

Alliance 4 Development (A4D)

August 8|10 2025

Guidelines and regulation

Introduction & General Information

Alliance 4 Development (A4D) is a platform for projects from Austria, France, Germany, Italy, and Switzerland to test their market potential and to form creative and financial alliances at the early stage of development. Produced by Locarno Film Festival in cooperation with CNC (Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée, France), DGCA-MiC (Direzione Generale Cinema e Audiovisivo del Ministero della Cultura, Italy), FFA (Filmförderungsanstalt, Germany), the Swiss Federal Office of Culture (FOC) / MEDIA Desk Suisse, and OFI (Österreichisches Filminstitut, Austria), it is aimed at encouraging co-development of projects and long-term co-operations between the five targeted countries.

A4D program runs August the 8th through the 10th during Locarno Pro, in the frame of Locarno Film Festival.

Eleven projects are selected through the calls for projects launched by partners (two from each country and three from Switzerland).

Delegations of selected projects (director and producer) are invited to attend plenary sessions and panels and to pitch their projects in a public pitching session and within a tailor-made schedule of meetings with carefully selected experts and potential partners to boost their co-development opportunities and to foster creative and business ties.

A4D offers the selected participants the unique opportunity to future-proof the market potential of their projects at the crucial stage of development by means of meetings and panels with international sales agents, producers, and distributors.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible candidates for the A4D are:

- Austrian, French, German, Italian and Swiss fiction (live action) long feature film projects with international potential and intended for theatrical release;
- Projects at an early stage of development;
- With a main producer and a director attached;
- Looking for co-development and co-production partners from Austria, France, Germany, Italy, and Switzerland.

Although non-compulsory, any confirmed financing at the time of submission would be considered an additional plus in the evaluation process.

The following are not eligible:

- projects of a blatantly pornographic nature, or those which advocate violence or openly incite violation of human rights
- projects which infringe copyright or break international regulations concerning the ownership of intellectual property
- Projects previously selected in past editions of A4D are not eligible. Projects that were submitted but not selected are also ineligible unless submitters demonstrate clear and significant changes.

In such cases, applicants must contact the Locarno Pro team before applying through the official entry form. They should request approval for a second submission and provide a summary outlining

the project's evolution, highlighting the new or revised elements compared to the previous submission. The decision relies on the Locarno Pro team and the partner institutes and is final.

Submission and requested materials

Producers submitting the projects must be entitled to do so by holding all the relevant and reserved rights to represent the projects. By signing the online entry form, submitters guarantee that the project does not infringe the rights of any third party and releases and indemnifies Locarno Film Festival from any claim against it for damages.

It is recommended to submit one project per company. In any case, only a maximum of two projects may be submitted by the same production company. Submissions must be presented according to these regulations and by the indicated deadlines. Only submissions made through the official online entry form will be taken into consideration. The online entry form is available on the websites of each partner and on

In case of projects co-produced by two or more producers from the countries involved in A4D (Austria, France, Germany, Italy and Switzerland), the application should be submitted by the majority co-producer, mentioning in the form's relevant field her/his country-of-origin partner institute.

Submissions and materials should be submitted in English through the official online entry form available on the A4D partners websites and on A4D official webpage.

Submissions must be received by **April 17th, 2025 (3 pm CET)** and must include the following information and materials:

- Brief Synopsis
- Director's statement
- Producer's statement
- Goals in Locarno

(Brief synopsis, statements and goals in Locarno should be described using max. of 500 characters each, spaces included).

- Director's biography (Max.400 characters, spaces included) and filmography (Max. 3 titles)
- Producer's biography (Max. 400 characters, spaces included) and filmography (Max. 3 titles)
- Co-Producer's biography, if already attached (Max. 400 characters, spaces included) and filmography (Max. 3 titles)
- Profile of the main production company
- Profile of the co-production company, if already attached
- Top sheet of the Production Provisional budget and financial plan
- Provisional Cast & Crew
- Long synopsis or treatment (min. 3 to max. 8 pages)
- Producer's Development strategy summary and timeline
- a link to a previous work by the director of the project in original language with English subtitles (through online streaming platforms or a filesharing system);

Non-compulsory:

- copyright transfer agreement or option agreement
- screenwriter's bio & filmography;
- Any other material that the applicant feels could contribute to better understanding the project would be welcome and appreciated.

Incomplete submissions will not be taken into consideration.

All submissions' materials are used for the pre-selection and selection process and, in the event of selection, for communication and promotion purposes (i.e. Industry Guide, website, etc.).

Selection

Locarno Pro verifies the eligibility of the received submissions. In the selection process, Locarno Pro is supported by an international selection committee, composed of respected film industry professionals. The applications assessment is carried out taking into consideration the quality and the international potential of the projects, as well as the track records of directors and producers involved.

Selection of an applicant filmmaker's previous work of at past editions of the Locarno Film Festival grants an extra point to the current submitted project.

By submitting a project, the applicant agrees to the present guidelines and accepts the conclusions made by the international selection committee, the partners and Locarno Pro, whose decisions are final.

Please note that Locarno Pro is unable to provide detailed feedback on projects that are not selected.

The list of selected projects will be announced by end of June/early July.

Selected projects delegates (director and producer, max. two people per project) will be invited to Locarno to attend A4D activities. Invitation includes 4-night hotel accommodation and a contribution on the occurred travel expenses.

At least one among the producer and director of a selected project commits to being fully available to participate to the A4D planned activities from Friday, August 8th to Sunday, August 10th, including meetings, networking events and panels. If such participation cannot be guaranteed at the time of selection, the project should be considered withdrawn.

Force majeure and emergency measures

Please note that an eventual cancellation of the 78th edition of the Locarno Film Festival by effect of law, decree or regulation issued by local, Cantonal, Federal, or international authorities in the context of a situation of force majeure or emergency (among others, but not limited to situations resulting from an epidemic or pandemic, in particular with regard to COVID-19 and related consequences) shall render all contractual obligations of the Locarno Film Festival null and void.

Even where no such law, decree or regulation is issued by a competent authority, the Locarno Film Festival may at any time and when required by circumstances beyond its control, for reasons of urgency, of necessity or of safeguard of prevailing public or private interests (in particular with regard but not limited to COVID-19 and related consequences), cancel the 78th edition of the Locarno Film Festival and so automatically rescind with immediate effect any contract or agreement with the participant or participants of its selection or professional programs.

The Locarno Film Festival may at any time and when circumstances require it, for reasons of urgency, necessity or of safeguard of prevailing public or private interests amend the formula of the 78th edition of the Locarno Film Festival (among others, but not limited to digital alternatives or restricted program). In this eventuality, the Locarno Film Festival undertakes to promptly inform the participant or participants of its selection or professional programs.