

CONTENT

- 4 Introducing FISA
- 8 FAQ
- 12 Gender Gap Incentive
- 15 Cultural Test
- 17 Funding Procedure
- 21 Shooting Films in Austria
- 22 Austrian Film Funds
- 24 Regional Film Commissions
- 26 Green Filming
- 29 Screenwriting Contest
- 30 Any questions?
- 33 Personal Notes



The Dark Valley
Andreas Prochaska
Allegro Film, Thomas W. Kiennast



INTRODUCING FISA

WHY WE WANT TO SUPPORT YOUR FILM PROJECT

From grand feature films to stunning documentaries: motion pictures inspire, amaze and teach us, they make us look at things from a different perspective and they take us on magnificent journeys through time and space. Throughout its constantly evolving history, film has always been an important part of a country's cultural identity while also connecting several countries by way of international co-productions.

FISA – Film Industry Support Austria is aiming to promote and grow this valuable industry. The programme constantly provides stimuli for Austria as a film location by partially financing film productions with non-repayable grants, making it a major promotor of creative growth.

Investing in Austria's film industry clearly adds to economic value and boosts employment. But that is not all: An investment of this kind also means setting the course for a future-oriented development in a global market pervaded by digitisation. Pro-active strategic support of our scenic country as a film location is crucial in order to guarantee long-standing success, especially in this globalised, dynamic environment. We want this to be a European project. With the film industry being among those most affected by digitisation, we want to combine our skills as innovative, digitised partners to shine a light on the creativity and know-how of local filmmakers, to raise awareness of Austrian film and, most of all, to increase potentials for international co-operation within the film industry.





Mademoiselle Paradis
Barbara Albert
NGF / LOOKS





*===== 2.234,65 *
*===== > 674,69 *
*=====



The Elfkins – Baking a Difference
Ute von Münchow-Pohl
Akkord Film / TOBIS Film



In addition, with new guidelines in effect from 2020, FISA also reacts to current challenges in the film sector and advocates gender equality by means of our Gender Mission 50:50 as well as more sustainability in the film industry by means of green filming measures.

Initiated by Austria's Federal Ministry of Digital and Economic Affairs, FISA is administrated by Austria Wirtschaftsservice (aws) in co-operation with Location Austria – the National Film Commission. The incentive works in form of a cash rebate and targets larger-scale productions to guarantee jobs to filmmakers while focusing on an international transfer of knowledge, hence making shooting in Austria a valuable experience for both our international partners and local talent. We have been lucky enough to welcome international productions on no smaller scales than those of the James Bond and Mission: Impossible franchises, which we won over not only with our beautiful mountain landscapes and grand opera houses but also with our well-equipped first-rate local crew and cast.

Interested in following their lead?
Here's how it works!

FAQ

WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS ARE ELIGIBLE?

We support cinema feature film productions with non-repayable grants. Eligible projects include:

- Fiction and documentary films at a runtime of at least 70 minutes each; children's films at a runtime of at least 59 minutes.
- National productions, Austrian–foreign co-productions and international service productions.

HOW MUCH IS THE GRANT?

- The granted amount is determined based on the eligible production costs and depends on the respective type of production:
- Up to 25% for co-productions plus up to 30% exclusively for that portion of eligible costs funded with foreign capital.
- Up to 30% for service productions.
- Per-project cap: max. 15% of the total annual grant budget of EUR 7.5 million.
- Debut films: EUR 250.000 max.

WHO CAN APPLY?

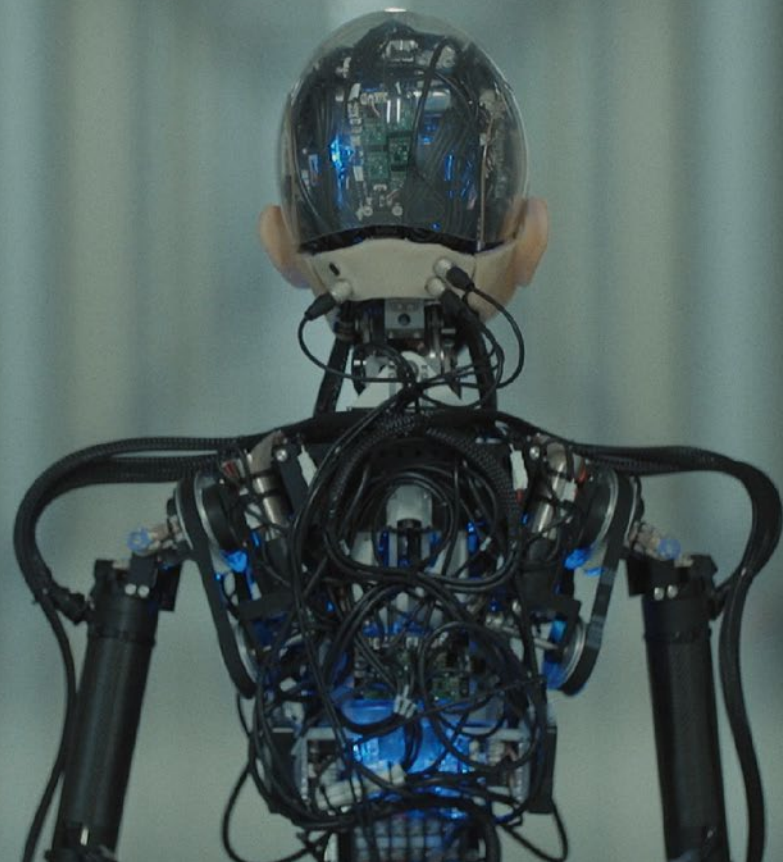
- Independent film production companies not connected to a TV broadcaster that hold sufficient professional qualifications and experience.
- Companies from the EEA with registered headquarters or at least a branch office in Austria.
- Companies who have produced and commercially distributed at least one comparable reference film in Austria or another EEA member state within 5 years prior to submission.



■
□ Toni Erdmann
■ Maren Ade
■ Komplizenfilm
■

WHAT ARE ELIGIBLE PRODUCTION COSTS?

- Local expenditure on filming activities, from pre- to postproduction, starting the day after submission date.
- Goods and services provided by and paid to companies and individuals registered to pay income tax in Austria.
- Film-related deliveries and services in Austria, performed on behalf of the film production company, its employees or related free-lancers.
- Staff-related expenses like salaries, wages, fees and remuneration that are subject to limited or unlimited tax liability in Austria.
- The invoiced services must be fully rendered in Austria, and the invoice must be issued to the production company based in Austria.
- Calculation of production costs must not include VAT.
- Capped at 80% of total production costs.



Robolove
Maria Arlamovsky
NFG

EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR CO-PRODUCTIONS

- A cultural test to ensure that the project is of cultural value and therefore eligible for support.
- Minimum of total production costs of EUR 2 million for fiction; EUR 1 million for a film debut; and EUR 330 000 for documentary films.
- Minimum spend in Austria = eligible production costs of EUR 800 000 for fiction films and EUR 80 000 for documentary films.
- Minimum of 5 shooting days in Austria (live-action).
- Co-productions need to comply with the respective intra-national film treaty. If no such agreement exists, a minimum Austrian contribution of 20% is required.
- One final version of the film must be produced or at least subtitled in German.
- The film must be released in Austrian cinemas within one year after completion of production.

EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR SERVICE PRODUCTIONS

- A cultural test to ensure the cultural purpose of support.
- Minimum of total production costs of EUR 4 million for fiction and EUR 500 000 for documentary films.
- Minimum spend in Austria = eligible production costs of EUR 200 000 for fiction films and EUR 80 000 for documentary films.
- Proof that the film is both designed and suitable for international exploitation.
- The Austrian service producer has to submit the application.

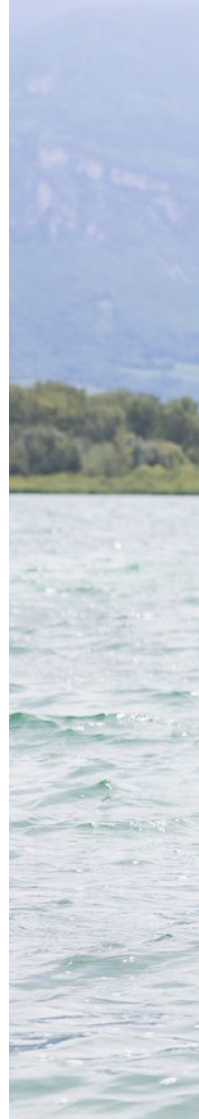
GENDER GAP INCENTIVE

GENDER MISSION 50:50

Many institutions in the film sector such as financial support institutions or film festivals seek to achieve a 50% share of women in selection committees, among recipients of funding and/or in the line-up of selected films to be shown.

FISA also wants to help close the gap between male and female film professionals in order to get a bit closer to achieving the 50:50 goal in the Austrian film sector. To do so, we have created a programme called Gender Gap Financing and added a gender-related question to the cultural test.

In Gender Gap Financing, national projects and co-productions can qualify for a grant of EUR 25 000 extra when the film project reaches a certain set value of female collaborators in selected head departments. The score is weighted according to the traditional presence of female film professionals in the respective departments, for example, more points are awarded in cinematography, sound or light as compared to editing or production design.





Lou Andreas-Salomé □
Cordula Kablitz-Post ■
avanti media fiction/KGP ■





CULTURAL TEST

Films must meet certain criteria and a minimum number of points in order to be eligible for funding. Depending on the type of production, the test is made up of 3 or 4 parts:

- Cultural content: including sets/filming locations, main characters' origins, European aspects, adaptation of previously existing material, treatment of art/science, personalities/events of the present/of history, topics of present relevance/diversity of world views.
- Film professionals: creative film professionals from Austria or the EEA; additional points for female heads of department in screenplay, directing, cinematography, producing.
- Production criteria: shooting/animation/VFX, musical recordings and post-production to take place in Austria at least in part; green filming; plus, in the case of international productions: EEA language/subtitled version; use of film-specific resources.
- Exploitation: letter of intent from/contract with distributors, minimum guarantee, co-production (does not apply for service productions).

* The cultural test is available in English on our website: filmindustrysupportaustria.com



Superegos
Benjamin Heisenberg
Film AG



FUNDING PROCEDURE

CONSULTATION & PRE-ASSESSMENT

ONLINE APPLICATION

There are no submission deadlines. The application must be submitted before the first day of shooting. Financing must be in place at time of submission.

FORMAL CHECK AND RANKING BASED ON SUBMISSION DATE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION

The “first come, first served” principle applies.

PROJECT EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE MINISTRY

Aws has overall responsibility for evaluating the submitted projects as well as for coordinating the administrative process of funding.

Location Austria is responsible for the cultural test and the evaluation, in particular of service productions.

FINAL AWARDING DECISION BY THE MINISTRY

A funding contract between aws and the Austrian production company is set up. Payment is generally made in 3 instalments: 40% at start of shooting, 40% upon submission of the rough cut and a current cost situation and the remaining 20% upon review of the final cost situation. For service productions, it is only 2 instalments: 30% at start of shooting in Austria and 70% upon review of the final cost situation.



□ *Narcissus and Goldmund*
■ *Stefan Ruzowitzky*
■ *2019 Jürgen Olczyk / Sony Pictures*
■ *Entertainment Deutschland GmbH*





The Dark Valley
Andreas Prochaska
Allegro Film, Thomas W. Kiennast



SHOOTING FILMS IN AUSTRIA

Remember the action-packed mountain scenes in the James Bond film “Spectre” or the unforgettable stunts in the Vienna State Opera in “Mission: Impossible”? The iconic zither tunes sounding through Vienna’s sewage system in “The Third Man”, the choirs of “The Sound of Music” echoing over Salzburg’s mountain peaks or the countless Bollywood dancing scenes amidst the Tyrolean Alps in Indian blockbusters such as “Saaho”?

They are all proof that Austria was one of the first countries in Europe to realise the importance of being a professional and reliable partner when it comes to shooting international movies abroad.

Since the establishment of Location Austria – the National Film Commission more than 20 years ago, we have successfully worked with all major U.S. studios and independent

production companies from all over the world. Fox Searchlight Pictures’ „Downhill“, starring Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Will Ferrell, will premiere at the 2020 Sundance Festival. The film was shot last year entirely in the Austrian Alps and a studio in Vienna.

May we present:

A well-equipped local film industry featuring highly professional and experienced multilingual production crews as well as VFX, animation and scoring stages.

Not to forget the extraordinary locations that Austria has to offer along with a five-star infrastructure at your disposal all over the country – be it high mountain peaks next to deep lakes or modern architecture between historic buildings.

Just say the word and we are happy to welcome your next film project in Austria!

AUSTRIAN FILM FUNDS

The FISA funding can be combined with other Austrian federal and regional funding programmes as well as, of course, any kinds of international funding.

The country's most important federal film fund is the Austrian Film Institute (ÖFI), which supports script and project development, the production and exploitation of cinema films and professional training.

Grants by the federal Austrian Television Fund (RTR) are available for TV productions, including fiction films, documentaries and drama series.

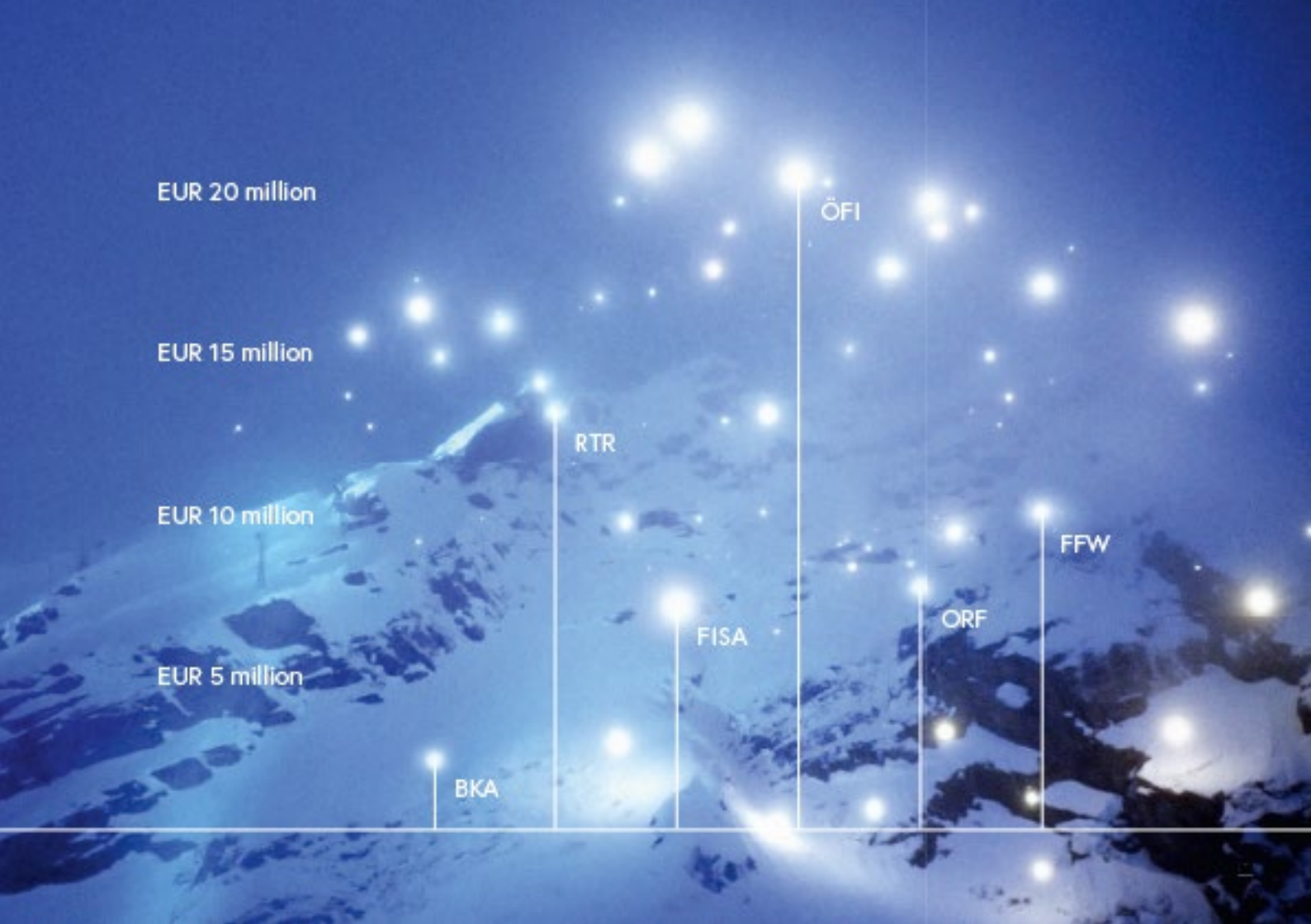
The Vienna Film Fund (FFW) is Austria's largest regional fund. It supports project development, film and television production as well as distribution.

The Austrian Broadcasting Corporation (ORF) supports the production of cinema films as part of the Austrian Film / Television Agreement.

The Art Department of the Austrian Federal Chancellor's Office (BKA) supports innovative projects, experimental films and new talent.

Austria – Above and Below
Joseph Vilsmaier
Lisa Film





EUR 20 million

EUR 15 million

EUR 10 million

EUR 5 million

BKA

RTR

FISA

ÖFI

ORF

FFW

REGIONAL FILM COMMISSIONS

In addition to Location Austria, most regions have their own film commissions that offer complementary services to production companies.

Regional film funding is either directly assigned to the cultural or economic departments of the respective regional governments, represented by independent institutions (e.g. Vienna Film Fund) or administrated by one or more film commissions.



Brothers of the Wind
Gerardo Olivares Terra Mater Factual
Studios, Oliver Oppitz



GREEN FILMING

Austria has a number of unique and beautiful landscapes, which we want to protect and keep alive for a responsible film industry. Several European film commissions and funds offer support in green consulting, and measures to integrate monetary support for green filming are currently being developed.

FISA has adopted its Cultural Test to include an emphasis on eco-friendly measures in green filming.

There are various approaches to sustainability that cover a film's entire production chain. The CO₂ footprint can be easily reduced by cutting back on unnecessary transportation, implementing efficient waste management and using recyclable materials for set construction and catering, to name just a few possible measures. Not to forget, filming responsibly not just helps the environment, it also saves production costs and enables new approaches to creativity with alternative and energy- saving equipment.

Learn more from the LAFC EVERGREEN PRISMA on: lafc.at/greenguide.





L'Animale
Katharina Mückstein
NGF/La Banda





Little Joe

Jessica Hausner

coop99 Filmproduktion, The Bureau,

Essential Films



SCREENWRITING CONTEST

HELDINNEN IN SERIE: SERIAL HEROINES

Heroines of business, science and technology are the subject of Austria's first ever screen-writing contest for series. The Ministry of Digital and Economic Affairs issued a call in November 2019 to submit ideas for authentic female characters.

Conceived and organised with FISA, this contest seeks to help improve the way female characters are portrayed in domains where women are traditionally underrepresented. At the same time, it also provides incentives to develop series in Austria that bear the potential to yield international co-operation. The best 6 ideas will be awarded a prize money of EUR 20 000, and their inventors will be invited to a mentoring programme to be concluded by a pitching event in the autumn of 2020.



**Heldinnen
in Serie**

ANY QUESTIONS?

Austria Wirtschaftsservice Gesellschaft mbH
www.aws.at

Juliane Buchroithner
T: +43 1 501 75 – 567
E: j.buchroithner@aws.at

Christiane Lienhart
T: +43 1 501 75 – 366
E: c.lienhart@aws.at

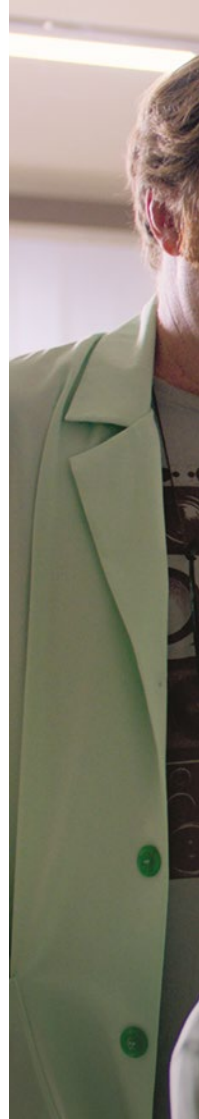
Julia Schmölz
T: +43 1 501 75 – 526
E: j.schmoelz@aws.at

Location Austria
The National Film Commission
www.locationaustria.at

Arie Bohrer
T: +43 1 588 58 – 35
E: a.bohrer@aba.gv.at

Nina-Anica Keidies
T: +43 1 588 58 – 33
E: n.keidies@aba.gv.at

Responsible for FISA within the **Ministry of
Digital and Economic Affairs**
www.bmdw.gv.at
Sylvia Vana





Little Joe
Jessica Hausner
coop99 Filmproduktion, The Bureau,
Essential Films





Shirley – Visions of Reality
Gustav Deutsch
Jerzy Palacz

[illegible]





Published by:
Austria Wirtschaftsservice Gesellschaft mbH
Walcherstrasse 11A, 1020 Vienna

Proofreading: Martin Thomas Pesl
Graphic design: Büro X Design GmbH 1010 Vienna,
www.buerox.at

January 2020



www.filmindustriesupportaustria.com