

2026 MEETINGS ON THE BRIDGE SHORT FILM WORKSHOP REGULATIONS

1. DATES

The 21st Meetings on the Bridge Short Film Workshop will be held from 14 to 16 April 2026 as part of the 45th Istanbul Film Festival, organized by the Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (İKSİV), which will take place from 9 to 19 April 2026.

2. PURPOSE

The workshop's goals are:

- To support the production of short films in Türkiye,
- To support the development of short film scripts through training provided via group workshops and one-on-one consultations,
- To promote dialogue between Turkish and international filmmakers
- To help directors and producers bring their projects to international platforms,
- To establish a sustainable communication network among film professionals and ensure the continuity of knowledge exchange.

3. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Short-length fiction and documentary projects in development are eligible to apply to the platform.
- Projects planned to be completed by the end of 2026 are eligible to apply.
- Projects applying to the workshop must submit the documents listed under the 'Application' section in PDF format, in both Turkish and English.
- Projects that have previously applied to the Meetings on the Bridge Short Film Workshop are not eligible to apply again. However, if a page outlining major changes to the treatment is included, the project may be reconsidered.
- A production company is required; the producer and director can be the same person.
- A production company may apply to different platforms of Meetings on the Bridge with different projects but cannot apply with more than one project to the same workshop. Each project can only be submitted to one workshop.
- Only short narrative or documentary projects from Türkiye with a maximum planned duration of 20 minutes are eligible.
- Projects that have already begun shooting cannot apply to the Short Film Workshop. Selected projects cannot start shooting prior to the Meetings on the Bridge closing ceremony on 16 April 2026.
- Directors must have participated in a film festival with at least one short film or have been part of the creative team of a feature film, documentary, or commercial that has been screened at a festival, released theatrically, or aired on TV or digital platforms. (A link to the film is required.)
- Project teams are required to attend all training sessions, presentations, and meetings held within Meetings on the Bridge. If the producer or director does not participate in the Short Film Workshop, the selected project cannot qualify for awards.
- Training sessions will be provided by local and international trainers. Project presentations and one-on-one meetings within the platform, attended by a large number

of international filmmakers and institutional representatives, will be conducted in English. Therefore, the project's director and/or producer must be proficient in English.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

- After completion, films produced through the Short Film Workshop are required to **feature the Meetings on the Bridge logo in their opening and ending credits**. The Meetings on the Bridge logo must be **clearly visible** in the credits.
- Projects receiving awards must feature the Meetings on the Bridge logo, as well as the logos of award sponsors, in both the opening and closing credits.
- The Meetings on the Bridge and award sponsor logos must appear on all printed materials, social media announcements, websites, and promotional videos of the film.
- Once the film is completed, **a screening link of the final version** must be shared with the Meetings on the Bridge team.
- The Meetings on the Bridge team must be informed about the film's international festival submissions, as well as its national and international premieres, screenings, and release announcements.
- Award-winning films from Meetings on the Bridge are expected to hold their Turkish premiere at the Istanbul Film Festival. If the premiere schedule changes, the Istanbul Film Festival must be notified and consulted first.

5. APPLICATION

- Projects for the Short Film Workshop are selected by a Selection Committee consisting of experts, including both local and international directors, producers, screenwriters, distributors, film fund managers, TV channel managers, and representatives of sales companies.
- The Meetings on the Bridge Selection Committee will select up to 4 projects from the applicants to participate in the Short Film Workshop.
- The platform aims for diversity in its selection. Therefore, the call is open to projects of various topics and genres, including documentaries, animation, genre cinema (horror, fantasy, etc.), children's films, comedies, and interdisciplinary and hybrid works.
- Priority will be given to projects that have not previously participated in similar platforms or co-production markets.
- Applications must be submitted by the project's producer by 13 January 2026. The projects for the Meetings on the Bridge Short Film Workshop will be chosen from the applications.
- Applications must be submitted in both Turkish and English.
- Applications must be submitted online by **13 January 2026 at 18:00**, at <https://projects-iksv.festicine.pro/en/short>

Required Documents For Application

Please upload documents in both Turkish and English in PDF format.

- Logline (max 270 characters including spaces)
- Synopsis (max. 1800 characters including spaces)
- Treatment (max. 3 pages)
- Script
- Director's statement (max. 1800 characters including spaces)
- Producer's statement (max. 1800 characters including spaces)

- Biographies, filmographies and photos of the director and producer (max. 750 characters each, including spaces)
- Financial plan (in TL and EUR)
- Financing strategy
- At least one previous film by the director, with English subtitles (online screening link)
- Moodboard (Upload a visual moodboard illustrating the project's tone, atmosphere, and artistic direction)

6. PROGRAMME

- Directors, producers, and screenwriters of selected projects will participate in preparatory sessions with international trainers and experts. The schedule will be shared with selected projects, and the director, producer, and screenwriter presenting the project are required to participate. The working language will be Turkish or English, depending on the trainer, and no translation will be provided.
- During the three-day platform at the festival, project owners will present their projects to international producers, distributors, festival, and fund representatives, broadcasters, market and platform managers and Short Film Workshop juries, followed by one-on-one meetings with participants.
- The awarded projects will be announced at the closing ceremony on 16 April, 2026.

7. TIMELINE

The tentative schedule for the Meetings on the Bridge Short Film Workshop is as follows:

27 November 2025: Opening of Short Film Workshop Applications

13 January 2026: Short Film Workshop Application Deadline

14-15-16 April 2026: Meetings on the Bridge Short Film Workshop

16 April 2026: Short Film Workshop Awards Ceremony

The schedule for the Short Film Workshop training programmes and awards to be presented will be announced later.

İstanbul Film Festival – Meetings on the Bridge reserves the right to make changes to the programme and these regulations.

By applying, directors and producers accept the terms of the regulations.

For announcements, please visit:

<https://film.iksv.org/en/meetings-on-the-bridge>

https://www.instagram.com/kopru_bridge/

<https://x.com/koprudebulusma>

<https://www.facebook.com/koprudebulusmalar>

For any questions, please contact: onthebridge@iksv.org