

MASO

Short Film Training Programme

MASO #2 - Edition 2025/2026

What is it?

MASO is a programme aimed at developing short films from the development stage to production.

Who is it aimed at?

MASO is exclusively for creative teams formed by a director/screenwriter and a producer backed by a production company (maximum 2 participating professionals per creative team), who have an idea for a short film that they want to develop from story to completion. Short films using different styles of mise-en-scene (fiction, animation, hybrids) are accepted. Applicants with little experience are also encouraged to apply. Participants from all over the world can apply. Each submitted project must be supported by a production company at the time of application and throughout the making and completion of the film.

The total number of projects selected for the 2025/2026 edition of the programme - hereinafter referred to as MASO #2 – is 8. Projects from all over the world can apply, the selection committee will select projects based on their artistic value and feasibility of production.

How is it structured?

MASO #2 is structured into five phases:

1. Selection Process
2. Short Film Development
3. Short Film Pre-Production
4. Short Film Production
5. Short Film Promotion

Phase One: Selection Process

The selection process consists of an application period and a selection period.

The application period is open from April 9th to June 30th, 2025.

The selection period runs from July 1st to August 31st, 2025.

A selection committee of 6 film professionals will read and evaluate the submitted projects and make the selection. The elements on which the committee will assess the projects are the artistic value and feasibility of the production. Our world is so diverse and it is important to reflect that in film without clichés and stereotypical representation. Projects that take diversity and inclusiveness behind and in front of the camera into account, such as, but not limited to, disability, ethnicity, gender, educational background, sexual orientation, and minorities (cultural or linguistic) are encouraged.

By August 2025, all applicants will be contacted by e-mail with the results. The titles of selected projects will also be published online on the IDM Film Commission Südtirol website and social media.

Phase Two: Short Film Development

The Short Film Development Phase consists of an on-site story development workshop, scriptwriting, and online consulting meetings.

The on-site story development workshop will last seven days from November 18th to 26th, 2025 at FilmCamp Norway (Tomas Tomassens vei 41, Pb 144, 9334 Øverbygd, Norway). The workshop will mainly focus on developing the story and characters for the short film. The workshop will be led by two experienced tutors. The tutors will be of different nationalities and genders. Selected creative teams (director/screenwriter and producer) are required to attend the workshop on-site. Active participation and an open mind for collaboration with other participants is essential. The work will be done both in class during face-to-face hours (approximately six per day) and in between classes, completing assignments and tasks for subsequent meetings. At the end of the workshop, participants will have a clear idea of their story and characters and will be ready to move on to the next stage: scriptwriting. From this point on, one of the two tutors will be assigned to each film.

The scriptwriting phase runs from December 2025 to the end of March 2026. Each creative team (director/screenwriter and producer) will self-manage the scriptwriting work during this time window. During this period, four to six online meetings with tutors are planned for each project. Each meeting will be scheduled every three to four weeks and will last several hours, depending on the needs of each project. The meetings aim to progress the short film script to a final draft.

During this development phase, there will be online consultancies with experts in order to address specific aspects such as AI and inclusiveness and representation of the project.

Phase Three: Short Film Pre-Production

The Short Film Pre-Production Phase consists of a production development workshop, a pitch session of the developed project, and the actual pre-production of the film.

The on-site production development workshop will last six days and it will be held in April 2026 in Bozen/Bolzano, Italy, during the Bolzano Film Festival Bozen at ZeLIG - School for Documentary, Television and New Media. The workshop will mainly focus on the development of the film's financial plan, based on the requirements of the Funds' sponsorship programmes that support each project. In addition, during the workshop, participants will analyse the production capabilities of their upcoming films and learn the basics of how to develop a film from script to shooting and post-production. The workshop will be led by two experienced tutors. Selected creative teams (director/screenwriter and producer) will be required to attend the workshop on location. Active participation and an open mind to collaboration with other participants is essential. The work will be done both in class during the face-to-face lectures (approximately 6 hours per day) and between classes, completing assignments and homework for subsequent meetings. During the workshop, other speakers may intervene to address specific aspects of the pre-, in-, and post-production phases. One part of the workshop will be devoted to learning about accessible filmmaking, diverse storytelling and producing, green film production, and protocols. At the end of the workshop, pitch training will be held to prepare participants for the next stage.

An international co-production pitch will be held during the Industry Days of the Bolzano Film Festival Bozen 2026. MASO #2 creative teams will have five minutes to present their project to an audience of

film professionals and curated industry guest. The pitch will be followed by a series of one-on-one meetings between the creative teams and the participating professionals.

The last stage of the third phase will be the actual pre-production of the short film. The creative teams will put into practice the lessons learned during the production development workshop and start to apply for funding, as well as begin with the pre-production phase of the short film.

Creative teams that have received a scholarship can apply directly to the specific short film fund that sponsored their projects to ask for production funding. The rules and regulations for applying to each film fund differ from fund to fund, hence they follow the criteria of each of the existing short film fund divisions which will be explained during MASO #2. For the list of sponsorship opportunities for MASO #2, please refer to the 'How much does it cost?' section of this document.

To raise their film budgets, creative teams may also find other sources of funding during this phase (e.g. other film funding or crowdfunding). Any other sources of funding must be in tune with MASO #2's timeline and must not slow down the realization of the complete film within the set timeframe. If these conditions are not met, further funding cannot be used by the creative teams.

Phase Four: Short Film Production

The Short Film Production Phase consists of the actual production and post-production of the short film.

Each creative team will be free to organize the production and post-production phases as it sees fit, depending on the needs of each project. Nonetheless, creative teams will be obliged to implement a green filmmaking protocol for the production and post-production of the film.

The creative teams will remain in contact with the MASO team throughout this phase in case of problems and for regular updates on the development of each project.

The expected completion date of the production phase is the beginning of 2027. The completion date will be discussed and agreed with the MASO team on an individual basis.

Phase Five: Short Film Promotion

The Short Film Promotion Phase consists of the promotion and distribution of the short film developed during MASO #2.

By participating in the MASO #2 programme, the selected creative teams agree to include a reference to the MASO programme (text and MASO programme logo) in the opening and closing credits, if any. Furthermore, the MASO logo must be present on any digital and printed communication (examples: poster, trailer, press kit, etc.) related to the film developed.

As the copyright of the developed short films will remain with each creative team, the latter is free to set up its own promotion and marketing campaign working alone or with the support of a distributor and/or sales agent. The distribution strategy of the film will be developed by the creative team itself. The MASO team can be consulted to develop a distribution strategy if requested by the film's creative team.

As far as short film distribution is concerned, the Bolzano Film Festival Bozen must be part of the festival distribution strategy of the projects developed within MASO #2 at any stage of their festival run.

When is it scheduled?

MASO #2 takes place according to the following schedule:

The story development workshop takes place from November 18th to 26th, 2024.

The scriptwriting phase takes place from December 2025 to March 2026. Online meetings with tutors will be scheduled for each project individually during this period. Each meeting will be scheduled every three to four weeks. Each meeting will last a few hours, depending on the needs of each project.

The production development workshop will be held in April 2026. More precise dates will be announced by the end of 2025.

The pre-production and production phases of the short films will take place according to the requirements of each project, starting at least in April 2026.

The expected completion date of the film projects is at the beginning of 2027. The completion date will be discussed and agreed with the MASO team on an individual basis.

The distribution phase will start from the completion date of each project.

The MASO team will inform participants of any changes in date and time as soon as any new information becomes available.

Where is it located?

MASO #2 takes place in several locations, on-site and online.

The story development workshop takes place in Norway, at FilmCamp Norway in the town of Øverbygd.

The scriptwriting phase will take place online.

The production development workshop takes place in Italy during the Bolzano Film Festival Bozen in the city of Bolzano at ZeLIG - School for Documentary, Television and New Media.

The pre-production, production, and distribution phases of the short films will take place according to the needs of each project. Online follow-up meetings with the MASO staff will be scheduled for each project individually.

The MASO team will inform participants of any location changes as soon as new information becomes available.

Which language will be used?

All accompanying documents must be submitted in English.

Workshops, meetings, and the pitch of the projects will be held exclusively in English.

The working documents of the short film projects will be written in English.

The final short film script and final project can be developed in any language.

Who are the tutors?

MASO #2 tutors are professionals whose expertise spans both the short film and feature film circuits. In addition, the tutors have years of experience in assisting and mentoring new talent.

The Creative Advisor of the programme is Enrico Vannucci. He is a member of the selection committee of Pardi di Domani at the Locarno Film Festival and of the selection committee of LIM - Less Is More. He has worked in film festivals and markets since 2010, in particular collaborating with the Venice Film Festival and TSFM, which he co-founded in 2016. He also co-founded Varicoloured, a holistic short film agency, in 2018, Talking Shorts, an online film magazine dedicated to short films, in 2020 and Talents Generator Factory, a company dedicated to the development of new audiovisuals by emerging and established professionals, in 2022. In 2021, he became a member of the European Film Academy.

Who are the organizers?

MASO #2 is an initiative by IDM Film Commission Südtirol and Bolzano Film Festival Bozen (BFFB). MASO #2 is organized by IDM Film Commission Südtirol and in collaboration with: Arctic Film Norway; Austrian Economic Chambers - Film and Music Austria (FAMA); Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen - South Tyrol; Bolzano Film Festival Bozen (BFFB); Ciclic Centre-Val de Loire; Federal Ministry Housing, Arts, Culture, Media and Sport Republic of Austria (BMWKMS); FilmCamp Norway; Fondo per l'Audiovisivo del Friuli Venezia Giulia; Hellenic Film & Audiovisual Center - Creative Greece; Hessen Film & Medien GmbH; IDM Film Commission Südtirol; Italian Short Film Center; PFX Italy; Roma Creative Contest; Sentiero Film Factory International Short Film Festival; Talents Generator Factory; WeShort; ZeLIG - School for Documentary, Television and New Media Bolzano/Bozen

How to apply?

Applications for MASO #2 can be submitted [here](#).

The following information about the creative team is mandatory for both the director/writer and producer:

- Name
- Surname
- Nationality
- City of residence
- Canton, nation, province, region, or state of residence
- Country of residence
- Date of birth
- Mobile phone number
- E-mail address
- Previous experience

- Filmography
- Link to a previous film/artwork representing the applicants' style

The following information about the attached production company is mandatory:

- Name of the company
- City of domicile
- Canton, nation, province, region, or state of residence of domicile
- Country of domicile
- Year of founding
- Film genres previously developed by the company
- Filmography
- Company's track record

The following information about the submitted short film project is mandatory:

- Original title of the short film project
- English title of the short film project
- Short synopsis or logline of the short film project (max 250 characters)
- Long synopsis or treatment of the short film project (max 1500 characters)
- List of confirmed professionals already participating in the project
- Short note of intention (max 1500 characters)
- Personal motivations from the candidates (max 1500 characters)
- Link to a video presentation (video presentation is defined as a short video of max. 5 minutes in which applicants present themselves and their project)

When does the application deadline expire?

Applications for MASO #2 can be submitted from April 9th to June 30th, 2025.

How much does it cost?

Application to MASO #2 is free of charge.

The MASO #2 participation fee is EUR 5,000. A project that meets the specific requirements of an institution sponsoring MASO #2 can have its fee covered by a scholarship.

The specific scholarship opportunities available for projects applying to MASO #2 are from the following territories:

- Scholarship for 1-2 projects backed by production companies based in any country worldwide, sponsored by IDM Film Commission Südtirol;
- Scholarship for 1 project backed by a production company based in South Tyrol (Italy), sponsored by the Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen - South Tyrol through IDM Film Commission Südtirol;
- Scholarship for 1 project backed by a production company based in Austria, sponsored by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport (BMKOES) and the Austrian Trade Association Fachverband der Film- und Musikwirtschaft (FAMA);

- Scholarship for 1 project backed by a production company based in Federal State of Hesse (Germany), sponsored by Hessen Film & Medien GmbH;
- Scholarship for 1 project backed by a production company based in Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region (Italy), eligible for funding support from the Fondo per l'Audiovisivo del Friuli Venezia Giulia¹;
- Scholarship for 1 project backed by a production company based in Centre-Val de Loire Region (France), and/or written by an author living in Centre-Val de Loire backed with a production company, sponsored by Ciclic Centre-Val de Loire;
- Scholarship for 1 project backed by a production company based in Northern Norway Region - Counties Nordland, Troms and Finnmark (Norway), sponsored by Arctic Film Norway;
- Scholarship for 1 project backed by a production company based in Greece, sponsored by the Hellenic Film & Audiovisual Center - Creative Greece;

For more specific information on sponsorship and funding programmes, see Appendix I at the end of this document.

MASO #2 organizing partners will provide accommodation and two meals per day for each selected creative team for the on-site workshops and pitch. Travel expenses will not be covered.²

Do you have more questions?

For further information please send an email to film@idm-suedtirol.com.

¹ The project developed by a Friuli Venezia Giulia producer will be eligible to request, in compliance with the Fondo Audiovisivo Friuli Venezia Giulia guidelines, a scholarship of maximum EUR 20.000, covering 90% of all costs, including the participation fee, as well as travel expenses, board and lodging for the entire duration of the programme.

APPENDIX I

More specific information on some of the sponsorship and funding schemes is given below.

Arctic Film Norway

The sponsorship by Arctic Film Norway will cover the participation fee which includes lodging and accommodation for the two workshops of MASO #2 for one project backed by a production company based in Northern Norway Region - Counties Nordland, Troms, and Finnmark (Norway).

To receive the necessary funding for the production of their short film, creative teams must apply to Arctic Film Norway for a production grant on one of the deadlines in January, May, August, or September, more info [here](#).

Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen - South Tyrol

The sponsorship by the Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen - South Tyrol will cover the participation fee which includes lodging and accommodation for the two workshops of MASO #2 for one project backed by a production company based in South Tyrol.

To receive the necessary funding for the production of their short film, creative teams must apply for IDM Film Commission Südtirol Short Film Funding. Deadlines for submission are in January, May, and September. You can find [here](#) all further information regarding the production fund for short films.

Federal Ministry Housing, Arts, Culture, Media and Sport Republic of Austria (BMWKMS) and the Austrian Trade Association Fachverband der Film- und Musikwirtschaft (FAMA)

The Austrian Trade Association Fachverband der Film- und Musikwirtschaft (FAMA) will cover the participation fee which includes lodging and accommodation for the two workshops of MASO #2 for one project backed by a production company based in Austria.

To receive the necessary funding for the production of their short film, production companies/directors must apply to the production funding programme "Innovative Film" at the Federal Ministry Housing, Arts, Culture, Media and Sport Republic of Austria (BMWKMS). Further information regarding criteria and application procedures for Innovative Film can be found [here](#).

Ciclic Centre-Val de Loire

The sponsorship by Ciclic Centre-Val de Loire will cover the participation fee which includes lodging and accommodation for the two workshops of MASO #2 for one project written by an author living in Centre-Val de Loire Region (France) and/or backed by a production company based in Centre-Val de Loire Region (France).

In case of the selection of a project, Ciclic Centre-Val de Loire will grant sponsorship to the project.

To receive the necessary funding for the production of their films, the creative team – which includes an author living in Centre-Val de Loire – must apply to the special schemes co-managed by Ciclic Centre-Val de Loire with the local broadcasters, called COM TV. More info [here](#).

Through this scheme, the project may benefit from a flat support of EUR 15,000 for the short film, from a local broadcaster, which entitled it to request complementary support from CNC of EUR 15,000.

There are 3 calls and 3 committees to apply for support each year: the first deadline is in December for a committee meeting in February/March, the second deadline is in January/February for a committee meeting in April/May, the third deadline in September/October for a committee meeting in November/December.

Hellenic Film & Audiovisual Center - Creative Greece

The sponsorship by Hellenic Film & Audiovisual Center will cover the participation fee which includes lodging and accommodation for the two workshops of MASO #2 for one project backed by a production company based in Greece. This can be any filmmaker with a Greek nationality and/or a filmmaker with an active Greek tax residency.

To receive the necessary funding for the production of their short film, production companies/directors must apply to the production funding programme offered through the Hellenic Film & Audiovisual Center. The short film fund scheme supports projects of Greek filmmakers of up to 40mins across fiction, documentary and/or animation. Up to 35.000 euros is offered per project and there are two deadlines per year, 31/05 & 30/11. A project can apply without having a producer attached however if it is successful in acquiring the funding it is then required that a producer comes on board. Find more information [here](#).

Hessen Film & Medien GmbH

The sponsorship by Hessen Film & Media GmbH will cover the participation fee which includes lodging and accommodation for the two workshops of MASO #2 for one project backed by a production company based in Federal State of Hesse (Germany).

To receive the necessary funding for the production of their short film, creative teams must apply to the short film fund by Hessen Film & Media GmbH. Further information on the short film fund promoted by Hessen Film & Medien GmbH, is available [here](#). The submission deadlines for 2026 will be in April, August, and September (tbd).

IDM Film Commission Südtirol

The sponsorship by IDM Film Commission Südtirol will cover the participation fee which includes lodging and accommodation for the two workshops of MASO #2 for one to two projects backed by a production company from any country of the world.

Application for the projects sponsored by IDM Film Commission Südtirol must be submitted to IDM Film Commission Südtirol Short Film Funding. Deadlines for submission are in January, May, and September. You can find [here](#) all further information regarding the production fund for short films.

Fondo per l'Audiovisivo del Friuli Venezia Giulia

The support provided by Fondo per l'Audiovisivo del Friuli Venezia Giulia is aimed at selected producers from Friuli Venezia Giulia, who can request:

- 1) A scholarship of up to EUR 20,000 for the local creative team (comprising one writer/director and one producer). This scholarship covers the participation fee, as well as travel expenses, board, and lodging for the entire duration of the programme.
- 2) Total financial assistance of EUR 15,000 for one short film within the MASO Programme, with a maximum of EUR 5,000 available under the "Development" funding scheme and up to EUR 10,000 under the "Production" funding scheme.

Submission deadlines for 2026 will be confirmed at a later date (tbc).

