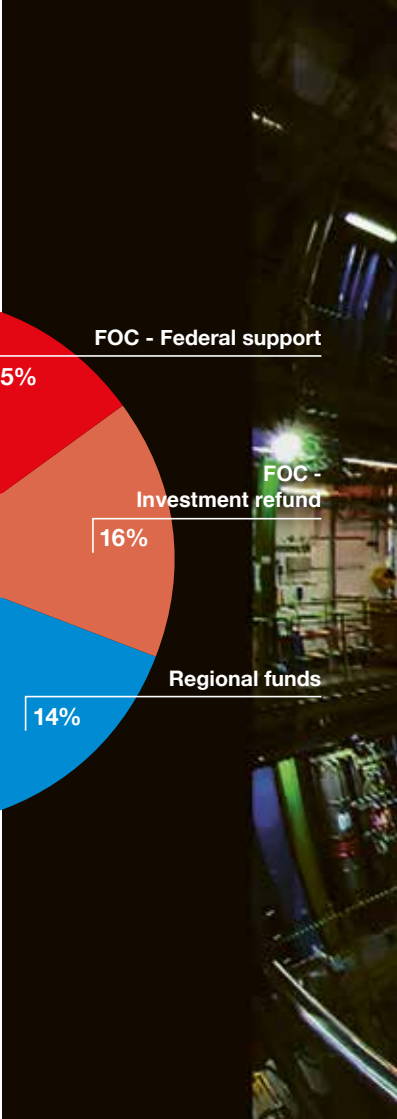
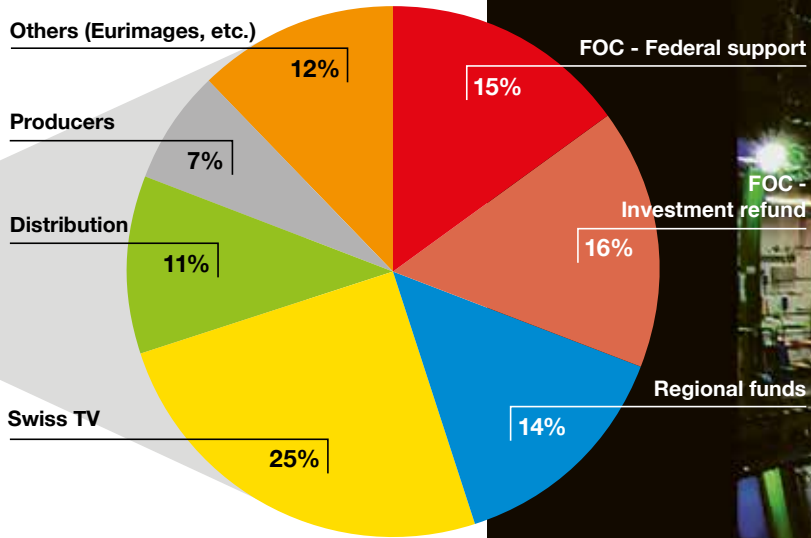
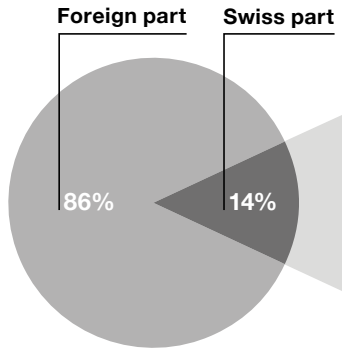
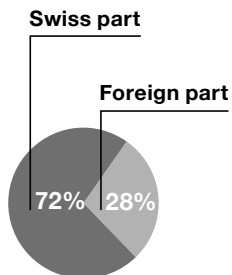


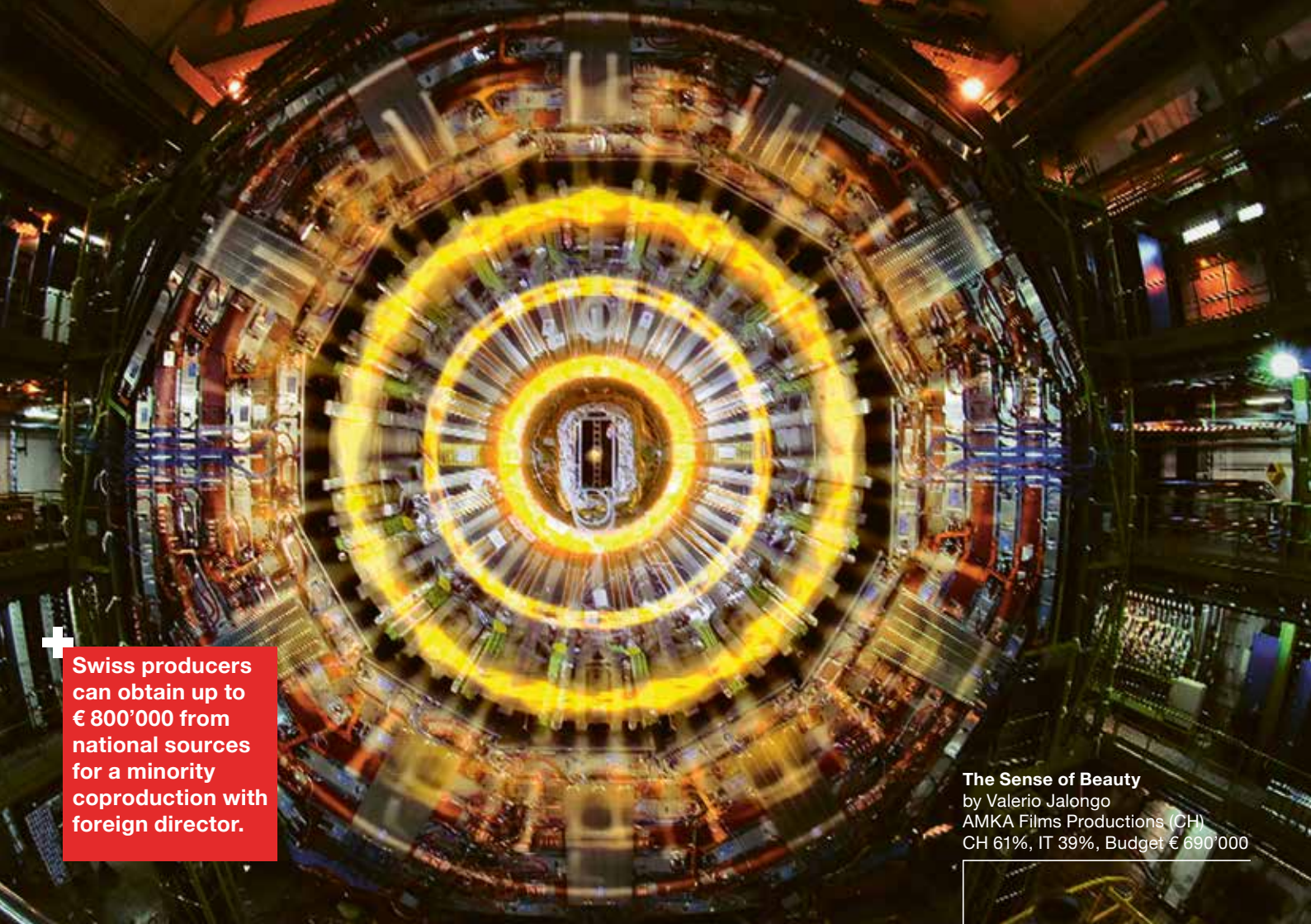
Coproductions: Average financing

Majority Swiss

Minority Swiss

Swiss part





Swiss producers can obtain up to € 800'000 from national sources for a minority coproduction with foreign director.

The Sense of Beauty
by Valerio Jalongo
AMKA Films Productions (CH)
CH 61%, IT 39%, Budget € 690'000



My Life as a Zucchini by Claude Barras
RITA Productions (CH)

CH 50%, FR 50%

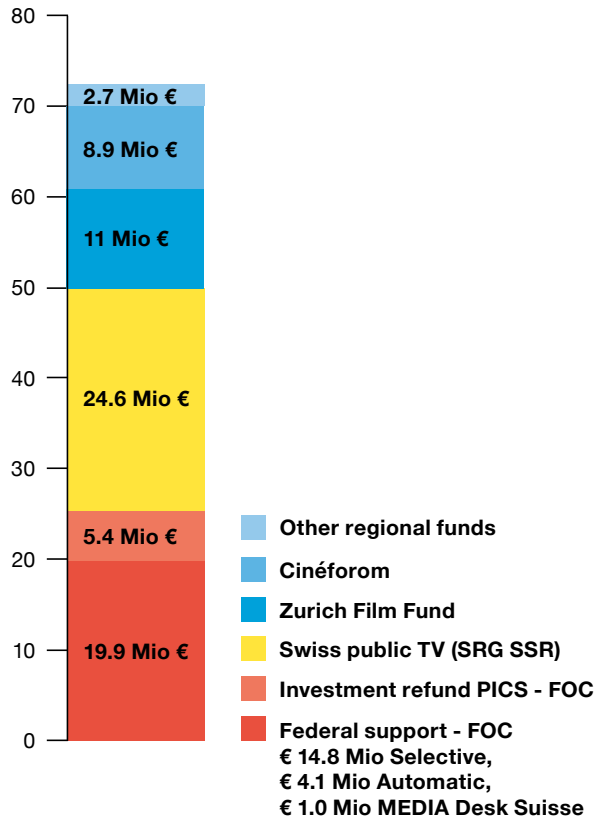
Budget € 8 Mio

Sold to more than 50 countries

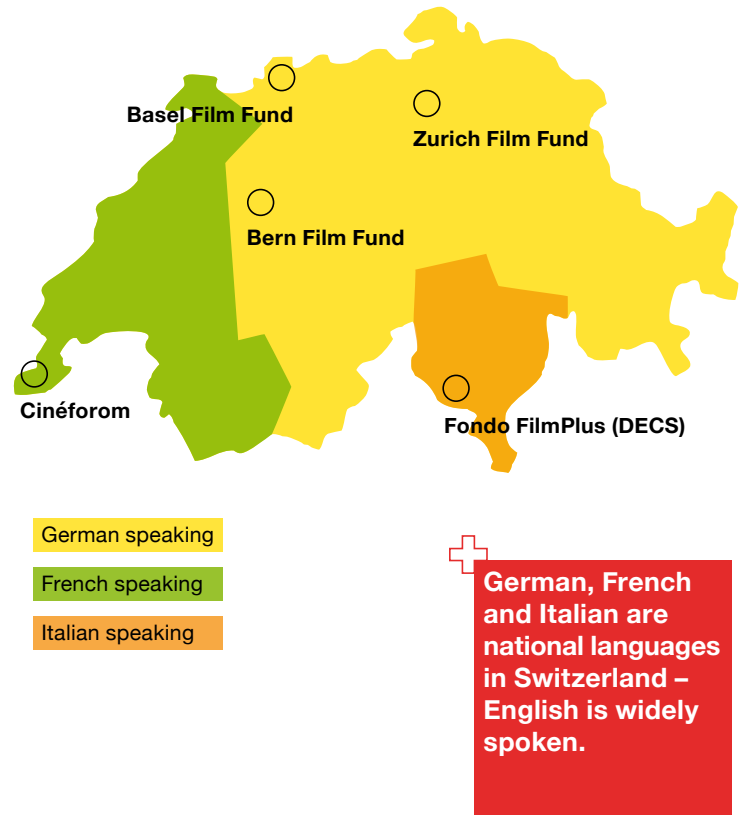
2 Mio admissions worldwide

Academy Award® nominee 2017

Total public funding available on national level: € 72.5 Mio



Regional funds and their coverage



Federal Office of Culture (FOC) - Film production support

Introduction of the fund

The Federal Office of Culture FOC supports projects that contribute to the diversity of Swiss film culture. The support is a non-recoupable funding based on selective criteria evaluated by an independent commission. Support is also granted by an automatic scheme (succès cinéma).

Who can apply?

An independent Swiss production company.

To what production stage does it apply to? What types of projects are eligible?

Funding is allocated to the development phase for any type of feature-length film and to the production phase for both feature and short films. The projects must aim at theatrical release, festivals or digital platforms. Development funding is available to projects with a Swiss author only.

How much can be granted?

Maximum amount (for production): Up to € 893'000 for films with

Swiss director and € 268'000 for films with foreign director. The sum of federal funding cannot exceed 70% of the total costs. About 40 feature film projects supported every year.

Do you fund minority co-productions?

Yes, with a dedicated budget (€ 1'800'000).

What are the spending obligations?

Coproductions must spend the Swiss financing part in Switzerland. Up to 20% transfer may be authorized.

What are the evaluation criteria?

Artistic quality / Artistic and technical coherence / Potential for distribution / Contribution to diversity / Production experience.

When to apply?

Applications may be submitted 4 times per year, decisions within 2 months.

bak.admin.ch/film



Federal Office of Culture - Film Investment Refund Switzerland (PICS)

Introduction of the funding programme

Film Investment Refund Switzerland (PICS) is a programme principally focused on Swiss-international coproductions. PICS refunds 20% to 40% of eligible film production expenses generated in Switzerland.

Who can apply?

An independent Swiss production company.

To what production stage does it apply to? What types of projects are eligible?

Funding is allocated only for the production phase. Projects can be feature-length films made for theatrical release, for festivals or for digital platforms. Minimum budget of € 2.2 Mio (fiction) and € 446'000 (doc).

How much can be granted?

Total amount: € 5.4 Mio per year.

About 30 projects supported every year.

Maximum amount: up to € 536'000.

The sum of federal funding cannot exceed 70% of the total costs.

Do you fund minority co-productions?

Yes.

What are the spending obligations?

At least € 357'000 for fiction films and at least € 179'000 for documentaries. Minimum 5 days of shooting in Switzerland (fiction).

What are the criteria?

75% of the financing must be guaranteed.

20% of the artistic and logistical expenses are refunded.

40% of the technical expenses are refunded.

When to apply?

No special deadlines. Applications can be submitted anytime.

bak.admin.ch/pics



MEDIA Desk Suisse

Introduction of the fund

Because of Switzerland's exclusion from the Creative Europe MEDIA Programme, the Federal Office of Culture (FOC) offers a project development scheme governed by almost the same rules as the MEDIA Programme's eponymous scheme.

Who can apply?

An independent Swiss production company.

To what production stage does it apply to? What types of projects are eligible?

Funding is allocated only to the development phase (until the first day of principal photography). Projects can be feature films (fiction, documentary, animation) or series, made for theatrical release, TV or for digital platforms.

How much can be granted?

- Total amount: € 1'018'000 per year,
- About 23 projects supported every year,
- Maximum amount: up to € 58'900.

The sum of federal funding cannot exceed 70% of the total costs.

Do you fund minority co-productions?

The Swiss production company must hold the majority of the development rights of the work. After the development phase, projects may change majority stakes and might become a Swiss minority coproduction.

What are the spending obligations?

No specific spending obligations.

What are the evaluation criteria?

- Potential for European and international distribution,
- Artistic quality.

Extra points for:

- Films which are to be coproduced with a Eurimages country,
- Films dedicated to a young audience.

When to apply?

April and October for single projects, June for Slates (3 to 5 projects).

mediadesk.ch





Youth by Paolo Sorrentino
C-FILMS (CH)

IT 69%, FR 11%, CH 10%, UK 10%

Budget € 12.8 Mio

42 days of principal photography in Graubünden

Sold to 40 countries

2.9 Mio admissions in Europe

Regional funds - Cinéforum

Introduction of the fund

Cinéforum is the film fund for the whole French-speaking part of Switzerland, offering soft money grants, both selective and automatic (bonification based on the highest grant from FOC or SRG-SSR television).

Who can apply?

An independent Swiss production company. For films with a non-Swiss director, it must be established in the French-speaking part.

To what production stage does it apply to? What types of projects are eligible?

All kinds of films (fictions, documentaries, animation) across all medias (cinema, television, web) may apply for development and/or production grants.

Do you fund minority coproduction?

Yes.

How much can be granted?

For minority coproductions, the selective support can be up to 10% of the Swiss financing (up to € 89'000), and selective and automatic cumulated can be up to 15% of the Swiss financing (up to € 179'000).

What are the spending obligations?

On a minority coproduction the whole grant must be spent within the French-speaking part.

What are the evaluation criteria?

Sole criterion for selective commissions is artistic quality. Requests above € 54'000 are checked production-wise for consistency.

When to apply?

Applications may be submitted 4 times per year. The committee takes the decisions within 6 weeks.

cineforum.ch





Love is the Perfect Crime
by Jean-Marie and Arnaud Larrieu
VEGA Film (CH)
FR 85%, CH 15%, Budget € 4.9 Mio

Regional funds - Zurich Film Fund Zürcher Filmstiftung

Introduction of the fund

As one of the two main regional funds in Switzerland, Zurich Film Fund is committed to supporting the film industry in the Canton of Zurich and particularly its capital, which is the leading film hub in Switzerland.

Who can apply?

In order to be eligible, international productions are required to have an independent Swiss co-producer or director on board who has been a resident in the Canton of Zurich for the last two years.

To what production stage does it apply to?

What types of projects are eligible?

Funding is provided on three levels:

- Story and project development for all formats of audio-visual works,
- Production of short and feature films, mainly for theatrical release,
- Marketing and distribution of already funded productions only.

How much can be granted?

- Development: max. 50% of budget or € 89'000,
- Production: max. 50% of budget or € 893'000,
- Distribution/Marketing: max. € 71'000.

Every support is granted as a soft loan and must be repaid if the film is economically successful.

Do you fund minority coproduction?

Yes, if the project and content have a significant relation to the region. The recoupment must correspond to the financing shares.

What are the spending obligations?

150% of the loan amount granted should be spent in the region. For minority projects it can be higher. The fund demands no rights in the film and is not defined as co-producer.

What are the evaluation criteria?

- Artistic quality,
- Distribution potential,
- Cultural and economic focus on the region.

When to apply?

Applications may be submitted 4 times per year. The committee takes the decisions within 2 months.

filmstiftung.ch





Blue My Mind by Lisa Brühlmann
television film (CH)

Other regional funds

Bern Film Fund

Support for:

- Development: max. € 27'000.
 - Production: max. 50% of budget or € 670'000 for fiction and € 268'000 for documentaries.
- 150% of the granted amount must be spent in the region.

befilm.erz.be.ch

Film and Media Art Fund, Basel Region

Support for:

- Development: € 8'900-26'800.
- Production: max. 50% of budget or € 179'000.

100-120% of the granted amount must be spent in the region.

baselkultur.ch/kulturprojekte/film-und-medienkunst.html

Fondo FilmPlus, Ticino

Support for:

- Development max. 20% of budget.
- Production: max. 80% of budget.

ti.ch/filmplus

Film commissions

- Information and advice on locations,
- Assistance for obtaining filming permits,
- Contacts for cast, crew and facilities.

Film Commission Zurich

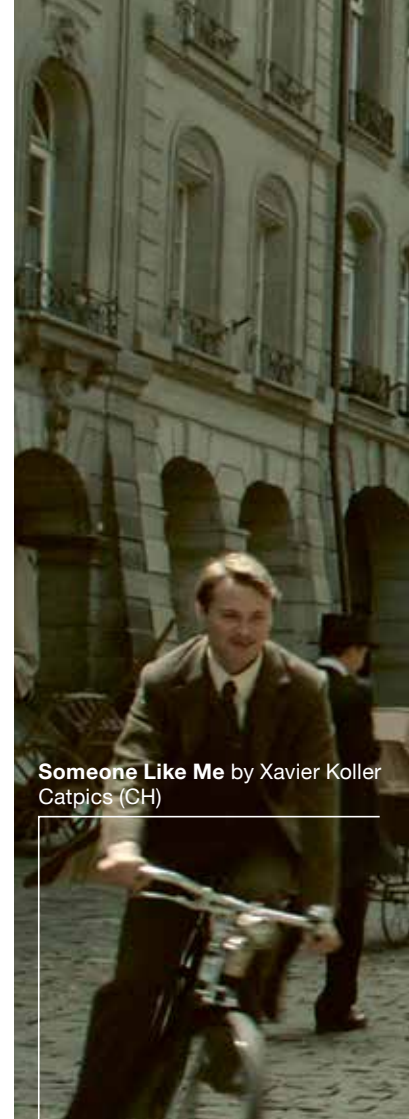
filmzurich.ch

Ticino Film Commission

filmcommission.swiss

Film Location Lucerne

filmlocationlucerne.com



Someone Like Me by Xavier Koller
Catpics (CH)



SRG SSR Swiss public broadcasting

The Swiss Public broadcaster (SRG SSR) offers seven television channels in the four national languages: German (SRF), French (RTS), Italian (RSI) and Romansh (RTR). It comprehensively reflects the multicultural reality of Swiss life at national level in all socially relevant areas – from politics, culture and business to society, sport and entertainment.

The partnership between the Swiss film industry and SRG is being governed by an agreement known as the Pacte de l'audiovisuel. The Pacte sets out the terms and conditions that apply to SRG co-productions with independent filmmakers. For the period 2016-2019 SRG's commitment to Swiss film is € 24.6 Mio annually.

The Pacte de l'audiovisuel supports both made-for-TV and general-release films: € 12.5 Mio is available annually for television productions, and at least € 8 Mio per year for cinema projects. A share of € 893'000 has been set aside for animated films. Multi-media projects are supported with € 446'000 per year.

The Pacte 2016-2019 contains amendments to distribution rights that reflect the modern reality. In the future, it will be possible to offer films on the Internet before they are broadcast or go on general release. SRG stands alongside the Federal Office of Culture as the mainstay of Swiss film promotion.

On the Edge by Markus Imboden
maximage (CH)
CH 90%, DE 10%, Budget € 2.4 Mio



Contacts

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Bern Film Fund

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SWISS FILMS

The promotion agency offers film directors and producers promotional services and facilitates international distribution of their film productions.
swissfilms.ch

If you are looking for Swiss producers, distributors or associations, you can find lists here:
swissfilms.ch/en/information_publications/links

FOCAL

The foundation for professional training in the audiovisual field proposes various international programmes to emphasize the role and skills of the producers at the heart of the development and coproduction processes.
focal.ch



MEDIA^{DESK}
SUISSE

CINÉFORUM



SWISS FILMS



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Photos courtesy of the production companies
and Bern Tourismus.

The Wonders IT | CH | DE
AMKA Films Productions (CH)

Heidi DE | CH
Zodiac Pictures (CH)

The Swiss landscape not only frames the actors, but can also play a leading role.

Heidi by Alain Gsponer
Zodiac Pictures (CH)

DE 67%, CH 33%

Budget € 7 Mio

22 Days of principal photography in Graubünden (CH)

Sold to more than 100 countries

3.5 Mio admissions worldwide