



Federal Government Commissioner  
for Culture and the Media

**SPOT  
LIGHT**

**IN**

**FILM-FUNDING  
IN GERMANY**

**FEATURE FILMS  
ANIMATED FILMS  
DOCUMENTARIES  
HIGH-END SERIES**

## A MESSAGE FROM CLAUDIA ROTH MINISTER OF STATE FOR CULTURE AND THE MEDIA

### FIND OUT ABOUT GERMANY'S VARIETY OF ATTRACTIVE FUNDING PROGRAMMES

**This brochure offers key information  
about a multitude of funding opportunities  
for producers of national and international  
films and high-end series.**



© J. Konrad Schmidt

Germany offers film-makers from all over the world excellent conditions which allow them to realise their ideas creatively using state-of-the-art technology. International film-makers have been choosing Germany as the place to make their films for many years. For good reason: Our country not only offers a variety of different locations, but also provides modern film studios with innovative and cutting-edge technology, providing impressive backdrops for all genres of films and series.

Germany also has a wide range of highly trained and experienced talents in front of and behind the camera, rendering the country attractive to makers of high-quality audiovisual productions. Another contributing factor is the many-faceted film funding system in Germany. There are numerous funding schemes for feature films, animated films, short films and children's films as well as for high-end series.

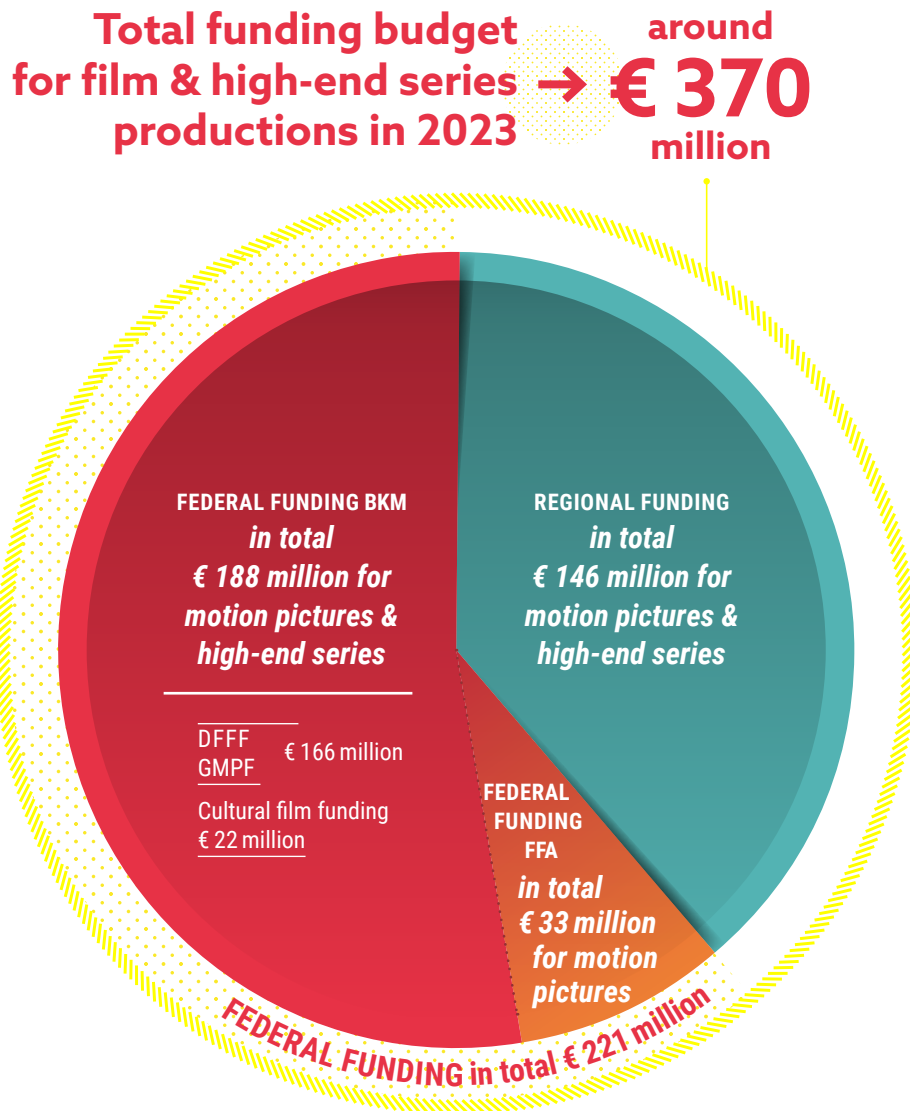
I warmly encourage international film-makers to come to Germany with their productions and get to know and love the country and all its diversity as a place to make films.



Claudia Roth, MdB  
Minister of State for Culture and the Media

## SUBSIDIES IN GERMANY

Germany offers a wide range of attractive opportunities through federal and regional film funding programmes which are also available for international co-productions. Many of these programmes are specially designed to support the production of theatrical motion pictures and high-end series. Germany is one of the top film and media locations in Europe. In 2023, around € 370 million in film subsidies were available to the film industry.



**→ FUNDING FROM NATIONAL AND REGIONAL FILM FUNDS CAN BE COMBINED**

figures for 2023

## DFFF I, DFFF II & GMPF AT A GLANCE

The Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM) has several programmes providing attractive funding opportunities for international co-productions. Both German Federal Film Fund (DFFF I+II) and the German Motion Picture Fund (GMPF) offer perfect conditions for producing films in Germany. Meeting nationwide ecological standards ensures sustainable, resource-friendly production.

### German Federal Film Fund for film productions for cinema release (DFFF I and II)



**DFFF I**

- For producers of small and medium-sized productions with total production costs of at least € 1 million for feature films, € 200,000 for documentary films and € 2 million for animated films
- A minimum of 25 % of total production costs usually spent in Germany
- Funding of up to 20 % of approved German production costs, up to 25 % if these costs exceed € 8 million or even 30 % in case of additional production funding by FFA and BKM

Max. amount per film **€ 4 million**



**DFFF II**

- For production service providers hired to produce a film or film segment for projects with total production costs of € 20 million or more
- German production costs of at least € 8 million for feature films or at least € 2 million for animated films and films with virtually animated components
- Funding of up to 25 % of approved German production costs

Max. amount per film **€ 25 million**

### German Motion Picture Fund for high-end series & TV/VOD films (GMPF)



**GMPF**

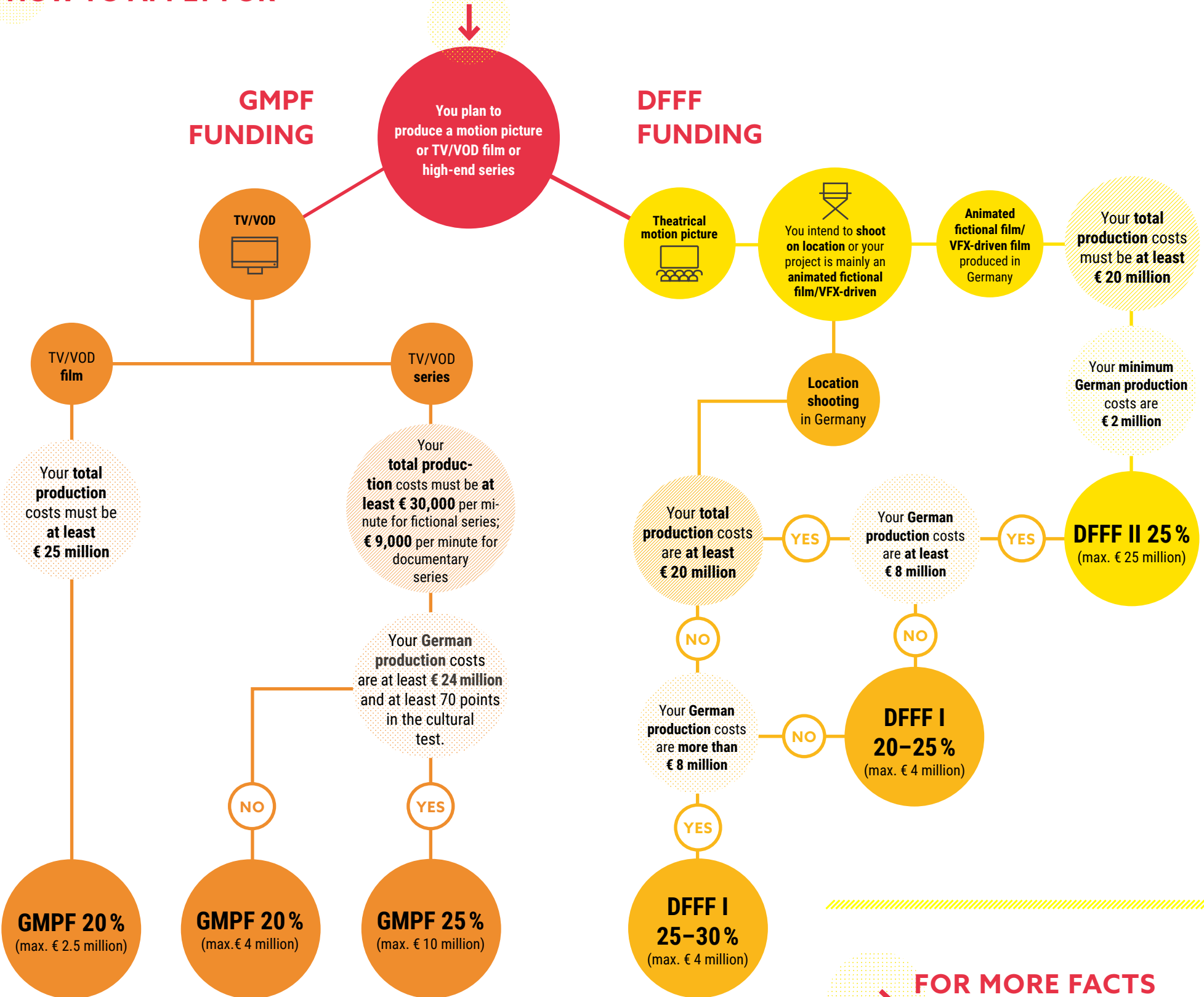
- For producers of series with total production costs of at least € 30,000 per minute for fictional series; € 9,000 per minute for documentary series
- For producers of films not for cinema release with total production costs of at least € 25 million per film
- Series: up to 20 or 25 % of the approved German production costs; depending on the German production costs and the score in the test of cultural characteristics; films: up to 20 % of approved German production costs, max. € 2.5 million

Max. amount **€ 10 million**

### THE ADVANTAGES IN A NUTSHELL

- **Non-repayable grant**
- **Transparent, automatic support**
- **First disbursement from start of shooting**

# HOW TO APPLY FOR



FOR MORE FACTS  
SEE NEXT PAGE

## WELCOME TO A MULTIFACETED LOCATION WITH EXCELLENT VFX-EXPERTISE

Germany's regions offer a wealth of opportunities for shooting at diverse locations. Here are a few examples of Germany's breathtaking locations, varied architecture and cultural spaces.

The films listed below are just some of the more than 1,980 projects which the DFFF and GMPF have funded in recent years.

**DFFF II**  
€ 0.8 million +  
€ 0.4 million  
regional funding



### AQUAMAN: LOST KINGDOM

- **Director:** Todd Field
- **Cast:** Jason Momoa, Patrick Wilson, Amber Heard

**DFFF II**  
€ 19.1 million +  
€ 1.6 million  
regional funding



### THE HUNGER GAMES: THE BALLAD OF SONGBIRDS AND SNAKES

- **Director:** Francis Lawrence
- **Cast:** Rachel Zegler, Tom Blyth, Jason Schwartzman

**GMPF**  
€ 14.7 million +  
€ 11.4 million  
regional funding



### BABYLON BERLIN SEASON 1-4

- **Directors:** Tom Tykwer, Achim von Borries, Henk Handloegten
- **Cast:** Volker Bruch, Liv Lisa Fries, Lars Eidinger, Matthias Brandt, Benno Fürmann

**DFFF II**  
€ 25 million



### THE MATRIX RESURRECTIONS

- **Director:** Lana Wachowski
- **Cast:** Keanu Reeves, Carrie-Anne Moss, Neil Patrick Harris

### SPENCER

- **Director:** Pablo Larrain
- **Cast:** Kristen Stewart, Timothy Spall, Sally Hawkins



**DFFF I**  
€ 2.5 million +  
€ 2.6 million  
FFA / regional  
funding

## 'SHOOTING IN GERMANY' A FANTASTIC EXPERIENCE

Actors like Cate Blanchett, George Clooney, Matt Damon, Liam Neeson, Keanu Reeves, Tom Hanks, Diane Kruger, Jude Law, Jennifer Lawrence, Nick Nolte and Kate Winslet have all enjoyed the warm welcome and benefited from the motivated crews and excellent infrastructure in Germany.

- World-famous directors like Steven Spielberg, Oliver Stone, Lana and Lilly Wachowski and Quentin Tarantino and many more have returned after convincing themselves of the benefits of filming in Germany
- Oscar-winning productions such as THE WHITE RIBBON, GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL and BRIDGE OF SPIES were shot in Germany
- US blockbusters such as THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY – PART 2, THE BATMAN were made by German high-tech visual effects companies and were shot here
- Successful high-end series like BABYLON BERLIN, DARK, THE QUEEN'S GAMBIT or THE EMPRESS come from Germany

#### Top-quality studio facilities (selection)

- 1 Bavaria Studios & Production Services, Munich
- 2 Studio Babelsberg, Potsdam
- 3 CCC Filmstudios, Berlin
- 4 MMC Studios, Cologne
- 5 Studio Hamburg, Hamburg/Berlin
- 6 VFX, CGI and 3D animations in many regions (e.g. Stuttgart, Munich, Berlin, Cologne, Hamburg, Leipzig)

### THE EMPRESS SEASON 1 + 2

- **Directors:** Katrin Gebbe, Florian Cossen
- **Cast:** Devrim Lingnau, Philip Froissant, Melika Foroutan

**GMPF**  
€ 5.5 million +  
€ 0.7 million  
regional funding



**DFFF II**  
€ 1.0 million (VFX)  
+ € 0.4 million  
regional funding



### ETERNALS

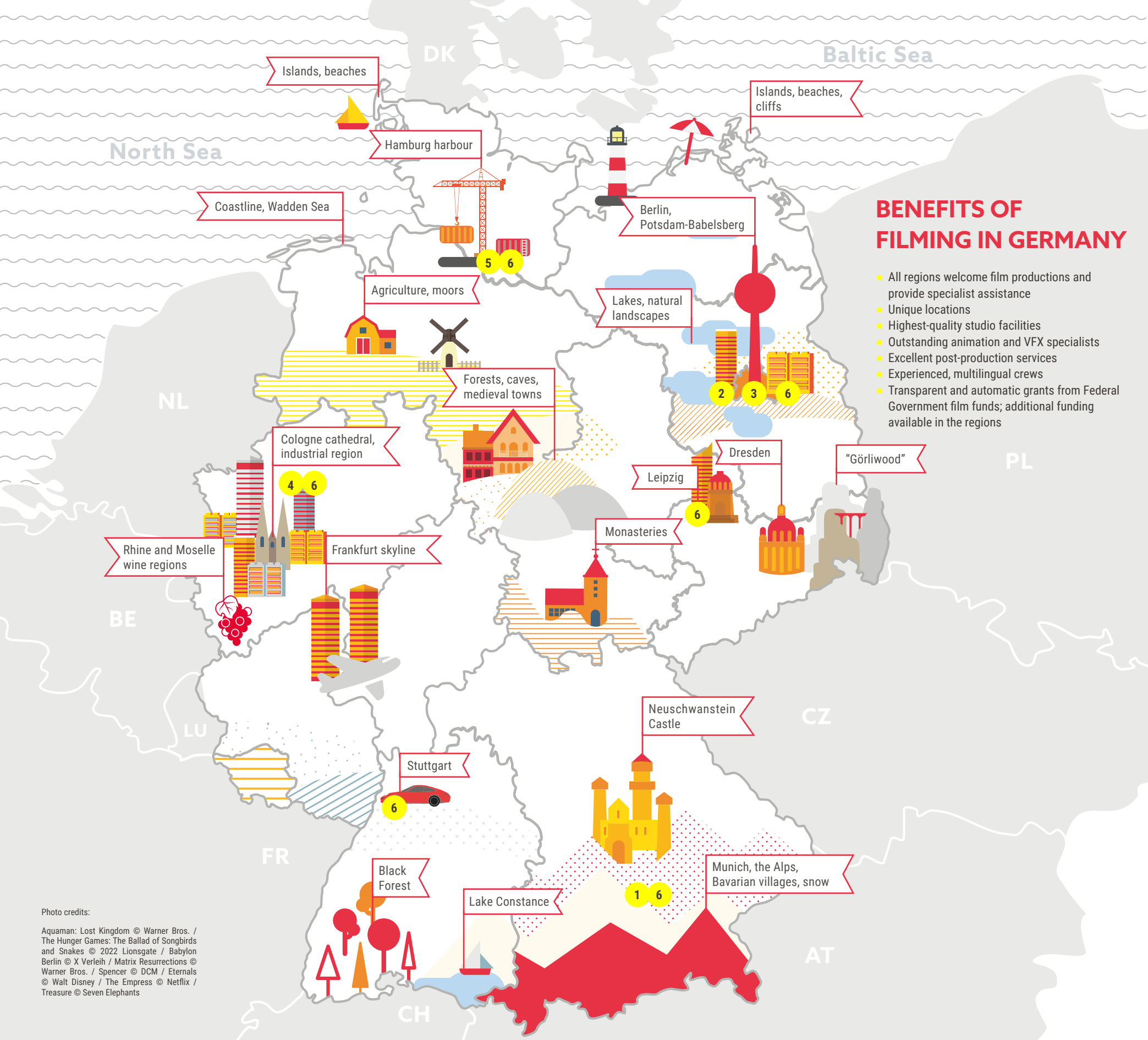
- **Director:** Chloé Zhao
- **Cast:** Angelina Jolie, Richard Madden, Kumail Nanjiani

**DFFF I**  
€ 1.6 million +  
€ 3.3 million  
FFA/BKM/regional  
funding



### TREASURE

- **Director:** Julia von Heinz
- **Cast:** Lena Dunham, Stephen Fry, Zbigniew Zamachowski



## BENEFITS OF FILMING IN GERMANY

- All regions welcome film productions and provide specialist assistance
- Unique locations
- Highest-quality studio facilities
- Outstanding animation and VFX specialists
- Excellent post-production services
- Experienced, multilingual crews
- Transparent and automatic grants from Federal Government film funds; additional funding available in the regions

Photo credits:

Aquaman: Lost Kingdom © Warner Bros. /  
 The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds  
 and Snakes © 2022 Lionsgate / Babylon  
 Berlin © X Verleih / Matrix Resurrections ©  
 Warner Bros. / Spencer © DCM / Eternals  
 © Walt Disney / The Empress © Netflix /  
 Treasure © Seven Elephants

## DFFF I, DFFF II, GMPF

### Are there any deadlines?

- The DFFF and GMPF have no application deadlines. Applications can be submitted at any time, but at least six weeks prior to the start of principal photography.
- The grant can be awarded once all eligibility criteria are met and 75 % of the financing is secured.

### Who can apply?

- Because the funding aims to ensure the competitiveness of film production in Germany and support the existing infrastructure, you will need a partner based in Germany. Applications can be submitted by a German-based co-producer (DFFF I & GMPF) or production service provider (DFFF II).
- The German financial contribution must be at least 20 % of the total production costs (DFFF I and GMPF only).

### Is there a minimum spend in Germany?

- DFFF I: At least 25 % of the total production costs must usually be spent in Germany.
- DFFF II: The German production costs must be at least € 8 million for feature films or at least € 2 million for animated films and films with virtually animated components.
- GMPF: The German production costs must usually be at least 40 % of the total production costs.

### Any other requirements?

- All projects need to pass a test of cultural characteristics.
- Projects receiving DFFF I or DFFF II funds must be commercially released in Germany.
- High-end series and films receiving GMPF funds must usually be shown on German TV and/or VoD platforms which are accessible in Germany.

## EXAMPLES OF FINANCING

### Feature Film



#### DFFF I

Approved German production costs<sup>\*</sup>

**€ 14 million**

- DFFF I **non-repayable** grant € 3.5 million
  - Selective Regional Loan I of up to € 1 million
  - Selective Regional Loan II of up to € 1 million
- You could receive up to € 5.5 million!**



#### DFFF II

Approved German production costs<sup>\*</sup>

**€ 90 million**

- DFFF II **non-repayable** grant € 22.5 million
  - Selective Regional Loan I of up to € 1 million
  - Selective Regional Loan II of up to € 1 million
- You could receive up to € 24.5 million!**

### High-End Series



#### GMPF

Approved German production costs<sup>\*</sup>

**€ 41 million**

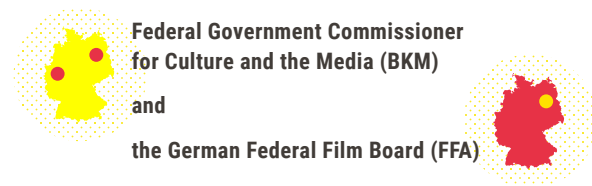
- GMPF **non-repayable** grant € 10 million
  - Selective Regional Loan I of up to € 1 million
  - Selective Regional Loan II of up to € 1 million
- You could receive up to € 12 million!**

<sup>\*</sup> "Approved German production costs" means all German production costs except, for example, overheads, insurance fees and financing costs.

# HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

If you would like more information on how to finance your next film, don't hesitate to contact the federal and regional film funding institutions.

Funding institutions on the federal level are:



Federal Government Commissioner  
for Culture and the Media (BKM)


and


the German Federal Film Board (FFA)


For more information, go to

[www.kulturstaatsministerin.de](http://www.kulturstaatsministerin.de) and [www.ffa.de](http://www.ffa.de)

Funding institutions on the regional level are:

 **Film- und Medienstiftung NRW**  
Cologne, North Rhine-Westphalia  
[www.filmstiftung.de](http://www.filmstiftung.de)

 **FilmFernsehFonds Bayern**  
Munich, Bavaria  
[www.fff-bayern.de](http://www.fff-bayern.de)

 **Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg**  
Postdam Babelsberg, Brandenburg  
[www.medienboard.de](http://www.medienboard.de)

 **Filmförderung Hamburg-Schleswig-Holstein**  
Hamburg, Schleswig-Holstein  
[www.ffhsh.de](http://www.ffhsh.de)

 **MV Filmförderung GmbH**  
Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania  
[www.mv-filmfoerderung.de](http://www.mv-filmfoerderung.de)

 **Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung**  
Leipzig, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt & Thuringia  
[www.mdm-online.de](http://www.mdm-online.de)

 **MfG-Baden-Württemberg**  
Stuttgart, Baden-Württemberg  
[www.mfg.de](http://www.mfg.de)

 **HessenFilm und Medien**  
Frankfurt/Main, Hessen  
[www.hessenfilm.de](http://www.hessenfilm.de)

 **Nordmedia**  
Hanover, Lower Saxony & Bremen  
[www.nordmedia.de](http://www.nordmedia.de)

To qualify for regional funding you must also spend the money in the respective region.

Most of the regional institutions are represented by their umbrella organization  
**FOCUS GERMANY.**

For more information, please visit

[www.focusgermany.de](http://www.focusgermany.de)

# CONTACT

The German Federal Film Board (FFA) is responsible for administering the German Federal Film Fund (DFFF) and the German Motion Picture Fund (GMPF). The DFFF and GMPF team will be pleased to answer any questions and help you complete your application.

German Federal Film Fund (DFFF)  
German Motion Picture Fund (GMPF)

**Office address:**

c/o Filmförderungsanstalt (FFA)  
German Federal Film Board  
Friedrichstraße 153a  
10117 Berlin, Germany

**Mailing address:**

c/o Filmförderungsanstalt (FFA)  
German Federal Film Board  
Große Präsidentenstraße 9  
10178 Berlin, Germany

## DFFF



**DFFF**

Phone: +49 (0)30 - 27 577 - 142

Email: [dfff@ffa.de](mailto:dfff@ffa.de)

[www.dfff-ffa.de](http://www.dfff-ffa.de)

## GMPF



**GMPF**

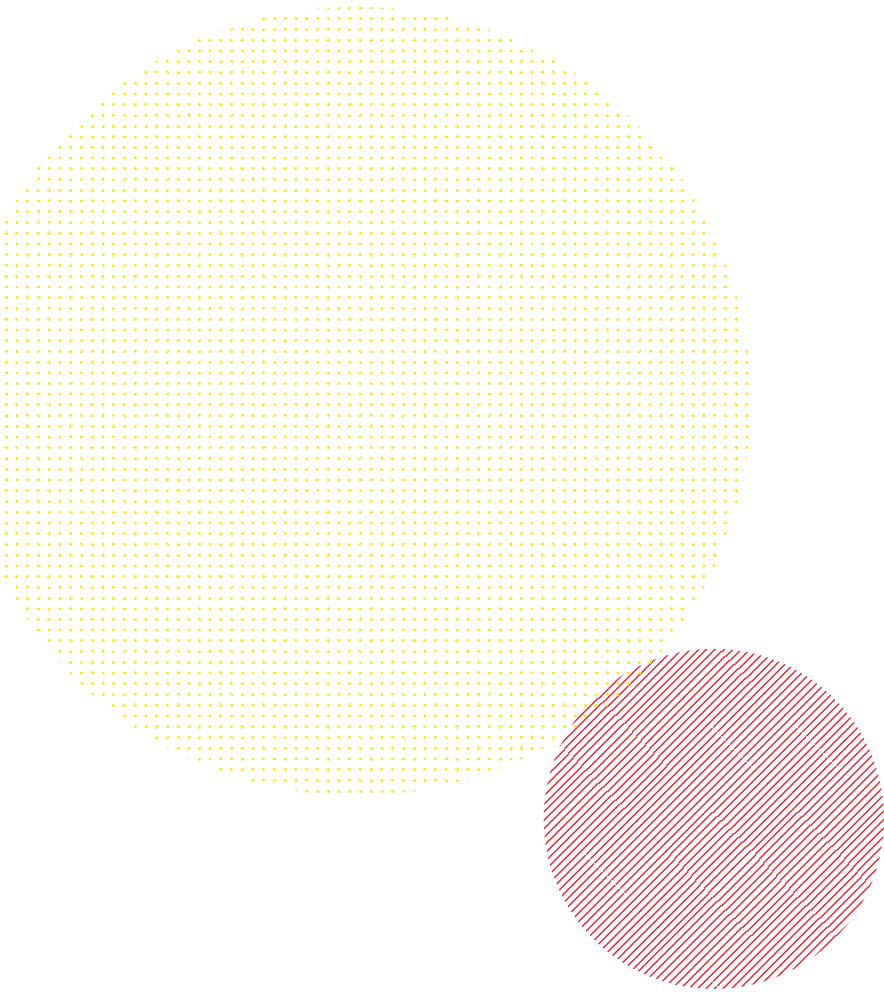
Phone: +49 (0)30 - 27 577 - 142

Email: [gmpf@ffa.de](mailto:gmpf@ffa.de)

[www.gmpf-ffa.de](http://www.gmpf-ffa.de)

Last update: February 2024





## **PUBLISHED BY**

Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media  
Graurheindorfer Str. 198  
53117 Bonn, Germany

[www.kulturstaatsministerin.de](http://www.kulturstaatsministerin.de)



Federal Government Commissioner  
for Culture and the Media