

## FEST – PITCHING FORUM 2021

### RULES & REGULATIONS

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. FEST – Pitching Forum (hereinafter: the Event) is an international financing and co-production event dedicated to facilitate the development and support of creative and visually strong cinematic film projects.
- 1.2. The Event is a part of FEST - New Directors | New Films Festival (hereinafter: the Festival), which will have its next edition from **4th to 11th of October, 2021** in Espinho, Portugal.
- 1.3. Both the Festival and the Event are organized by FEST – Associação Cultural (hereinafter: the Organizer), a non-profit NGO developing work on film, media and education, established in 2004 in Espinho, Portugal.

#### 2. KEY DATES AND DEADLINES

- 2.1. The applications will be admitted between **31st of May and 10th of August, 2021 at 12:00 UTC**:
  - the “Early Bird” discount for the application fee will apply within the period of **31st of May and 21st of June, 2021**;
  - the “Regular Bird” fare for the application fee will apply within the period of **22nd of June and 28th of July, 2021**;
  - the “Late Fee” fare for the application fee will apply within the period of **29th of July and 10th of August, 2021**.
- 2.2. The notification about selection will be given by **31st of August, 2021** at the latest.
- 2.3. The selected applicants will need to confirm the participation of the project in the Event and indicate the project representative by **6th of September, 2021** at the latest.
- 2.4. The FEST - Pitching Forum training will be held exclusively online, through a digital platform to be announced shortly and the dates will be announced soon.
- 2.5. FEST - Pitching Forum final pitch sessions will be held online on **8th and 9th of October, 2021**, through a digital platform to be announced, during FEST - New Directors | New Films Festival.
- 2.6. The jury will decide on the awards after all the project presentations are finished, and the winners will be announced during the Event, on **8th and 9th of October, 2021**.
- 2.7. The details regarding claiming the awards will be sent to the winners **by 30th of November, 2021**.

#### 3. ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1. FEST - Pitching Forum accepts film projects in three competitive categories, **Feature Gems** and **Work In Progress** are categories for Feature Films (productions with a minimum of 55 minutes), and **Make It Short** is a category dedicated to Short Films (productions up to 55 minutes):
  - **Feature Gems** - Feature film projects in early stages of development, looking for financing or international co-productions (with priority for financed projects);
  - **Work In Progress** - Feature film projects in post-production looking for financing or post-production services;
  - **Make It Short** - short film projects in any development phase, from concept to post-production, looking for financing, international co-productions or post-production services (it's not required for the project to have funding).
- 3.2. The film projects can be of all genres and filmmaking techniques, including animation and experimental films.



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- 3.3. The Event is open both to experienced and emerging artists. There is no age limitation.
- 3.4. The main selection criteria will be the artistic merit of the project, its estimated potential of success and its capacity to attract the necessary funding.
- 3.5. Project applications will not be discriminated in terms of theme, genre, race, creed or any other limitations, apart from the elements described in these regulations. As such, all submissions will be analysed with the same rigor and dedication.

## 4. APPLICATION

- 4.1. The applications will be admitted between **24th of May and 10th of August, 2021 at 12:00 UTC**. Only applications that are duly completed and paid before the deadline will be considered.
- 4.2. Project applications are only accepted when submitted via the online submission form available at: <https://vp.eventival.com/fest/2021>. The submission process is described at the Festival website: [www.fest.pt](http://www.fest.pt)
- 4.3. It is allowed for the applicant to submit more than one project, but the projects must be submitted in separate entries (one form and one application fee per each project).
- 4.4. All materials must be **in English**. Alongside the obligatory information the applicant must add on the application form, we strongly encourage the applicants to upload additional materials like business plan, visual book / mood board or professional portfolio.

## 5. SUBMISSION FEES

- 5.1. The FEST - Pitching Forum application fee is **60,00 EUR**. The payment must be completed using PayPal link at the end of the submission form indicated on point 4.2.
- 5.2. This payment will be reduced within the period of **31st of May and 21st of June, 2021** when the “Early Bird” promotion will apply with the price of **50,00 EUR**. All the applications completed after this period will have to pay the regular fee (as indicated on p. 5.1).
- 5.3. This payment will be increased within the period of **29th of July and 10th of August, 2021** when the “Late Fee” fare will apply with the price of **80,00 EUR**. All the applications completed after this period will be disqualified.
- 5.4. If an applicant encounters any significant technical problem with the payment, it must be reported via email to [pitching@fest.pt](mailto:pitching@fest.pt) in order to discuss alternative payment methods. These situations will be dealt with on a case by case basis and the Organizer reserves the right to not provide an alternative payment method.
- 5.5. If an applicant wishes to receive an invoice, it must be requested within the first 30 days after making the payment. The invoice request must be sent via email to [pitching@fest.pt](mailto:pitching@fest.pt) and it must have the payment confirmation attached and contain the invoice details of the applicant or company submitting the project (name, postal address and TAX/VAT number).
- 5.6. The application fee covers the cost of project evaluation by the selection committee and will not be reimbursed to applicants, regardless if the project was selected or not. The benefits granted to selected projects are described in section 8. PARTICIPANTS ENTITLEMENTS.

## 6. SELECTION

- 6.1. All the applications that are duly completed and paid before the submission deadline (as indicated on point 4.1.) will be considered by the selection committee.
- 6.2. The main selection criteria (as described on point 3.5.) will be the artistic merit of the project, its estimated potential of success and its capacity to attract the necessary funding.
- 6.3. The Organizer aims to select 22 projects to FEST – Pitching Forum; at the same time the Organizer reserves the right to select more or less projects, depending on the number and the quality of



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applications. The notification about selection will be given by **31st of August, 2021** at the latest. All the applicants will be informed about the selection results via email. The list of selected projects will be also published on the Festival website: [www.fest.pt](http://www.fest.pt).

- 6.4. The selection committee decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into regarding the outcome. Feedback is not guaranteed if your application is unsuccessful.

## 7. ATTENDANCE CONFIRMATION

- 7.1. After the announcement of the selection results, the selected applicants will be provided with the preliminary schedule of the Event, including the timeframe for the final presentations in each pitching category.
- 7.2. The selected applicants will be asked to confirm the participation of the project in the Event and indicate the project representative by **6th of September, 2021** at the latest.
- 7.3. The project representative is a person that will attend the Event to present the final pitch. It should be the director, writer or producer of the project. **The presence of a representative at the final pitch session for an adequate project category is obligatory**, as the Jury will judge the projects based on the final pitch, not on the previously submitted materials. The presence of a representative at the pitching training sessions and the final pitch sessions for other categories is optional (yet highly recommended).
- 7.4. The project representative is eligible for the PARTICIPANTS ENTITLEMENTS described in section 8; the conditions of adding another crew or cast member as accompanying person are described in point 8.4.
- 7.5. The attendance confirmation should contain the name of the representative (and the accompanying person, if applicable), their role in the project and contacts. In case of the lack of confirmation and indicating the representative before the deadline, the Organizer does not guarantee any entitlements and reserves the right to exclude from the Event all the selected but non-confirmed projects.

## 8. PARTICIPANTS ENTITLEMENTS

- 8.1. All confirmed projects will be featured in the Festival publications (on the conditions described in detail in section 9. PUBLICATIONS).
- 8.2. The declared representative of each confirmed project will be granted the following:
  - access to **FEST - Pitching Forum online training sessions** (described in detail in section 10. PITCHING TRAINING SESSIONS);
  - access to **FEST - Pitching Forum final online pitch sessions** described in detail in section 11. FINAL PITCH SESSIONS);
  - Free of charge **FEST PRO accreditation**, in 2021, giving full access to all the screenings and events (including industry events) taking place at FEST - New Directors | New Films Festival (all the credentials details are described at the Festival website [www.fest.pt](http://www.fest.pt))
- 8.3. The Organizer does not cover travel nor accommodation costs. The FEST PRO accreditation does not include catering (i.e. Networking Dinners, that require purchasing a special pass on the conditions described at the Festival website [www.fest.pt](http://www.fest.pt)).
- 8.4. Only one representative of each project is eligible for the participants entitlements described in points 8.2. and 8.3. **However, the representative can have one other crew or cast member accompanying him/her during the training and co-presenting the final pitch.** The accompanying person's name and role in the project should be included in the attendance confirmation. Please note that the accompanying person will be granted access to FEST - Pitching Forum activities only; to participate in other activities of the Festival, he/she needs to purchase one of the Festival



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accreditations on the same conditions that apply to the general audience (described at the Festival website [www.fest.pt](http://www.fest.pt)).

- 8.5. If the confirmed representative of the selected project had bought a Festival accreditation on their own before the selection results were announced, the Organizer will reimburse them the accreditation fee after the Festival (by **30th of November, 2021** at the latest).
- 8.6. All representatives of the selected projects will have a 50% discount on an upcoming project application for the FEST - Pitching Forum.

## 9. PUBLICATIONS

- 9.1. All the confirmed projects will be featured in:
  - **FEST - Pitching Forum Book of Projects**, which will be distributed among the experts and participants of the Event;
  - **FEST – New Directors | New Films Festival Catalogue**, which will be distributed among the Event experts and participants and the Festival guests, and available for sales in the Festival shop;
  - **the FEST - Pitching Forum section** on the Festival website ([www.fest.pt](http://www.fest.pt)).
- 9.2. The information about the project, the visual materials and the authors profiles for the publication will be based on the information and materials submitted in the application. The Organizer is not responsible for any spelling or grammar mistakes or wrong information provided in the application.
- 9.3. Changes requested by the applicants after submitting a project or after the announcement of the selection results may not be possible to alter, as such the applicant recognizes this at the moment of completing the submission.
- 9.4. The Organizer reserves the right to not include all the submitted information in the publications described on point 8.1. and to choose only specific sections to be featured in each publication.

## 10. PITCHING TRAINING SESSIONS

- 10.1. FEST - Pitching Forum training sessions will be held, online, through a digital platform to be announced shortly and the dates will be announced soon.
- 10.2. The training will be conducted **in English**.
- 10.3. The training will focus on pitch development, and will be headed by two renowned experts, in order to prepare the final presentation.
- 10.4. The presence of a project representative at the pitching training sessions **is optional** (not required in order for the project to take part in the Event and be presented at the final pitch session) yet highly recommended.
- 10.5. The project representative may have at maximum one other crew or cast member as an accompanying person during the training.

## 11. FINAL PITCH SESSIONS

- 11.1. FEST - Pitching Forum final pitch sessions will be held online on **8th and 9th of October, 2021**, through a digital platform to be announced.
- 11.2. The sessions are conducted **in English** and all pitches will be **previously recorded**.
- 11.3. The sessions will be divided into three categories:
  - **Feature Gems** - Feature film projects in early stages of development, looking for financing or international co-productions (with priority for financed projects);



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- **Work In Progress** - Feature film projects in post-production looking for financing or post-production services;
  - **Make It Short** - short film projects in any development phase, from concept to post-production, looking for financing, international co-productions or post-production services (it's not required for the project to have funding).
- 11.4. The presence of the representative at the final pitch session for an adequate project category **is obligatory**. The presence at the final pitch sessions for other categories **is optional** (yet highly recommended).
  - 11.5. The projects will be presented to the jury in front of the public composed of the film industry decision makers and accredited Festival participants.
  - 11.6. The jury is composed of the world renowned experts, which include producers, distributors, project developers and financiers, etc. All the experts will receive the Book of Projects, with the description of all selected and confirmed projects. However, the Jury will judge the projects based on the final pitch, not on the previously submitted materials. The names and profiles of the experts present at FEST - Pitching Forum will be announced on the Festival Website [www.fest.pt](http://www.fest.pt)
  - 11.7. **PRESENTATION:** The final pitch can take up to 5 minutes. The presentation must contain visual materials and must be previously recorded. The project representative may have at maximum one other crew or cast member as a co-presenter during the final pitch.
  - 11.8. **IMMEDIATE FEEDBACK:** The pitch is followed by 5 minutes of immediate collective feedback and discussion with the jury (also in front of the audience).
  - 11.9. **JURY DECISION:** The jury will decide on the awards after all the project presentations are finished, and the winners will be announced during the Event, on **8th and 9th of October, 2021**.
  - 11.10. **PRIVATE FEEDBACK:** At the end of the Event, the representative of each project will have the opportunity to take part in a 5-minute individual meeting with all the experts, for private feedback and counselling about their project. The jury spokesperson will give the group feedback and constructive advice in order to improve the projects. The feedback session will be followed by one-to-one online meetings, where the decision makers present at the Event will be able to talk individually with the representatives of the projects in which they are interested.

## 12. AWARDS

- 12.1. At the end of each pitch session the Jury will decide the prizes, these prizes will be announced and described at [www.fest.pt](http://www.fest.pt).
- 12.2. The details regarding claiming the awards will be sent to the winners by **30th of November, 2021**.

## 13. POST SELECTED FEST – PITCHING FORUM TERMS

- 13.1. All the projects presented at the Event, once they are finalised, must include in the opening credits the logo of FEST - Pitching Forum and the following sentence: “**[FILM TITLE] has been presented at FEST - Pitching Forum during FEST – New Directors | New Films Festival 2021**”. The logo of FEST - Pitching Forum must also appear in the end credits.
- 13.2. The Organizer is not legally responsible for the production of the films and cannot be held accountable for any production problems, plagiarism cases or any other factors related to the preparation, execution, distribution and exhibition of the final versions of the projects.



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**14. FINAL RESOLUTIONS**

- 14.1. All eventual doubts or omissions in the regulations will be solved by the Organizer following rules of equity and good and fair judgement.
- 14.2. All applications to FEST - Pitching Forum imply full acceptance and no reservations in regards to the rules and regulations.