

KINOHAFEN SHORT 2026 – COMPETITION REGULATIONS

1. The Kinohafen Short Film Competition will take place in Hamburg, Germany, from 12 to 14 December 2026.

The competition is open to filmmakers from the post-Soviet region, as well as filmmakers originating from these regions who currently live and work in exile. Eligible countries include Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and Estonia, as well as independent filmmakers from the regions of Russia.

In addition, filmmakers from Israel and filmmakers with a biographical, cultural, or professional connection to Israel are warmly invited to submit their work.

Both films produced in these countries and works created by filmmakers living and working abroad are eligible for consideration.

The programme focuses on contemporary films addressing themes such as memory, identity, migration, local experience, cultural diversity, and societies in transition.

2. The festival is organized by I.A.K. RockFront e.V. in cooperation with Metropolis Kino Hamburg.
3. Fiction, documentary, and animated films with a maximum running time of 30 minutes are eligible for submission. Films must have been completed between 1 January 2024 and the submission deadline.
4. All submitted films must include English or German subtitles.
5. The submission period runs from 14 June 2026 to 13 September 2026.
6. The festival will take place from 12 to 14 December 2026 and will include screenings of the selected competition films.
7. Films selected for the competition will be evaluated by an international jury consisting of at least three members. The jury may include film scholars, critics, directors, producers, cinematographers, screenwriters, and other film industry professionals.

The composition of the jury changes annually. Individuals involved in the production, distribution, or commercial exploitation of any submitted film are not eligible to serve on the jury.

Jury members agree to refrain from making public comments, reviews, or statements regarding the competing films or competition results until the official awards ceremony has taken place.

8. Filmmakers whose works are selected for the competition will be invited to participate in the festival's professional programme, which will be held in a hybrid format (online and on-site).

The professional programme will focus on international co-production and the integration of migrant film professionals into the European film industry.

The full programme and schedule will be announced no later than 31 October 2026.

9. Festival awards will be presented in two categories:

- Jury Award
- Audience Award

The winners will receive a Kinohafen Short Festival Diploma.

10. By submitting a film, the applicant confirms that they hold all necessary copyrights and related rights to the submitted work, including rights to music, images, and any other materials used in the film. The applicant assumes full responsibility for any claims made by third parties.

11. By submitting a film, the rights holder grants the festival organizers the right to screen the film as part of Kinohafen Short 2026.

The organizers are also entitled to use submitted photographs, film stills, posters, trailers, and excerpts of up to three minutes in length solely for informational, archival, and promotional purposes related to the festival. All copyrights and ownership rights remain with the respective rights holders.

12. Submission of a film constitutes full acceptance of these regulations.

The festival organizers reserve the right to make decisions on matters not covered by these regulations. All decisions of the selection committee and the jury are final and not subject to appeal.