



Federal Government Commissioner  
for Culture and the Media

## GERMAN FEDERAL FILM FUND DFFF

## GERMAN MOTION PICTURE FUND GMPF

AT A GLANCE  
**2020**



The Queen's Gambit



And Tomorrow the Entire World



Nightlife



The Untitled Matrix Project



Next Door

# A MESSAGE

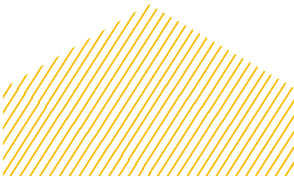
from Minister of State Monika Grütters



The COVID-19 pandemic has hit the film industry and the entire cultural sector in Germany hard. Mandatory social distancing on the set and the constant risk that infection among the cast or crew could interrupt filming create additional difficulties for film-makers and increase the financial risks for producers. So I am all the more pleased that many German and international productions were able to benefit from DFFF and GMPF funding in 2020 despite the pandemic.

The economic effects of this funding on one of the key sectors in the culture and creative industry were very important, especially in these difficult times. National and international production firms invested more than five times the amount of film subsidies in Germany, leading to significant follow-on investment in Germany's film industry – a welcome success in the pandemic year 2020 which helped many people: not only the numerous service providers involved in producing a film, but above all the creative professionals who were able to continue working as a result, even under more difficult circumstances. To ensure the best possible environment for the film industry despite the coronavirus crisis, we established the Production Continuation Fund within the federal NEUSTART KULTUR programme to help if film production must be suspended or abandoned due to the pandemic. Covering this risk is essential to ensure that films can continue to be made. The positive response from the industry shows that the course we have taken together with the *Länder* is the right one. I hope that the success achieved last year will continue in 2021, and I will work hard to make that happen.

Monika Grütters  
Minister of State for Culture and the Media



# DFFF I

## In figures

2020	Number	Total production costs	German production costs	Grant*	Grant incl. add. appropriations**
Approvals	93	299.271.909 €	218.545.494 €	37.060.872 €	38.141.984 €
additional appropriations**	19	5.391.048 €	5.088.253 €	1.077.892 €	
International Co-Productions	35	149.906.041 €	82.978.901 €	14.601.931 €	14.736.380 €
German Productions	58	149.365.868 €	135.566.593 €	22.458.941 €	23.405.604 €
Feature Films	54	225.673.328 €	177.423.704 €	30.039.018 €	31.028.393 €
Documentaries	33	19.537.868 €	15.470.444 €	2.495.910 €	2.587.646 €
Animated Films	6	54.060.713 €	25.651.346 €	4.525.944 €	4.525.945 €

\*incl. additional approvals according to § 14 para. 7 / \*\*pandemic-related additional appropriations

### Additional costs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic

To ease the pandemic's impact on the film industry, the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media, together with the German Federal Film Board (FFA) and the film funding programmes of the federal states, developed an emergency aid programme to help producers by covering a share of the additional costs of film and series production caused by the pandemic. In 2020, 19 projects received additional pandemic-related aid from the DFFF I funding scheme.

### Budget classes: Fewer medium-budget productions, noticeable increase in documentaries

The pandemic increases the financial risk for production companies, makes filming more difficult and requires additional cost-intensive measures. Funding demand for

productions with budgets in the middle range (€2m to €5m) was much lower in 2020: 22 projects compared to 38 in 2019. The number of documentary films with a budget under €1m that received funding increased by 50%, to 33 projects in 2020 from 22 in 2019.

### Success at festivals – many of them online

Even in 2020, the year of the pandemic, DFFF-funded films appeared at festivals: "Berlin Alexanderplatz" and "Undine" celebrated their world premieres in competition at the 70th Berlin International Film Festival; "Enfant Terrible", about the life of Rainer Werner Fassbinder, was an official selection of the Festival de Cannes; and Germany's Oscar candidate, "And Tomorrow the Entire World", was invited to compete at the Venice International Film Festival.

# DFFF II

## In figures

2020	Number	Total production costs segment of a film	German production costs segment of a film	Grant
Approvals	4	141.422.257 €	107.366.062 €	25.562.689 €

### More than €140m spent on film production in Germany

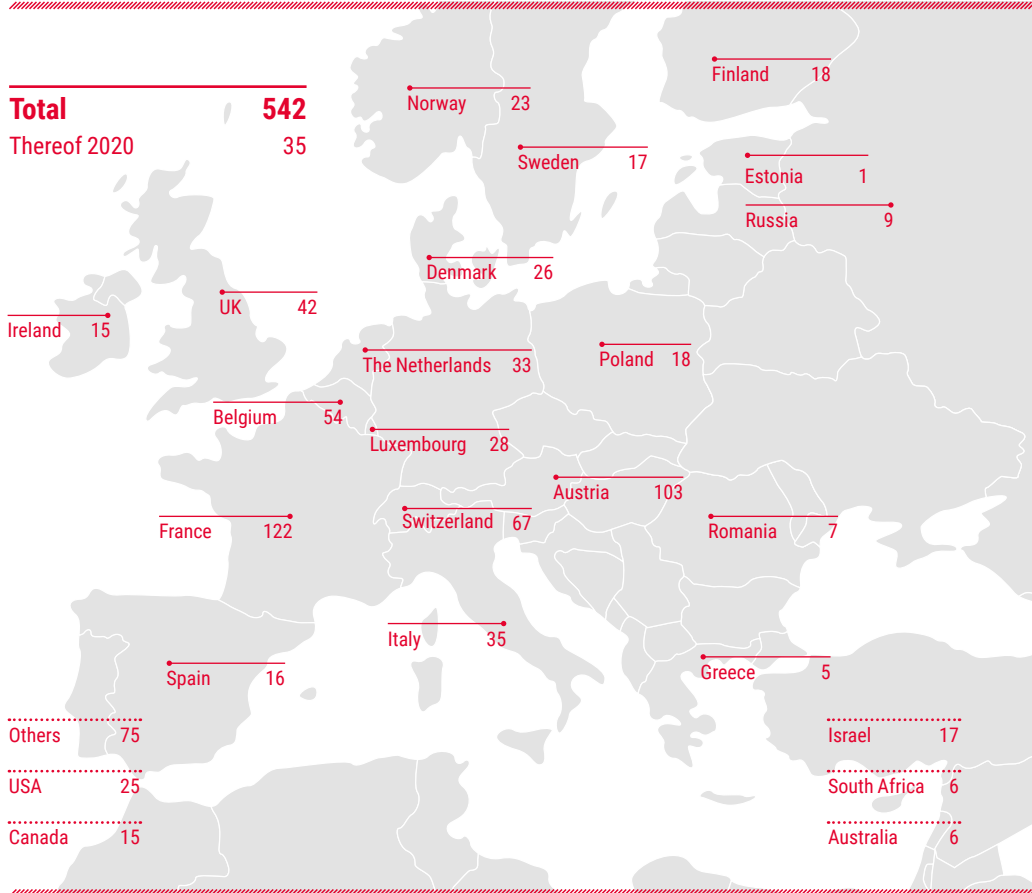
German production service providers and service providers specialising in visual effects and animation again participated in international projects in 2020. Due to the pandemic, however, some major projects were postponed, meaning that fewer projects received funding than in 2019, when seven projects were funded.

# INTERNATIONAL CO-PRODUCTIONS

DFFF I 2007 – 2020

**Total** 542

Thereof 2020 35



## DFFF I + II

Overview 2007 – 2020



### PRODUCTIONS

1,501



### FUNDING DISBURSED

€ 867 MILLION



### INVESTMENT IN GERMANY'S FILM HUB

€ 5.1 BILLION

In the 14 years since it was established in 2007, the DFFF I scheme has provided total funding of €777m to 1,489 film productions. And since its introduction in 2017, the DFFF II funding scheme has approved €90m for 12 productions. This funding from the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media has resulted in follow-on investment in Germany amounting to roughly €5.1 billion. Funded projects comprised 947 German and 554 international co-productions. In 2020, German producers teamed up most often with French (6), Austrian (6) and Norwegian (5) partners on co-productions.

# GMPF

## in figures

2020	Number	Total production costs	German production costs	Grant	Grant incl. add. appropriations*
Approvals	12	157.114.106 €	124.120.733 €	20.467.272 €	20.884.961 €
additional appropriations*	2	2.926.032 €	2.732.563 €	417.689 €	
International Co-Productions	2	40.027.723 €	21.587.024 €	3.992.882 €	4.139.205 €
German Productions	10	117.086.383 €	102.533.709 €	16.474.390 €	16.745.755 €

\*pandemic-related additional appropriations

### 12 new high-end series produced in Germany

Demand for streaming content has further increased in the time of COVID-19. Again in 2020, the German Motion Picture Fund offered German producers reliable prospects for producing high-quality, internationally marketable series, considerably enhancing Germany's attractiveness as a place to make films. Among the 12 projects funded this year were two international series, including the British-German thriller "You". Two other projects that faced higher production costs owing to the pandemic received additional funding.

2016 – 2020	Number	Total production costs	German production costs	Grant	Grant incl. add. appropriations*
Approvals	50	1.011.469.992 €	669.509.312 €	93.530.616 €	93.948.305 €
additional appropriations*	2	2.926.032 €	2.732.563 €	417.689 €	
International Co-Productions	16	583.373.081 €	276.073.823 €	29.979.876 €	
German Productions	34	428.096.911 €	393.435.489 €	63.550.740 €	
Series	47	836.182.281 €	562.970.821 €	87.530.616 €	
Feature films	3	175.287.710 €	106.538.491 €	6.000.000 €	

\*pandemic-related additional appropriations

### 5 years of funding – 50 high-quality projects

By the end of its fifth year in existence on 31 December 2020, the GMPF had supported a total of 50 productions. Administered until mid-2018 by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy and thereafter by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media, in the period from 2016 to 2020 the GMPF funded projects with German production costs totalling €672m, ensuring plenty of work for film studios and production sites in Germany. During that time, German and international production companies invested roughly seven times the amount they received in government grants. The high-end series funded have enjoyed enormous success: from "Babylon Berlin", "Dark" and "Bad Banks" to "The Queen's Gambit", quality series "Made in Germany" sell all over the world, where they find an enthusiastic global audience.

# HOW TO APPLY

## at a glance

The DFFF and the GMPF are automatic funding schemes through which funding is awarded in the form of a grant. Applications may be made at any time, but they must be submitted at least six weeks before filming begins. Once all the application documents have been submitted and 75% of financing is in place, funding can be granted if all grant requirements are met and the relevant funding is available.



### DFFF I

Producers of feature, documentary and animated films are eligible to apply.

#### Grants

Up to 20% of approved German production costs; up to 25% if the German production costs exceed €8m. If the project receives funding from both the FFA and the cultural film support from the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media, then the grant increases to 25% or 30% respectively. Maximum funding is €4m.

#### Eligibility requirements

- Total production costs for feature films of at least €1m, for documentary films €200,000 and for animated films €2m.
- The film must obtain a certain number of points in the test of cultural characteristics to ensure the cultural objectives of the funding.
- The film must be commercially released in German cinemas.
- At least 25% of the total production costs must be spent in Germany; if total production costs are more than €20 million, then at least 20% must be spent in Germany.
- The German share of funding must make up 20% of total production costs.



### GMPF

Producers of series and films that are not intended for first release in cinemas are eligible to apply.

#### Grants

Up to 20% of approved German production costs, capped at €2.5m. Series receive up to €4m if the German production costs exceed €20m.



### DFFF II

Production service providers hired to produce a film or film segment are eligible to apply.

#### Grants

Up to 25% of approved German production costs, maximum of €25m per film.

#### Eligibility requirements

- Total production costs of at least €20m.
- German production costs of the film or film segment of at least €8m,
- for animated films and films with virtually animated components, German production costs of at least €2m.
- The film must obtain a certain number of points in the test of cultural characteristics to ensure the cultural objectives of the funding.
- The film must be commercially released in German cinemas.

#### Eligibility requirements

- Total production costs for fictional series of at least €30,000 per minute or at least €1.2m per episode and at least €7.2m per season.
- Total production costs for documentary series of at least €9,000 per minute or at least €360,000 per episode and at least €1.65m per season.
- Total production costs for films of at least €25m.
- At least 40% of the total production costs must be spent in Germany.
- Projects must obtain a certain number of points in the test of cultural characteristics to ensure the cultural objectives of the funding.
- Must be screened on German TV or be available via VoD platforms accessible in Germany.

# FILM FUNDING IN 2020

**In 2020, the German Federal Film Fund (DFFF) and the German Motion Picture Fund (GMPF) funded a total of 109 national and international theatrical films and high-end series. Despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the film industry, the demand for DFFF and GMPF funding remained high (2019: a total of 121 projects).**

Major international and big-budget projects were absent in 2020, which is reflected in the amount of total funding granted: the DFFF and GMPF disbursed €84.6m in 2020, down from €135.5m in 2019. But again in 2020, national and international production companies invested many times the amount of government subsidies: DFFF funding of €63.7m led to follow-on investment in the German film industry of €331m; in 2019, this figure was €536.2m. The GMPF granted a total of €20.9m in funding, leading to roughly €127m in follow-on investment. In 2019, these figures were €27.6m and €179m.

Since September 2020, the Production Continuation Fund of the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media within the federal NEUSTART KULTUR programme has been available to reduce the financial risks created by the pandemic for federally funded theatrical films and series. By 31 December 2020, a total of 46 DFFF- and GMPF-funded productions benefited from the Production Continuation Fund; 14 projects were affected by pandemic-related disruptions to production and were able to receive support.

## **DFFF I: Funding of €38.1m – more international projects and more documentaries than in 2019**

In 2020, 93 projects received funding from the DFFF I (2019: 97 projects): 54 feature films, 33 documentaries and 6 animated films. Additional appropriations totaling €1.1m were granted to 19 projects. The share of international film projects produced in Germany which received funding remained large, growing to 35 projects in 2020 from 33 in 2019. Projects included the British-German biopic "Spencer" about the life of Princess Diana, directed by Pablo Larraín, and Maggie Peren's new project, the tragicomedy "Der Passfälscher".

And 58 German productions received funding in 2020, down from 64 in 2019; projects included "Felix Krull", based on the novel by Thomas Mann and directed by Detlev Buck, and a German remake of "Catweazle" with Otto Waalkes in the title role. The 33 documentary films that received funding in 2020 (2019: 24) included "Igor Levit – Pianist", directed by Regina Schilling, and "Ice Age – The Dream Begins", directed by Alexandra Sell. The six animated film projects included the children's fantasy film "Mia and Me – The Movie".

## **DFFF II: €25.6m in funding available but not fully used**

The expertise of German production service providers continues to be in demand. But some international projects had to be abandoned in the course of 2020 as filming was interrupted or postponed due to COVID-19. The DFFF II funded four projects in 2020, including the film "Uncharted", based on the video game of the same name, which received about €21.2m.

## **GMPF: €20.9m in funding – ongoing strong demand**

The German Motion Picture Fund supports the production of high-end series and big-budget films with a high German spend. In 2020, it provided funding for 12 new series, including the Sky original series "Souls" and the German-Norwegian political thriller "Furia", co-produced by German public broadcaster ZDF. It also provided support for the second season of the Netflix series "Biohackers" and the six-part event series "Blackout" for ProSiebenSat.1 and Joyn.

A list of all projects funded in 2020 is available on the DFFF and GMPF websites.



# CONTACT

The DFFF and the GMPF are administered by the German Federal Film Board (FFA) on behalf of the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM).

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## GMPF

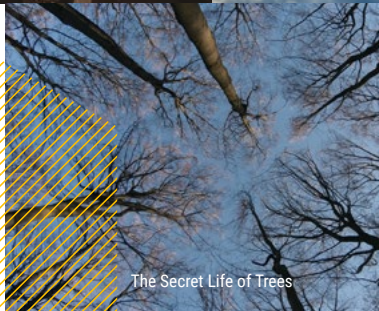
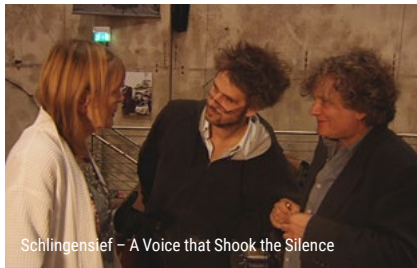
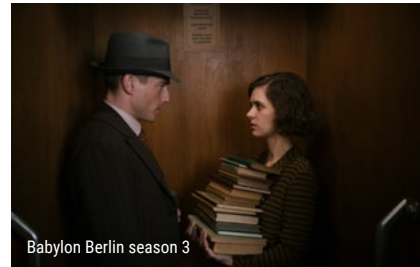
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*Photo Credits:* DFFF I-funded films have been successful at the box office and at festivals; internationally acclaimed GMPF-funded high-end TV series (selection): "The Queen's Gambit", Netflix, Inc. | "And Tomorrow the Entire World", Alamode | "Nightlife", Warner Bros. | "Next Door", Warner Bros./Amusement Park, Reiner Bajo | "Babylon Berlin" season 3, X Filme Creative Pool / ARD Degeto Film / Sky Deutschland / WDR / Beta Film | "Schlingensief – A Voice that Shook the Silence", Weltkino | "Dragon Rider", Constantin | "Berlin Alexanderplatz", Entertainment One (Paramount) | "The Secret Life of Trees", Constantin | DFFF II - funded projects, shooting in Germany (selection): "The Untitled Matrix Project", Warner Bros., photo by Murray Close



Schlingensief – A Voice that Shook the Silence

Dragon Rider

The Secret Life of Trees

Berlin Alexanderplatz