



# MASO

## Short Film Training Programme

### MASO #3 – 2026/2027 Edition

#### **What is MASO?**

MASO is a filmmaking workshop aimed at providing expert guidance to short film projects from the development to production stages.

#### **Who is MASO aimed at?**

MASO is exclusively aimed at creative teams consisting of a director/screenwriter and a producer (a maximum of 2 participating professionals per creative team).

Each project submitted must be attached to a production company at the time of application and throughout the making and completion of the film.

Both emerging filmmakers and experienced filmmakers are equally encouraged to apply.

The idea submitted should be feasible for production within the MASO training structure, from initial conception to the start of shooting.

Participants from all over the world as well as MASO partner institutions can apply.

Fiction, animation and hybrid projects are accepted.

Projects that demonstrate diversity, equity and inclusion are encouraged.

MASO's working language is English. Good English skills are essential for participation.

A total of 9 projects will be selected for the MASO #3 edition in 2026/2027.

A selection committee, whose members have yet to be announced, will select the projects based on their artistic value and the feasibility of their production.

#### **How is MASO structured?**

The MASO #3 workshop is structured according to three phases:

1. Selection process
2. Short film development
3. Short film pre-production

#### *Phase one: Selection process*

The call for entries is open from April 14<sup>th</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

The selection process runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

A selection committee of 6 film professionals and the MASO creative advisor will read and evaluate the submitted projects. All applicants will be contacted by e-mail by the end of August 2026 about the status of their application.

The titles of projects selected will be published online on the IDM Film & Music Commission Südtirol website and social media.

**Selection criteria** (1 lowest to 5 highest)

- 1 = Insufficient
- 2 = Weak
- 3 = Satisfactory
- 4 = Good
- 5 = Excellent

**A. Creative team & professional background**

**a) Professional experience of the director**

Assessment of the director's previous artistic work and its relevance to the proposed short film project

- 1 – No relevant experience, no identifiable connection to the project
- 2 – Initial experience, lack of artistic maturity
- 3 – Solid experience or a new talent with interesting perspectives
- 4 – Good to very good experience or a new talent whose work demonstrates original elements
- 5 – Outstanding experience or exceptional potential, strong creative voice

**b) Professional experience of the producer**

Experience of the producer in the development, financing and implementation of film projects

- 1 – No or little demonstrable production experience
- 2 – Some initial productions, limited market or festival experience
- 3 – Solid experience, with projects of a similar calibre
- 4 – Good track record in production, financing or distribution
- 5 – Very strong track record, strategically skilled producer

**c) Team potential**

Assessment of the team's potential for professional growth through participation in MASO

- 1 – Little development potential identifiable
- 2 – Limited advantage seen from participation
- 3 – Clear learning and development potential
- 4 – High potential for ongoing professional development
- 5 – Exceptional development potential with long-term impact

**d) Diversity & inclusion within the team**

Diversity of perspectives, backgrounds and experiences within the team

- 1 – No identifiable diversity or sensitivity to such themes
- 2 – Low level of diversity
- 3 – Solid level of diversity or consciously composed team
- 4 – Strong level of diversity and inclusive collaboration
- 5 – Exemplary representation of underrepresented voices

## **B. Project quality & artistic vision**

### **a) Exposé, synopsis & logline – quality & originality**

Dramatic appeal, originality and creative independence

- 1 – Underdeveloped, conventional
- 2 – Basic idea present, but insufficiently developed
- 3 – Well structured, solid layout
- 4 – Convincing and interesting perspective
- 5 – Highly original, bold and innovative

### **b) Artistic value & feasibility**

Balance between artistic ambition and practical feasibility

- 1 – Artistically or production-wise not realistic
- 2 – Significant doubts about feasibility
- 3 – Generally feasible
- 4 – Well thought-out and realistic
- 5 – Very strong alignment between vision and feasibility

## **C. Impact, distribution & visibility**

### **a) Promotion and distribution potential**

Potential for distribution and international visibility

- 1 – No identifiable distribution potential
- 2 – Very limited reach
- 3 – Solid festival or screening platform potential
- 4 – Good chances for international visibility
- 5 – Very high potential for festivals, distribution and international visibility

## **D. Motivation & intent**

### **a) Director's and producer's statements**

Motivation, relevance and vision

- 1 – Unconcise and underdeveloped
- 2 – Partially comprehensible
- 3 – Well-structured and authentic
- 4 – Strong and considered
- 5 – Very convincing, precise and inspiring

## **b) Video presentation**

Quality and persuasiveness of the presentation

- 1 – Unspecific, poorly structured
- 2 – Understandable, but largely unconvincing
- 3 – Solid presentation
- 4 – Professional and convincing
- 5 – Very strong, authentic and concise

### *Phase two: Short film development*

The short film development phase consists of an in-person story development workshop, a scriptwriting period and online consultations.

The on-site story development workshop takes place at FilmCamp Norway (Tomas Tomassens vei 41, Pb 144, 9334 Øverbygd, Norway) in November 2026 and is scheduled to last approximately one week. The workshop will mainly focus on script development and be led by two experienced tutors.

The creative teams chosen to participate in the programme (director/screenwriter and producer) are required to attend the workshop in person.

Active participation and openness to collaboration with the other participants is essential.

By the end of the workshop, participants should have a clear idea of their story and be ready to move on to the next stage: scriptwriting. At this point, one of the two tutors will be assigned to each film.

The scriptwriting phase runs from December 2026 to the end of March 2027.

Each creative team (director/screenwriter and producer) will work independently on scriptwriting during this period, with four to six online meetings with tutors also planned for each project. These meetings are aimed at moving the short film script towards a final draft.

This development phase also includes additional online consultancies with experts in order to address other specific aspects of the project such as diversity, equity and inclusion.

### *Phase three: Short film pre-production*

The short film pre-production phase consists of a production workshop and a presentation of the projects to selected industry guests.

The on-site production development workshop takes place in Bozen/Bolzano, Italy, during the Bolzano Film Festival Bozen at ZeLIG - School for Documentary in April 2027 and is scheduled to last approximately one week.

The workshop will mainly focus on the development of the film's financing strategy, establishing a production structure and prepare for funding applications based on the requirements of the MASO sponsorship programmes that support each project.

The workshop will be led by two experienced tutors.

The creative teams chosen to participate in the programme (director/screenwriter and producer) will be required to attend the workshop in person. Active participation and openness to collaboration with the other participants is essential.

During the workshop, other speakers may join to address specific aspects of the pre-production, production and post-production phases and sustainable production in line with IDM Film & Music Commission Südtirol's green shooting protocol.

An international co-production presentation will be held during the Industry Days of the 2027 Bolzano Film Festival Bozen. The MASO #3 creative teams will present their projects to an audience of curated industry guests. The presentations will be followed by one-on-one meetings between the creative teams and the participating professionals. The aim is to promote the participating projects as well to encourage cinematic dialogue and enable insights and information to be shared.

Following the 2<sup>nd</sup> on-site workshop in Bolzano, the actual pre-production of the short films begins – in line with the individual schedules and team decisions on the part of the team.

The creative teams will put the specific strategies tailored to their projects during the development and production workshops into practice and start to apply for funding, as well as beginning pre-production of their short films.

Creative teams that have received financial support to attend MASO #3 can apply for production funding directly from the specific short film fund that awarded them this support. The rules and regulations for applying to each film fund differ from fund to fund and will be explained during MASO #3.

For the list of financial support opportunities for MASO #3, please refer to the 'How much does MASO cost?' section of this document below.

To raise their film budgets, creative teams may also find other sources of funding in addition to the respective sponsoring institutions. Any other sources of funding must be compatible with the MASO #3 timeline and not compromise the realisation of the film within the intended timeframe.

#### *Beyond the MASO #3 programme: Short film production & promotion*

Each creative team is free to organise the production and post-production phases as they see fit. Creative teams are, however, obliged to implement a protocol for sustainable filmmaking in line with IDM Film & Music Commission Südtirol's green shooting protocol for the production and post-production of the film.

The creative teams are expected to remain in contact with the MASO team throughout this phase to discuss any potential problems and to give updates, with reporting to IDM on the development of each project to be carried out twice per year.

The expected completion date for the production phase is the beginning of 2028.

By participating in the MASO #3 programme, the creative teams agree to include a reference to the MASO programme (text and MASO programme logo) in the opening and closing credits of their films. Furthermore, the MASO logo must be present in any digital and printed communication (examples: poster, trailer, press kit, etc.) relating to the finished film.

The distribution strategy of the film will be developed by the creative team itself. The MASO team can be consulted on 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 #3 at any stage of their festival run (no premiere status required).

### **When is MASO scheduled?**

MASO #3 takes place according to the following schedule:

Story development workshop: November 2026

Scriptwriting phase: December 2026 to March 2027

Online meetings with script tutors: to be scheduled individually for each project between October 2026 and April 2027

Production workshop: April 2027 (more precise dates will be announced by the end of 2026)

Pre-production and production phases: according to the requirements of each project, starting by April 2027 at the earliest

Expected completion date: beginning of 2028. The completion date will be discussed and agreed with the MASO team on an individual basis.

Distribution: starting with completion of each project

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

### **Where does MASO take place?**

MASO #3 takes place at several locations, on-site and online:

Story development workshop: FilmCamp Norway, in the town of Øverbygd

Scriptwriting phase: online

Production development workshop: during the Bolzano Film Festival Bozen, in the city of Bolzano, Italy, at ZeLIG - School for Documentary

Pre-production, production and distribution phases of the short films: 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 changes in venue as soon as new information becomes available.

### **Which language will be used?**

MASO's working language is English. Good English skills are essential for participation.

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

### **Who are the tutors?**

MASO #3 tutors are professionals whose expertise extends to both the short and feature film circuits. The tutors have years of experience in mentoring new talent.

The creative advisor of the MASO #3 programme is Zsuzsanna Király.

Zsuzsanna Király studied communication science in Vienna and Berlin. From 2009 to 2020, she worked at Komplizen Film as Head of Development. Since 2017, Zsuzsanna Király has been producing artistic fiction and documentary films with her own production company Flaneur Films. These titles include "Phantasiesätze" and "Afterwater" by Dane Komljen, "Two Minutes to Midnight" by Yael Bartana and "A Flower in the Mouth" by Éric Baudelaire. Zsuzsanna Király is member of the editorial board of "Revolver, Zeitschrift für Film" and of the association "HvC - Hauptverband Cinephilie". She teaches at various film schools and universities, including the Deutsche Film- und Fernsehakademie Berlin and Universität der Künste Berlin.

### **Who are the organisers?**

MASO #3 is an initiative by the IDM Film & Music Commission Südtirol and Bolzano Film Festival Bozen (BFFB).

MASO #3 is organised by IDM Film & Music Commission Südtirol in collaboration with: Arctic Film Norway; Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen - South Tyrol; Bolzano Film Festival Bozen (BFFB); Ciclic Centre-Val de Loire; EWA - European Women's Audiovisual Network; Federal Ministry of Housing, Arts, Culture, Media and Sport Republic of Austria (BMWKMS); FilmCamp Norway; Fondo per l'Audiovisivo del Friuli Venezia Giulia; Hessen Film & Medien GmbH; IDM Film & Music Commission Südtirol; Italian Short Film Center; PFX Italy; Roma Creative Contest; WeShort; ZeLIG - School for Documentary.

### **How do I apply?**

Applications for MASO #3 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
- Short bio and filmography
- Link to one previous film/artwork representing the director's style

The following information about the production company attached to the project 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
- Company profile, incl. filmography of the producer

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

- Original title of the short film project
- English title of the short film project
- Original language of the film project
- Short synopsis: max. 1800 characters
- Exposé: max. 3 A4 pages
- List of cast and crew already confirmed for the project
- Director's note: max. 1800 characters
- Producer's note: max. 1800 characters
- Video presentation: max. 5 minutes, in which applicants present themselves and their project, via online link

### **When is the application deadline?**

Applications for MASO #3 can be submitted from April 14<sup>th</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

### **How much does MASO cost?**

Applying to MASO #3 is free of charge.

The MASO #3 participation fee is EUR 5,000. Projects that meet the specific requirements of one of MASO #3's sponsoring institutions can receive support for their fees.

The specific support opportunities available for projects applying to MASO #3 are from the following territories:

- Support for 1 project backed by a production company based in any country worldwide, sponsored by IDM Film & Music Commission Südtirol;
- Support for 2 projects backed by a production company based in South Tyrol (Italy), sponsored by the Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen - South Tyrol through the IDM Film & Music Commission Südtirol;
- Support for 1 project backed by a production company based in Austria, sponsored by the Federal Ministry Housing, Arts, Culture, Media and Sport Republic of Austria (BMWKMS)
- Support for 1 project backed by a production company based in the Federal State of Hesse (Germany), sponsored by Hessen Film & Medien GmbH;
- Support for 1 project backed by a production company based in the Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region (Italy), eligible for funding support from the Fondo per l'Audiovisivo del Friuli Venezia Giulia;
- Support for up to 2 projects backed by a production company based in the Centre-Val de Loire Region (France), and/or written by a screenwriter living in Centre-Val de Loire region, sponsored by Ciclic Centre-Val de Loire;
- Support for 1 project backed by a production company based in the Northern Norway Region - Counties Nordland, Troms and Finnmark (Norway), sponsored by Arctic Film Norway.



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

The MASO #3 organising partners will provide two meals per day and accommodation for each participating creative team for the in-person workshops.

Travel expenses will not be covered.<sup>1</sup>

**Do you have any more questions?**

For further information, please send an email to [film@idm-suedtirol.com](mailto:film@idm-suedtirol.com).

## APPENDIX I

More specific information on some of the support and funding schemes is provided below.

### **Arctic Film Norway**

The support by Arctic Film Norway will cover the participation fee for the two MASO #3 workshops for one project backed by a production company based in the 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 during one of their calls for entry in January, May, August, or September, more info [here](#).

### **Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen - South Tyrol**

The support by the Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen - South Tyrol will cover the participation fee for the two MASO #3 workshops for two projects 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 & Music Commission Short Film Funding. The submission deadlines are in January, May, and September. You can find all further information regarding the production fund for short films [here](#).

### **Federal Ministry Housing, Arts, Culture, Media and Sport Republic of Austria (BMWKMS)**

The Federal Ministry Housing, Arts, Culture, Media and Sport Republic of Austria (BMWKMS) will cover the participation fee which includes lodging and accommodation for the two workshops of MASO #3 for one project backed by a production company based in Austria.

To receive the necessary funding for the production of their short film in the amount of € 30.000, 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 support by Ciclic Centre-Val de Loire will cover the participation fee for the two MASO #3 workshops for up to two projects written by a screenwriter living in Centre-Val de Loire Region (France) and/or backed by a production company based in Centre-Val de Loire Region (France).

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

Through this scheme, each project may benefit from fixed funding of EUR 15,000 for the short film from a local broadcaster, which then enables additional support from CNC of EUR 15,000 to be requested. There are 3 calls for entry and 3 committee sessions 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.

### **Hessen Film & Medien GmbH**

The sponsorship by Hessen Film & Media GmbH will cover the participation fee which includes lodging, accommodation and travel costs for the two workshops of MASO #3 for one project backed by a writer/production company based in Federal State of Hesse (Germany).

To receive the necessary funding for the future 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 2027 will be in April, August, and September (tbd).

### **IDM Film & Music Commission Südtirol**

The support by IDM Film & Music Commission will cover the participation fee for the two MASO #3 workshops, for one project backed by a production company from any country of the world.

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

### **Fondo per l'Audiovisivo del Friuli Venezia Giulia**

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

- 1) Support of up to EUR 20,000 for the local creative team (comprising one writer/director and one producer). This support covers the participation fee, as well as travel expenses, meals and accommodation for the entire duration of the programme for one participating project.
- 2) Total funding of EUR 15,000 for one short film within the MASO programme, with a maximum of EUR 5,000 available through the "Development" funding scheme and up to EUR 10,000 through the "Production" funding scheme.

The 2026 submission deadlines will be confirmed at a later date (tbc).



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