



CALL FOR ENTRIES - Anniversary for PITCH_IT - 5th Edition upcoming

PITCH IT

We are going into the 5th round of our International Pitching Training and Producers Workshop organized by the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg and the Goethe-Institut.

Who can participate?

This workshop is for emerging directors, writers, and producers (who haven't published their second feature-film (60min+) project), based in Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Serbia, and Slovakia. For the first time, filmmakers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey are also invited to apply.

We're selecting up to 10 projects — fiction, documentary, or experimental — that are planned as feature-films (minimum 60 minutes). Each project can be submitted by up to two participants. The workshop focuses on early-stage development and pitching, supported by experienced mentors from the film industry. Through a series of practical sessions, you'll work on your concept, build your presentation, and get feedback tailored to your project. The program concludes with a Pitching Event on February 12th, 2026, at the Goethe-Institut Berlin, during the opening day of the Berlin International Film Festival (Berlinale). You'll present your project to an audience of festival programmers, funders, and producers — followed by one-on-one meetings with industry professionals.

If you're developing a film and want to take the next step, we encourage you to apply.

Improve your skills in online and offline trainings

Through a dynamic mix of online and on-site workshops, participants will deepen their knowledge and sharpen their skills in key areas relevant for emerging filmmakers — including production, marketing, green shooting, and diversity management. Special focus will be placed on hands-on pitching training, helping participants to pitch their projects confidently and persuasively, both online and in person.

Beyond the core workshops, the program includes an intensive 5-day producing lab that tackles essential industry questions: How do you sell a project to international buyers? What makes for effective film packaging? And which strategies help place films successfully at festivals and on the global market?

Additionally, participants will get the chance to attend major international film festivals as part of guided excursions, meet industry professionals on equal footing during exclusive networking events, and gain valuable insights from experienced experts on production, marketing, and pitching in real-world industry settings.

Develop your film project and connect with the industry

Part of the workshop will also be a networking event at one of the most prestigious festivals and industry events for coproductions with the focus on Central and Eastern Europe: Cottbus Film Festival & Connecting Cottbus (coco). Participants will not only have the chance to be part of one of the most interesting, emerging film markets on the continent, but will also get the opportunity to speak directly to industry professionals and festival organizers.

Pitching Event live during the International Film Festival Berlin (Berlinale) 2026

The workshop will conclude in 2026, on-site, at the Goethe-Institut Berlin on the first day of the Berlin International Film Festival (Berlinale): Participants will present their projects to a prestigious international feedback-jury consisting of experts from film festivals like IDFA, Locarno, Sundance and Berlinale, Streamers like NETFLIX and successful distributors like BETA Film.

Previous Editions

[Official catalog of projects PITCH_IT in 2025](#) (PDF, 1 MB)

[Official catalog of projects PITCH_IT in 2024](#) (PDF, 2 MB)

[Official catalog of projects PITCH_IT in 2023](#) (PDF, 5 MB)

[Official catalog of projects PITCH_IT in 2021](#) (PDF, 3 MB)

Schedule

Dates	Activity	Location
06 -11. October 2025	Producing workshop and Pitching Training with Sibylle Kurz & Networking Filmfestival Sehenswert	Budapest, Hungary
17 – 19 October 2025	Networking Das FILMFEST	Prague, Czech Republic
05 – 07 November 2025	Networking Connecting Cottbus 2025	Cottbus, Germany
02 - 05 December 2025	Pitching Training with Sibylle Kurz	Online
24 - 26 January 2026	Pitching Rehearsal and industry Networking in Baden-Württemberg	Stuttgart & Ludwigsburg, Germany
11 – 15 February 2026	Rehearsal & Pitch (12.2.2026.) in Goethe-Institut Berlin Networking Berlinale 2026	Berlin, Germany

Costs

In the event of selection, participants can apply for a travel allowance. Otherwise, the participants have to cover their individual travel and travel-related costs.

Mentors (Selection)

- Sibylle Kurz (GER): Pitching Training
- Cornelia Hermann (GER): Dramaturgy
- Tracy Holder (USA): Funding
- Dóra Nedeczky (HU): Film Packaging
- Paul Rieth (GER): Social Media and Campaigning
- And many more.

Criteria for Participation

- Participants must be based in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, the Republic of Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Romania, the Republic of Serbia, the Slovak Republic or Turkey (resident address is required, citizenship is optional)
- Excellent artistic quality of the project in the respective categories of documentary, fictional or experimental long format (min 60min) film-projects
- No public market pitch of the project concept before October 2025
- ANY stage of development is eligible
- High school degree preferred
- Filmmakers who have made more than one feature film are not eligible
- You can apply as an individual or in a team of maximum two people
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Required documents in English language

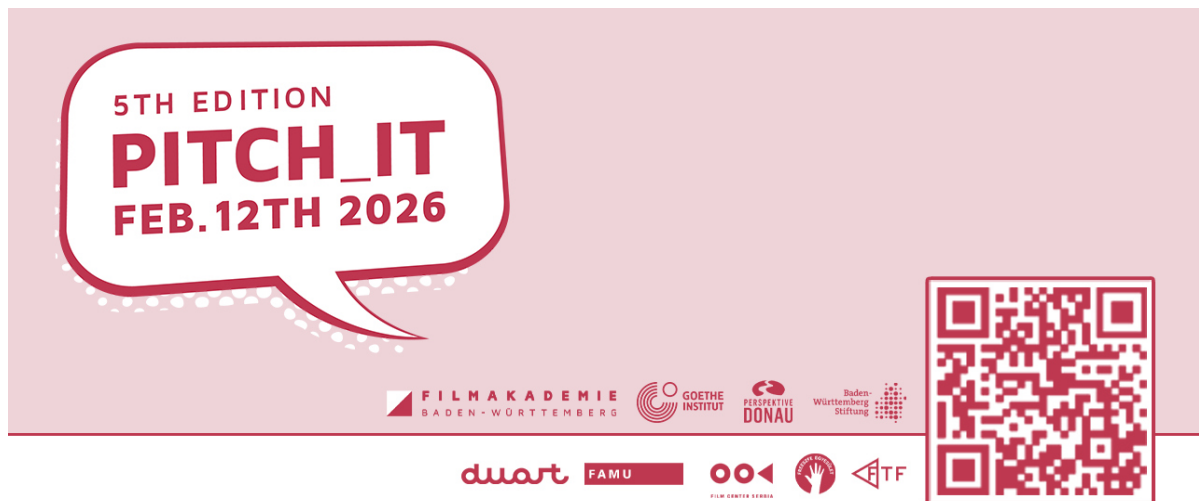
- Short CVs of the applicant(s)
- Short description of the project's content and status (max. 300 words excluding blanks / counted in WORD)
- Download-Video introduction about your motivation for participation by at least one team member (max 3:00 min)
- Download-Trailer or teaser of max 2:00 min (only in case of completed films)

Call is open

Deadline: 1st of August 2025

APPLY HERE

Please get back to us if you have any questions regarding the application process. Email: pitch-it@filmakademie.de



The 5th edition of PITCH_IT is a collaboration between Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg (FABW) and Goethe-Institut funded by the programme „Perspektive Donau“ of the Foundation Baden-Württemberg Stiftung.

Partners:

Duart, Croatia

Film Center Serbia

Filmová a televizní fakulta Akademie múzických umění v Praze, Czech Republic

Filmová a televízna fakulta Vysoká škola múzických umení v Bratislave, Slovakia

FREESZFE Egyesület, Hungary

Associate Partners:

Filmfestival Sehenswert 2025, Hungary

Das FILMFEST 2025, Czech Republic

Filmfestival Cottbus & Connecting Cottbus 2025, Germany

MFG Medien- und Filmgesellschaft Baden-Württemberg mbH, Germany