AT A GLANCE
2019

GERMAN FEDERAL FILM FUND
DFFF

GERMAN MOTION PICTURE FUND
GMPF

Undine
System Crasher
Dark – Season 3
Charlie’s Angels
Das perfekte Geheimnis
Germany’s film funding schemes have never been in better shape, both financially and strategically. Film funding is a particularly relevant economic factor for Germany, given that each funded project leads to follow-on investments about five times the amount of the original grant. That is why the Federal Government intends to stick to its goal of maintaining and increasing Germany’s attractiveness as a place to make films.

Major funding instruments like the German Federal Film Fund (DFFF I and II) and the German Motion Picture Fund (GMPF) are closely coordinated – their success speaks for itself.

Conditions for making successful films are thus very good here in Germany. We look forward to them being used to produce high-quality films and series from around the world.

Monika Grütters
Minister of State for Culture and the Media
DFFF I
by the numbers

2019 | Number | Total production costs | German production costs | Grant* |
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
Approvals | 97 | € 377,906,070 | € 299,051,778 | € 51,756,544 |
International Co-Productions | 33 | € 163,423,264 | € 102,423,055 | € 18,650,419 |
German Productions | 64 | € 214,482,806 | € 196,628,723 | € 33,106,125 |
Feature Films | 67 | € 321,975,702 | € 259,457,817 | € 44,986,966 |
Documentaries | 24 | € 15,867,580 | € 13,686,817 | € 2,162,800 |
Animated Films | 6 | € 40,062,787 | € 25,907,144 | € 4,606,777 |

Bigger budgets for animated films
The Minister of State for Culture and the Media (BKM) funded six animated films under the DFFF funding scheme in 2019, the same number as the previous year. Each had a considerably bigger production budget of €6.7m – €1.3m more on average than in 2018.

Fewer low-budget productions
While the number of projects with a total spend of less than €1m did not change, significantly fewer projects had budgets ranging between €1m and €2m (2018: 25; 2019: 10). The number of films with budgets of between €2m and €5m increased from 31 in 2018 to 38 in 2019; those with budgets ranging between €5m and €20m stayed the same at 27.

Successes at festivals at home and abroad
Films funded through the DFFF were a hit at international festivals and awards ceremonies in 2019. Nora Fingscheidt’s “System Crasher”, for instance, won a Silver Bear at the Berlin International Film Festival and the US–German co-production “A Hidden Life” by Terrence Malick received standing ovations at the Cannes Film Festival. “Lara” by Jan-Ole Gerster was awarded three prizes at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival and “Gundermann” won six Lolas at the 2019 German Film Awards.

DFFF II
by the numbers

2019 | Number | Total production costs segment of a film | German production costs segment of a film | Grant |
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
Approvals | 7 | € 240,502,867 | € 237,192,574 | € 56,131,019 |

Spending in Germany reaches record level
German production service providers and service providers specializing in VFX (visual effects) and animation benefited from DFFF II, enabling them to participate in international projects.

* incl. additional approvals according to § 14 para. 7
In the 13 years since it was launched in 2007 a total of €739m in funding has been provided to 1,396 film productions through DFFF I. In Germany alone this funding led to follow-on investments of around €4.4bn. Funded projects included 889 German and 507 international co-productions. German producers most frequently teamed up with Austrian (6) and Italian (5) partners on co-productions in 2019.
## GMPF by the numbers

### 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Total production costs</th>
<th>German production costs</th>
<th>Grant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approvals</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>€ 357,526,108</td>
<td>€ 178,857,036</td>
<td>€ 27,637,718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Co-Productions</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>€ 243,086,694</td>
<td>€ 72,676,807</td>
<td>€ 10,936,744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German Productions</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>€ 114,439,414</td>
<td>€ 106,180,230</td>
<td>€ 16,700,973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>€ 357,526,108</td>
<td>€ 178,857,036</td>
<td>€ 27,637,718</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### More applications than ever before

Germany is a popular place to make high-end national and international series. In 2019 the BKM funded a total of 17 projects through the GMPF – a new record. German production costs totalling almost €180m ensured that studios and production sites were in high demand. Seven new international seasons and 10 new German projects promise to bring even more series “Made in Germany” to people’s screens.

### 2016 – 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Total production costs</th>
<th>German production costs</th>
<th>Grant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approvals</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>€ 854,355,886</td>
<td>€ 545,388,579</td>
<td>€ 73,063,344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Co-Productions</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>€ 543,345,358</td>
<td>€ 254,486,799</td>
<td>€ 25,986,994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German Productions</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>€ 311,010,528</td>
<td>€ 290,901,781</td>
<td>€ 47,076,349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>€ 679,068,176</td>
<td>€ 438,850,088</td>
<td>€ 67,063,344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Films</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>€ 175,287,710</td>
<td>€ 106,538,491</td>
<td>€ 6,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### High-end series “Made in Germany” inspire

The 38 projects that received a grant included the celebrated series “Babylon Berlin”, which has been sold to more than 100 countries, achieving worldwide critical acclaim and winning national and international awards. Costly produced series such as “Dark”, “Bad Banks” and “Deutschland 83, 86 and 89” have become successful brands across Europe and in the United States. Without the GMPF they would never have been produced in Germany.
HOW TO APPLY
at a glance

The DFFF and the GMPF are automatic funding schemes in which financial aid is given in form of grants. Applications may be submitted at any time, as long as it is at least six weeks before the start of shooting. Once all application documents have been submitted and 75% of financing is in place, funding can be granted if all grant requirements are met and the allocated funding is available.

**DFFF I**

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

**Grants**

Up to 20% of approved German production costs, up to 25% if the German production costs exceed €8m, grant capped at €4m.

**Eligibility requirements**

- Total production costs of at least €1m for feature films, €200,000 for documentary films and €2m for animated films
- The film must obtain a specific score 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; at least 20% if the total production costs exceed €20m
- The German financial contribution must usually make up 20% of the total production costs

**DFFF II**

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

**Grants**

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

**Eligibility requirements**

- Total production costs of at least €20m
- The service provider’s German production costs must be at least €8m, in the case of animated films at least €2m
- The film must obtain a specific score in the test of cultural characteristics to ensure the cultural objectives of the funding
- The film must be commercially released in German cinemas

**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.

**Eligibility requirements**

- Total production costs of at least €1.2m per series episode and at least €25m per film
- At least 40% of total production costs must be spent in Germany
- The series or film must obtain a specific score 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 2019
DFFF & GMPF have never been in such high demand as they were in 2019

By the end of the funding period, the pot of economic film funding totalling €140m made available from the budget of the Minister of State for Culture and the Media (BKM) was practically empty. The DFFF and the GMPF provided funding to 121 projects that led to follow-on investments in Germany of approx. €715m.

German and international production companies invested around five times the amount they received in government grants. And there were other macro-economic leverage effects too: by funding numerous VFX and other projects, Germany became an even more attractive place for national and international cinema films and series for the small screen.

DFFF I: €51.8m in film funding – similar number of applications, huge diversity

Yet again, 2019 proved just how important DFFF I is for Germany as a place to make films: a total of 97 projects were funded through DFFF I, including 67 feature, 24 documentary and six animated films. The science fiction thriller “Stowaway”, which was filmed entirely in Germany, and Christian Petzold’s entry in the Competition Section of the 2020 Berlin International Film Festival, “Undine”, are just two of the 33 international co-productions that received DFFF I support.

The 63 national productions that were awarded grants included Simon Verhoeven’s comedy “Nightlife”, which stars Elyas M’Barek and Palina Rojinski, the live-action remake of the children’s classic “Laura’s Star” by Joya Thome and Gero von Boehm’s documentary “Helmut Newton – The Bad and the Beautiful”.

DFFF II: €56.1m in film funding – significantly more demand

The DFFF II means German film studios are able to keep pace with international competitors so that big-budget productions can be made in Germany. That, in turn, safeguards high-quality production conditions, both in terms of film technology and production staff, in German studios, which benefits German producers too.

Following its start-up phase after it was launched in 2017, demand for this funding instrument has increased significantly among production service providers. Once again, German studios and VFX companies proved to be the top choice for science fiction and fantasy productions from Hollywood and elsewhere that have lots of animated sequences or lavish special effects.

Seven big-budget international projects received a total of €56.1m in funding, including the fourth part of the Matrix series, “The Untitled Matrix Project”. The US production “Charlie’s Angels”, which was filmed on location in Saxony, Brandenburg and Hamburg, was also funded by the DFFF II.

Three grants were awarded to projects with high VFX share, including the Chinese thriller “The Rescue”, one of the most lavish Chinese films ever to be made.

GMPF: €27.6m in film funding – strong demand, high-end series

The GMPF focuses on top-class, high-end TV series, and demand for funding was higher than ever before: in 2019 a total of 17 projects received funding totalling €27.6m, more than double the original planned budget. They included four sequels to successful series, like the highly acclaimed second series of “Bad Banks” produced by the German broadcaster ZDF, and the final series of Netflix’s internationally successful “Dark”. New productions include the Amazon Original “We Children from Zoo Station” and “Oktoberfest – 1900”, a historical series by the German broadcaster ARD. International series like the ZDF co-production “Sløborn” are made in German studios backed by funding from the GMPF.

A full list of all projects awarded a grant in 2019 is available on the websites of the DFFF and the GMPF.
The DFFF and the GMPF are administered by the German Federal Film Board (FFA) on behalf of the Minister of State for Culture and the Media (BKM). Jolinde Sawahn took over as the BKM’s Project Manager in 2019.

Photo Credits DFFF-funded films have been successful at the box office and at festivals; internationally acclaimed GMPF-funded high-end TV series (selection): "Undine", Piffl Medien I "System Crasher", Port-au-Prince (24 Bilder) I "Dark" – Season 3, Netflix I "Charlie’s Angels", Sony Pictures Entertainment Germany I "Das perfekte Geheimnis", Constantin Film Verleih I "Bad Banks" – Season 2, ZDF; C. Lüdeke I "Cunningham", Camino Filmverleih I "A Hidden Life", Pandora Film Medien I "The Elfkins – Baking A Difference", Tobis Film