

MASO

Short Film Training Programme

MASO #1 - Edition 2024/2025

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 with a low budget 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 each edition of the programme is 8. For the 2024/2025 edition, henceforth MASO #1, projects will be selected according to the following dispositions :

- 1 project backed by a production company based in South Tyrol (Italy), to be sponsored by the Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen - South Tyrol through IDM Film Commission Südtirol;
- 2 projects backed by a production company based in any country in the world, to be sponsored by IDM Film Commission Südtirol;
- 1 project backed by a production company based in Austria, to be sponsored by the Federal Ministry Republic of Austria for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport (BMKOE) and the Austrian Trade Association Fachverband der Film- und Musikwirtschaft (FAMA);
- 1 project backed by a production company based in Land Hessen (Germany), to be sponsored by Hessen Film & Medien GmbH;
- 1 project backed by a production company based in Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region (Italy), eligible for the Fondo per l'Audiovisivo del Friuli Venezia Giulia funding support;
- 1 project backed by a production company based in Centre-Val de Loire Region (France), to be sponsored by Ciclic Centre-Val de Loire;
- 1 project backed by a production company based in Nordland, Troms, and Finnmark Counties (Norway), to be sponsored by Nordnorsk Filmsenter - North Norwegian Film Centre.

To receive funding for the production of their short films, creative teams must apply to the specific short film fund sponsoring/supporting their projects. 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 #1. For more specific information on sponsorship and funding programmes, see Appendix I at the end of this document.

How is it structured?

MASO 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 16th to June 30th, 2024.

The selection period runs from July 1st to July 31st, 2024.

A selection committee of 4 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 early August 2024, 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 six days from November 26th to December 3rd, 2024 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 2024 to the end of March 2025. 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 regarding gender and inclusiveness 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 five days and it will be held in April 2025 in 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 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 2025. MASO #1 creative teams will have five minutes to present their project to an audience of film professionals. 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 at their respective sponsor fund (and others, if they wish to), as well as begin with the pre-production phase of the short film.

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 #1'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 end of 2025. 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 #1.

By participating in the MASO #1 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 #1 at any stage of their festival run.

When is it scheduled?

MASO #1 takes place according to the following schedule:

The story development workshop takes place from November 26th to December 3rd, 2024.

The scriptwriting phase takes place from December 2024 to March 2025. 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 2025. More precise dates will be announced by the end of 2024.

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 2025.

The expected completion date of the film projects is at the end of 2025. 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 #1 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 #1 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 artistic head 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.

Iulia Rugină will be one of the tutors during the story development workshop. Iulia is a Bucharest-based director and screenwriter. She has a BA and an MA degree in film and television directing at Bucharest's National University of Theatre and Film (UNATC). In 2020 she completed a PhD on low-budget cinema at the same university. She has written and directed twelve shorts and three feature films. In 2020 she directed six of the eight episodes of the HBO-produced series Ruxx. Since 2009 she is also been actively involved in cultural management (through Control N, the cultural NGO she has co-founded), and film education (through the various projects she has participated in, as a film tutor), having worked with amateur filmmakers, children, ethnic minorities, inmates and drug addicts. She is currently a script consultant, after having taught Screenwriting for 10 years at the National University of Theatre and Film in Bucharest.

Who are the organizers?

MASO #1 is organized by IDM Film Commission Südtirol and Bolzano Film Festival Bozen (BFFB) in collaboration with: Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen - South Tyrol; Ciclic Centre-Val de Loire; Fachverband der Film- und Musikwirtschaft (FAMA); Federal Ministry Republic of Austria for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport (BMKOE); FilmCamp Norway; Fondo per l'Audiovisivo del Friuli Venezia Giulia; Free University of Bozen-Bolzano; Gewächshaus - Verein zur Förderung von Diversität im Film; Hessen Film & Medien GmbH; Italian Short Film Center; Nordnorsk Filmsenter - North Norwegian Film Centre; ZeLIG - School for Documentary, Television and New Media Bozen/Bolzano

How to apply?

Applications for MASO #1 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 #1 can be submitted from April 16th to June 30th, 2024.



How much does it cost?

Application to MASO #1 is free of charge.

The MASO #1 participation fee is covered by a EUR 5,000 grant from a specific institution sponsoring one of the projects.

MASO #1 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.¹

Do you have more questions?

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

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 #1 for 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.

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 #1 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 Republic of Austria for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport (BMKOES) 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 #1 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 for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport (BMKOES). Further information regarding criteria and application procedures for Innovative Film can be found [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 #1 for one project backed by a production company based in Land Hessen (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 2025 will be in April, August, and September (tbd).

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 program.
- 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 2025 will be confirmed at a later date (tbc).

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 #1 for one project written by an author living 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.

Nordnorsk Filmsenter - North Norwegian Film Centre

The sponsorship by Nordnorsk Filmsenter - North Norwegian Film Centre will cover the participation fee which includes lodging and accommodation for the two workshops of MASO #1 for one project backed by a production company based in Nordland, Troms, and Finnmark Counties (Norway).

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

