

Report 2023

The AG Kurzfilm is the nationwide interest group for German short film. Members of this umbrella organization are film festivals, film and art academies, short film distribution and sales companies as well as institutions in the film and cinema industry. The aim is to improve the public perception of German short films at home and abroad. The Federal Association also sees itself as a service center for filmmakers and producers of short films as well as for various short film institutions, but also as a contact for politics, the film industry, cinemas and film festivals.

As of December 2023, the association has 50 members.

One of the most important components of the association's work is the promotion of German short film production at home and abroad. This is achieved primarily through a presence at international and national film markets and trade fairs, for example in Clermont-Ferrand, Berlin, Cannes and Annecy, as well as at the cinema trade fairs in Baden-Baden and Leipzig.

The film policy lobbying work is aimed at improving the conditions for short film with regard to production, exploitation and distribution as well as strengthening the position of short film within the film industry. Since 2004, AG Kurzfilm has been a shareholder of German Films and has a seat on the administrative board of the German Federal Film Board (FFA), where it campaigns for an improvement in the legal framework for the production, screening, distribution and sales of short films.

With its complex tasks, the association is active for the entire short film industry and is expressly not limited to supporting its members. The office of the AG Kurzfilm has been based in Dresden since its foundation in 2002. The majority of activities are coordinated and organized from here.

The AG Kurzfilm:

- is a promotion and coordination center for German short film.
- supports national and international festivals, film institutes, cinemas and other exploiters with technical information, film and program suggestions regarding German short films.
- informs filmmakers about the general funding situation, current funding instruments as well as distribution and sales opportunities.
- represents German short film at national and international film markets, trade fairs and industry events.
- develops new concepts for the presentation and exploitation of short films in close cooperation with the media and cinema industry.
- gives short film a seat and a voice in national film policy and film funding bodies.
- is the point of contact for the interests of short film in film funding legislation.

Overview of the financial year 2023

Important focal points of work:

- In April 2023, the "anniversary year" 20 years of AG Kurzfilm ended with a panel at FILMFEST DRESDEN.
- coordination of the 12th nationwide KURZFILMTAG
- coordination of the KURZ.FILM.TOUR
- film market appearances in Clermont-Ferrand, at the European Film Market of the Berlinale, in Cannes and Annecy
- German focus at the Drama International Short Film Festival (GR)

To further increase the visibility of the German short film scene and its protagonists, a great deal of attention was once again paid to social media presentation (Facebook, Instagram) in 2023. Thanks to the continuous and up-to-date information, the number of subscribers to the Instagram account increased from around 3,600 (end of 2022) to more than 4,600 at the end of 2023.

In its 21st year of existence, the German Short Film Association was able to maintain its position as an important point of contact for the film and cinema industry, for film policy and as a direct contact for filmmakers and other players in the short film scene.

The AG Kurzfilm also acts as a year-round representative of the interests of German short film and its protagonists with its diverse projects (see the following individual presentation) and comprehensive services (e.g. individual advice for filmmakers, preparatory work and research on short film-specific topics).

Cooperation with German Films

The intensive collaboration with German Films as part of the foreign representation was once again one of the most important pillars of cooperation for AG Kurzfilm in 2023.

Under managing director Simone Baumann, who has been in office since 2020, short film is perceived even more strongly as a natural part of the promotion of German film abroad.

The cooperation with Martin Scheuring as contact person for the short film sector deserves special mention. The joint measures have been successfully continued to date.

General meetings

A general meeting was held in February 2023 as part of the 73rd Berlinale.

Activities and projects 2023

1. Representation of the interests of short film in Germany

The daily work of the office is determined by tasks of coordination, presentation and the implementation of various projects with a national or international reference and networking for the industry. The majority of publications are aimed at both national and international target groups.

1.1. Closing of anniversary year “20 years AG Kurzfilm”



The 20th anniversary of the federal association was celebrated with various activities from May 2022 to April 2023. The occasion was primarily used to promote short film throughout Germany with various themed events and to generate attention in the press, industry and public.

In April 2023, the anniversary year was concluded at FILMFEST DRESDEN with the panel discussion "Short Film and School is Feasible - On the Way to Sustainability", the third panel on the topic of "Short Film and School".

1.2. Short film service, consulting, coordination

As a contact point for short film makers, institutions and producers, the office offers comprehensive information and advice on all questions relating to (German) short film. This includes advice and information on film funding and applications, information on short film exploitation, arranging contacts for program inquiries from national and international organizers as well as advice and support for young filmmakers.

The provision of industry information, active participation in forums and initiatives is just as much a part of the tasks as the communication of film policy events and funding decisions.

The association offers a range of assistance for festival submissions and submission deadlines for funding: Every year in November, the printed annual calendar (see point c) is published with dates of German and international festivals for the coming year. Furthermore, current festival dates and deadlines are continuously published on [shortfilm.de](https://www.shortfilm.de).

This area of activity also includes coordinating the submission of proposals for the German Short Film Award by members of the federal association. In 2023, the AG Kurzfilm submitted a total of 86 short films to the BKM.

a) Seminars on short film promotion and festival exploitation

The seminars initiated by Jana Cernik and Jutta Wille in 2019 on the topic of short film funding, festival submissions and strategies took place in 2023 as part of FILMFEST DRESDEN, the Hamburg International Short Film Festival and the Kassel Documentary Festival. It is planned to continue offering such service formats regularly online and on site in the future.

b) Online Catalog „German Short Films“



In the course of the increased online focus of most major film markets and festivals since 2020, a stronger focus on digital formats was also sought for the AG Kurzfilm portfolio. As the AG Kurzfilm's short film catalog is primarily aimed at (international) festivals, it is important to present new films in particular that have not yet had a long festival career.

For this reason, the short film catalog "German Short Films" was already completely modified in its compilation and also in the selection process in 2022: Instead of once at the beginning of the year, current short films are now included in the catalog three times a year and presented to the industry public. The dates are always linked to important international film

festivals and markets in order to attract as much attention as possible for the update.

2023 was therefore the second year in which the short film catalog was updated three times: The first part was published as usual at the end of January and was thus linked to the festivals and film markets in Clermont-Ferrand and Berlin. Updates and expansions were then published for the Cannes Film Festival and the Short Film Corner there in May and for MIFA at the Annecy Festival (here with a focus on animated film) in June, as well as for DOK Leipzig (with a focus on documentary film) and the Talents and Short Film Market Torino in October/November.

Around 30 new short films were added to the AG Kurzfilm catalog at each of these times, with a total of 88 German short films and co-productions in 2023. The [online catalog](#) contains all essential information on the selected films in German and English: stills, synopsis, awards, credits, cast, contacts, biography and filmography of the director.

c) Viewing Module „Online Preview“



All films selected for the online catalog are presented on the AG Kurzfilm website and can be viewed directly via the online preview for the evaluating industry (curators, festival representatives, cinema operators, journalists, distributors, film buyers, etc.).

Over 1.000 short films are currently available for [online preview](#). Furthermore, each rights holder can decide whether the films can also be viewed by representatives from the education sector (media educators, specialist teachers and lecturers at schools as well as at further education institutions who want to use films for educational purposes in lessons, courses or lectures). However, this can also be added at a later date. At the moment, around 750 short films can be viewed with access for the education sector.

d) Festival Calendar



The AG Kurzfilm [festival calendar](#) has been published since 2006. Since then, it has become a popular tool for the film industry, both as a wall calendar and in its digital version. The calendar presents around 70 festivals and their dates, including the member festivals of AG Kurzfilm as well as a selection of internationally important short film festivals and events.

Deadlines have not been listed since the 2022 edition, as it was not possible to obtain reliable data by the editorial deadline. The dates are supplemented by the web addresses of the festivals.

The calendar can be ordered in printed form from the AG Kurzfilm and is also available for download at www.ag-kurzfilm.de. The dates are also available as an iCal file and can thus be imported into personal online calendars. The calendar will be published in mid-November. Each festival represented on the calendar will receive a specimen copy. The majority of the calendars are distributed at the film markets in Clermont-Ferrand and Berlin and sent to interested parties free of charge on request.

The calendar is extremely popular in the short film scene and is also in demand from international short film institutions.

e) Short Film Portal “shortfilm.de”



The bilingual short film portal shortfilm.de has existed since 2001 as a service and news portal for the German and international short film scene. Between 2004 and 2014, AG Kurzfilm and the International Short Film Festival Oberhausen were joint operators; since fall 2015, AG Kurzfilm has been the sole publisher of the short film portal.

2023 was the second year in which the editorial work was carried out by a voluntary editorial advisory board made up of members of AG Kurzfilm, which meets regularly to jointly select topics, acquire authors and help shape the content of the portal.

In its in-depth articles, the short film magazine has once again taken up current trends and developments.

As an innovation, shortfilm.de 2023 established a partnership with the Indiefilmtalk podcast. Three joint podcast episodes have been developed and produced since May. Selected interview guests spoke with Susanne Braun or Yugen Yah, the hosts of Indiefilmtalk, about current topics relevant to (short) film.

The interview section Talks'n'Topics was also regularly updated with new video interviews. Of course, shortfilm.de also published thematic articles and filmmaker portraits.

In addition to the newsletter, which is sent out three times a year to around 700 subscribers, new topics on shortfilm.de are also regularly communicated on the AG Kurzfilm social media channels.

The events section was updated on a monthly basis so that festival dates and deadlines were always available three months in advance. In the NEWS section, interesting short reports from the German and international short film scene were published on an ongoing basis.

LONG ARTICLES and PORTAITS

Rubrics: Topic / Analysis / Background...

12 publications

- Marie Ketzscher: [The short film is not some proof of potential – it stands for itself](#)
- Luc-Carolin Ziemann: [Film Festivals – Crises, Opportunities, Perspectives](#)
- Marie Ketzscher: [Volker Schlecht: Seeking the Right Image](#)
- Laurence Boyce: [Young People and Short Film Audiences](#)
- Katrin Mundt: [What is the point of film festivals?](#)
- Arindam Sen: [The X Factor, Birgit Hein – writing, filmmaking, and curating in the 1970s](#)
- Marie Ketzscher: [“Limited Possibilities Create Freedom” – The Animation Filmmaker Sonja Rohleder](#)
- Katrin Mundt: [Still there. About the films of Marian Mayland](#)
- Marie Ketzscher: [Dem Unausgesprochenen auf der Spur – im Gespräch mit André Eckardt über den \(kurzen\) Animationsfilm bei DOK Leipzig](#) (in German only)
- Arindam Sen: [Fleeting Fictions: Milena Gierke's Super 8 short films](#)
- Marie Ketzscher: [A festival as a genuflexion – the 20th anniversary edition of Animateka](#)
- Arindam Sen: [What seems like Utopia: Ausländer filmmaking in Berlin \(1965-1989\)](#)

Number of authors: 5 (3 women, 2 men)

PODCASTS (in German only)

- #01 | shortfilm x Indiefilmtalk | [Kurzfilm in der Schule ist machbar!](#)
- #02 | shortfilm x Indiefilmtalk | [Vorschläge für eine neue \(Kurz\)filmförderung](#)
- #03 | shortfilm x Indiefilmtalk | [Festivals in Zeiten von Krisen, Krieg und Konfrontationen – Teil 1](#)

TALKS'N'TOPICS

- Luc-Carolin Ziemann: [Interview with FILZ Film Initiative Leipzig](#)
- Borjana Gaković: [Interview mit Hoda Taheri und Boris Hadžija](#)
- Borjana Gaković: [Interview with Julia Roesler – werkgruppe2](#) (in German only)
- Borjana Gaković: [Interview with Anna Roller](#)
- Borjana Gaković: [Interview with Betina Kuntzsch](#)
- Borjana Gaković: [Interview with Michael Fetter Nathansky](#)
- Borjana Gaković: [Interview with Alison Kuhn](#)
- Borjana Gaković: [Interview mit Annika Pinske](#) (in German only)
- Borjana Gaković: [Interview mit Sophie Linnenbaum](#) (in German only)

NEWS (short)

41 news items by Reinhard Wolf (film programs, exhibitions, distribution, film and media policy)

25 news items by AG Kurzfilm (mainly domestic: tenders, successes of German short films, film policy)

f) Kurz.Film.Tour. – The German Short Film Award. In Cinemas.



Since 2008, the AG Kurzfilm has been organizing the cinema tour of the winners and nominees of the German Short Film Award on behalf of the BKM. In 2023, cinema operators were once again able to put together their own individual program from all nominated and award-winning films of the German Short Film Award 2022 according to special focal points or the profile of the cinema.

The organizers had the opportunity to invite guests, which was taken up for numerous dates. All dates and information on the Kurz.Film.Tour. films were published on the website <https://kurzfilmtournee.de>, the Kurz.Film.Tour. Facebook page and the AG Kurzfilm Instagram account.

For the KURZFILMTAG, a thematically appropriate program of the Kurz.Film.Tour. as

well as a program with accessible films were offered, which were booked by many cinemas and alternative screening venues.

The Kurz.Film.Tour. kicked off again in January as part of the Max Ophüls Prize film festival in Saarbrücken. Director Marian Mayland was present for a Q&A at the two events at Cinestar and Kino achteinhalb.

The AG Kurzfilm was responsible for coordinating and acquiring the cinema screenings. This included logistical and organizational services such as booking dates, scheduling DCPs, files and BluRays as well as creating and sending out advertising material (individual flyers for each cinema, posters, trailers, program booklets), arranging and coordinating guests for the individual cinemas (directors, film team, jury members) and, in consultation with the press agency Kleber Film PR, advertising the dates in the local press. For the municipal cinemas, the Bundesverband kommunale Filmarbeit took over the coordination of the dates with the cinemas in proven cooperation.

g) Short Film Programs, Industry Events in Saxony

FEINKOŠT – Czech-German short film tour

Since 2010, the AG Kurzfilm has been organizing the German-Czech project [FEINKOŠT](#) as part of the Czech-German Culture Days, which take place in the Elbe-Labe Euroregion.

After a three-year partnership with the ELBE DOCK Festival, a new partner organization was found on the Czech side in 2023 with Kinedok (Institute of Documentary Film, Prague). In this cooperation, too, the

programmatic focus was placed exclusively on short documentary films. In terms of content, documentary films offer a direct link to social realities in both countries and enable topical discussions on current affairs. For FEINKOŠT 2023, the project partners selected a total of six current short documentaries - three from Germany and three from the Czech Republic - and provided them with subtitles in the other language. The entire spectrum of documentary film

was used: animated as well as classic documentaries, but also more experimental works were included.

At the events in Dresden and Prague, the filmmakers were invited to talk to each other and the audience. By the end of the year, over 20 screenings had taken place in both countries. A cooperation with DOK Leipzig enabled the filmmakers in the FEINKOŠT program to take part in this renowned festival. For the first time, FEINKOŠT was also part of the KURZFILMTAG program, which attracted new organizers to show the film selection.

Program 2023:

- *EVERYTHING'S FINE POTATOES IN LINE* Piotr Jasiński, CZ/PL, 2022, 13 min, documentary
- *ARALKUM* Daniel Asadi Faezi, Mila Zhluktenko, DE/UZ, 2022, 14, experimental documentary
- *THE CROSSING* Tereza Plavecká, CZ, 2022, 8 min, documentary
- *CHEMKIDS* Julius Gintaras Blum, DE, 2022, 27 min, documentary
- *SERPENTIS* Sarah Lomenová, CZ, 2022, 18 min, documentary
- *URBAN JUNGLE – DIE ZIMMERPFLANZE NIMMT PLATZ* Celia Regina Ibáñez Lamuño, DE, 2022, 4 min, animated documentary

Cooperation with the riesa efau Dresden - short film programs accompanying current exhibitions:

In 2023, the cooperation with the Kultur Forum riesa efau in Dresden, which began in 2021, was continued. The AG Kurzfilm curated a short film program to accompany the [IN ORDNUNG](#) exhibition.

Program "Everything is fine - nothing is fine"

- *TROTZDEM DANKE* Mischa Leinkauf, Matthias Wermke, 2006, experimental documentary
- *90 GRAD NORD* Detsky Graffam, 2015, fiction
- *REISE ZUM WALD* Jörn Staeger, 2008, experimental documentary
- *HÜTER DES UNRATS. EINE KURZE GESCHICHTE DES ABFALLS* Susann Maria Hempel, 2022, experimental film
- *THE DIVINE WAY* Ilaria Di Carlo, 2018, experimental documentary
- *WILDNIS* Helena Wittmann, 2013, experimental documentary
- *TELEKOMMANDO* Erik Schmitt, 2014, fake documentary

FEINKOŠT @ „film.land.sachsen“



The AG Kurzfilm is part of a cooperation of Saxon film festivals and institutions that has been bringing film culture to the countryside since 2019 under the title "[film.land.sachsen](#)" (in German). "film.land.sachsen" is based at the Saxony Film Association; other partners are the Saxon film festivals FILMFEST DRESDEN, DOK Leipzig, Filmfestival SCHLINGEL, KURZSUECHTIG, Neißer Filmfestival as well as the AG Animationsfilm and the DIAF. The aim

is to find committed organizers throughout the federal state in order to multiply the film culture on offer. These can be individuals with an affinity for film, but also cultural players such as socio-cultural centers, youth centers or other alternative cultural spaces.

In 2023, the Short Film Working Group put together "FEINKOŠT - So near and yet so far", a program with films from the binational FEINKOŠT program 2021 and 2022.

Film selection:

- *OBEN OFFEN* Hannah Jandl, D 2020, documentary
- *ANIMOT* Juliana Moska, CZ 2021, experimental documentary
- *GLÜCKSPFAD* Jakob Werner, Thea Sparmeier, Pauline Cremer, D 2021, animated documentary
- *ZABRADLI (GELÄNDER)* Barbora Sommers CZ 2020, documentary
- *DONBAS DAYS* Philipp Schaeffer, D 2022, documentary
- *LOVE, DAD* Diana Cam Van Nguyen, CZ 2021, animated documentary
- *SIRENS* Ilaria Di Carlo, D 2021, experimental documentary

h) Short film programs at events of the city of Dresden

In 2023, the AG Kurzfilm was asked to design the program for two ceremonies of the City of Dresden. Two short films were provided for the induction event for new trainees and for a ceremony for city administration employees celebrating their 25th and 40th anniversaries of service in 2023.

i) Reception of the Dresden film institutions at FILMFEST DRESDEN



Since 2008, FILMFEST DRESDEN has hosted a joint reception for Dresden's film institutions. For the 35th FILMFEST DRESDEN, which took place in April 2023, FILMFEST DRESDEN, the AG Kurzfilm, the DIAF, the Filmverband Sachsen, the dresdner schmalfilmtage and the MOVE IT! Filmfestival together in the premises of the Goethe-Institut Dresden.

The event opened with a fishbowl discussion on the topic of "Working conditions in the independent film scene". Moderator Grit Lemke discussed with Franz Sodann (member of the Saxon state parliament, cultural policy spokesperson, DIE LINKE parliamentary group), Guntram Schuschke (editor and involved with FairTV), Aleksandra (Ola) Staszal (festival director of the Neiße Film Festival) and Kathlen Eggerling (ver.di trade union, media, art and industry section). Afterwards, the Dresden film institutions jointly hosted a reception and offered the opportunity for exchange.

j) Cooperation with the Filmgalerie Phase IV: Coffee and Cinema - The value of democracy



These are short film screenings with moderated discussions, which are held in Saxon prisons for and with inmates. The project was initiated in 2019 by Phase IV e.V. together with Kunst im Gefängnis e.V. and supported by AG Kurzfilm e.V.. The aim is to bring film art into prisons and thus address a group of people who almost never come into focus in the context of cultural education and the promotion of democracy: prison inmates. As part of this project, the Short Film Working Group suggests suitable short films, clarifies the rights and organizes the screening copies. These short film programs are then discussed over a cup of espresso with social workers and interested prison inmates.

In 2023, a total of twelve short film events were held in Saxony's Zeithain, Chemnitz, Dresden and Leipzig prisons under the titles "Faking Off", "To Be or Not to Be - Films on Diversity", "Being a Prisoner" and "The Shittiness of Drugs".

1.3. Twelfth nationwide Short Film Day



On December 21, 2023, the nationwide SHORT FILM DAY took place for the twelfth time. As in previous years, the nationwide events were coordinated by the AG Kurzfilm project team.

Over 500 events in more than 200 cities and municipalities throughout Germany testify to the continued great interest in the nationwide SHORT FILM DAY and short film as such. In addition to many large cities, rural regions in particular also took part with original events.

As in 2022, the period of the SHORT FILM DAY was extended to one week - December 15-21 - to give the organizers greater flexibility. Under the annual motto "In limbo", events took place in all federal states - not only in cinemas, but also in some very unusual locations, including sheepfolds, Christmas markets, daycare centers and garages. The KURZFILMTAG team awarded the creative prize "The Five Lucky Ones" to particularly unusual venues and concepts, which went to Hof, Köttwitzsch (Königsfeld), Munich, Saarbrücken and Erfurt in 2023.

For the 12th SHORT FILM DAY, filmmaker Sonja Rohleder created an animated trailer that picked up on the focus topic "In limbo". This was distributed on social media and used as cinema advertising; the organizers themselves were also able to use it to promote their events.

The Short Film Working Group actively searched for event organizers, arranged contacts, networked program providers, cinemas and filmmakers and coordinated uniform advertising and press work. Since mid-December, a dedicated KURZFILMTAG Instagram channel (@derkurzfilmtag) has ensured that information and visual impressions of the project can be published and found in one place. To improve localization, there were six regional coordinators - in Brandenburg, Bremen, Hesse, Lower Saxony, North Rhine-Westphalia and Thuringia - who specifically took care of local acquisition and networking.

All events were advertised on the website www.kurzfilmtag.com, on Facebook and on Instagram. The AG Kurzfilm team was available to answer any questions the organizers had about the KURZFILMTAG. The [review brochure](#) provides facts, figures and background information on SHORT FILM DAY 2023.

1.4. "Short films to the movies!"

a) Film theater congress KINO



The overarching goal of this work focus is to inspire more cinema operators to use short films.

Among other things, the AG Kurzfilm has set itself the task of informing cinemas about the possible uses of short films and the FFA's screening support for short films as supporting films and short film programs.

In spring, the [KINO film theater congress](#) in Baden-Baden is a fixed point of contact for cinemas. At the trade fair, the AG Kurzfilm provided information on the latest developments in the short film sector as well as distribution offers from short film distributors.

The AG Kurzfilm's offer was complemented by the presentation of short films suitable for pre-screening in a tradeshow. This included two short films (one of which was barrier-free) as well as the trailers for the current Short.Film.Tour. and the SHORT FILM DAY. In combination with the barrier-free short film, the adOHRi system developed on behalf of the AG Kurzfilm was also presented, which was created for the transmission of short film audio descriptions.

b) NEXT GENERATION SHORT TIGER 2024



The AG Kurzfilm has been involved in the FFA working group for the [SHORT TIGER AWARD](#) since 2010. For the 2024 award ceremony, the AG Kurzfilm was also responsible for reviewing and coordinating the submissions from the independent film scene. Compared to the previous year, two changes were made to the submission conditions. The age restriction was lifted and the film length was increased from five to seven minutes. These changes led to a

higher number of submissions. There were a total of 57 submissions from the independent film scene. A preselection of 12 (instead of 10) short films that are particularly suitable for theatrical release was passed on to the jury in December 2023.

There were also changes to the regulations for the NEXT GENERATION SHORT TIGER program from German Films, which considers films up to 15 minutes in length. The age limit has been raised to 40 years. Five films from the independent film scene were submitted from the GERMAN SHORT FILMS 2023 catalog. In spring 2024, the jury, consisting of Christian Bräuer, Alexandra Gramatke and Sophie Linnenbaum, will select the SHORT TIGER award winners and the NEXT GENERATION SHORT TIGER film program, which will then be presented at FILMFEST DRESDEN. Afterwards, the films can be booked as supporting films via the Short Film Agency Hamburg.

c) Filmkunstmesse Leipzig (film art fair)



In September 2023, the 23rd [Filmkunstmesse](#), the most important industry event for the German arthouse cinema scene, took place in Leipzig.

Traditionally, the "Kurz vor Film" pre-film test is an important part of the program of the Filmkunstmesse. The AG Kurzfilm, in proven cooperation with interfilm Berlin and the Kurzfilm Agentur Hamburg, presented a program of short films that are particularly suitable as supporting films. The aim was to get the cinema industry and the public excited about short films as supporting films.

The audience was once again invited to vote for their favorite. The audience's favorite film of 2023 was LILITH & EVE by Sam de Ceccatty from Kurzfilm Verleih Hamburg.

For the second time, it was also possible to present a program of the winners and nominated films of the German Short Film

Award that is also accessible to people with visual or hearing impairments. A total of six short films were provided with audio descriptions and subtitles for the hearing impaired (see point c) and were presented to interested cinema operators and audiences.

d) adOHRi – Short Films for Everyone



In 2021 and 2022, with the support of the Saxon Ministry of Science, Culture and Tourism in cooperation with the KLAPPE AUF! Short Film Festival Hamburg, the [adOHRi](#) [link in German] system was developed. This transmits the audio description of short films via an internal WLAN generated by a transmitter to an app on the users' mobile devices so that they can be heard through their own headphones. There was no funding for the continuation of the project in 2023. However, as it is now important to bring the system to cinemas and make the accessible films accessible to users, there were two presentations in 2023: as part of a

tradeshow at the HDF Cinema Congress in Baden-Baden (see above) and an audience screening with an accessible program of the Kurz.Film.Tour. as part of the Leipzig Film Art Fair.

2. Representing the interests of short film abroad

The focus of the work in this sub-area is on improving the external representation of German short film. The following examples are intended to give an insight into the extensive field of work. In this area, the AG Kurzfilm works very closely with German Films.

2.2. Presence at international film markets

In 2023, the German Short Film Association once again represented the interests of German short film in cooperation with German Films at the major film markets of the festivals in Clermont-Ferrand, Berlin, Cannes and Annecy.

a) Marché du Film Court/ Festival International du Court Métrage Clermont-Ferrand



The AG Kurzfilm has been present at the world's largest festival for short film, the [Festival du Court Métrage Clermont-Ferrand](#), since 2003 and has had its own stand at the film market since 2004.

In 2023, the AG Kurzfilm once again took advantage of the diverse opportunities offered by the film market with thousands of accredited trade visitors to promote German short films.

Among other things, there was once again the market screening "Matinée Allemande - Coup de foudre - Le court métrage allemand", a selection of brand new German short films from the short film catalog "German Short Films 2023".

In 2023, the following films were presented at Matinée Allemande:

- *ACTION!* (Arne Körner)
- *KATZE* (Julia Ocker)
- *AUFNAHMEN EINER WETTERKAMERA* (Bernhard Wenger)
- *INTRO* (Anne Isensee)
- *WHERE IS MY FRIEND'S HOME?* (Amina Maher)
- *TESTIGO DEL VIENTO* (Fernanda Caicedo)
- *EINMAL WIEDER DIESER JUNGE SEIN* (Jan Koester)
- *ŽVIVÁ VODA* (Sandra Makhoulf)
- *I WILL TAKE YOUR SHADOW* (Ayala Shoshana Guy)

Also on show at the Clermont-Ferrand market were the latest editions of the Soirée Allemande / SHORT EXPORT program and the Emerging Artists program (see point 2.3).

Since 2010, AG Kurzfilm has been a partner of the European co-production forum for short films "Euro Connection", which takes place as part of the film market in Clermont-Ferrand. The Euro Connection is a platform for European producers whose portfolio includes the development of short films as European co-productions. Producers meet with representatives of funding bodies and television broadcasters to look for potential cooperation partners. A network of contacts in the more than 20 partner countries is responsible for selecting the projects that are proposed to the international selection jury in Clermont-Ferrand. The jury then decides which projects will be invited to pitch. The Short Film Working Group is responsible for coordinating the selection of the German project that can be proposed for presentation in Clermont-Ferrand. In 2023, the German project proposal *SECOND HAND WAR* by Natalia Imaz (parabellum film GmbH) was unfortunately not selected for the pitching.

b) European Film Market / Berlinale



Under the umbrella of German Films, AG Kurzfilm presented its current [project portfolio](#) at its stand at the European Film Market, which was aimed at industry representatives, filmmakers, producers, distributors and festivals and provided information and contacts relating to German short film.

For example, the AG Kurzfilm presented its new short film catalog "German Short Films 2023". This has been published exclusively online since 2021 and places a stronger focus on "fresh" films. The new concept includes three updates per year - at the beginning of the year, in spring and in fall.

c) Short Film Corner Cannes / Festival de Cannes



From May 16-27, 2023, the AG Kurzfilm presented current German short film productions at the Marché du Film in Cannes together with German Films in the German Pavilion. In addition, 33 current short films were presented at the festival's film market, which industry representatives can view via the AG Kurzfilm online catalog. Nine films from this selection were also available for viewing at the [Short Film Corner](#) (May 21-24, 2023), the industry platform for short film in Cannes. The

films remained accessible there for accredited users for one year. Registered users were also able to view the films via the industry platform T-Port. For the twelfth time in 2023, the films of the NEXT GENERATION SHORT TIGER 2023 were presented. In cooperation with German Films, the AG Kurzfilm once again offered a training program for the filmmakers of the program, which included workshops, a film market tour and contact mediation.

d) Marché International du Film d'Animation / Festival International du Film d'Animation d'Annecy



In June 2023, the MIFA film market took place at the most important festival for animated film, the Festival International du Film d'Animation in Annecy.

As usual, the AG Kurzfilm was present at the MIFA ([MARCHÉ INTERNATIONAL DU FILM D'ANIMATION](#)) together with German Films. At the stand, interested trade visitors were able to find out about current developments in the German animation scene, make contacts and find out more about the latest New German

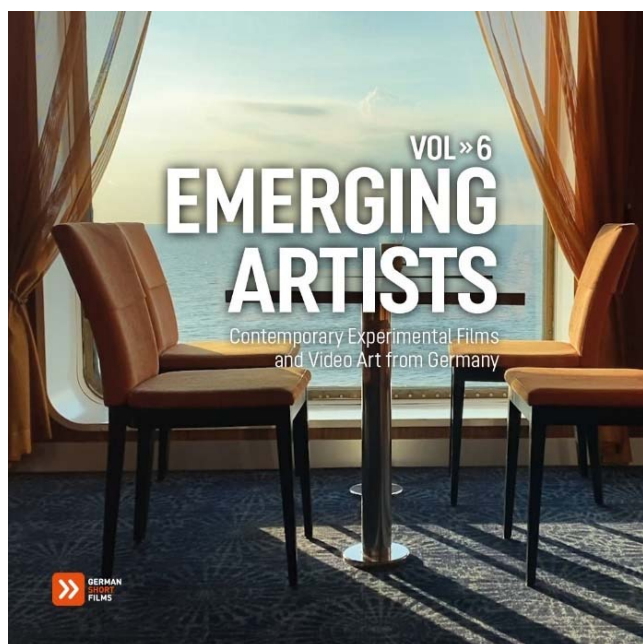
Animations, which have been added to the AG Kurzfilm online catalog. Industry representatives can view the films after prior registration via the online preview function connected to the catalog.

e) Cooperation with T-Port

The cooperation with the screening platform [T-Port](#), which has existed since 2020, was continued in 2023: Registered users can view selected films from the 2023 short film catalog. A total of 63 German productions from the years 2020 to 2023 are listed on T-Port.

2.3. Short film programmes abroad

a) Emerging Artists – Contemporary Experimental Films and Video Art from Germany



For the first time in 2012, AG Kurzfilm - at the suggestion of its association members - put together a program in collaboration with German Films that is exclusively dedicated to young experimental film and video art in Germany. With this program, German Films and the AG Kurzfilm would like to support experimental, strongly artistically oriented newcomer works that can also be exploited via the art market in museums, galleries, etc.

The [program](#) is curated every two years. The sixth edition premiered in 2023 as part of the Stuttgart Film Winter. All participating filmmakers were invited.

In the current year 2023, the program was shown in Germany and abroad: at festivals, Goethe institutes or their partners. In some cases, the participating artists also went along to present the program and the films in person.

Film selection:

- *SAFT* (Mona Keil)
- *HOAMWEH LUNG* (Felix Klee)
- *DIGITAL ASHES* (Bruno Christofolletti Barrenha)
- *GRUSS AN DIE MUTTER: WEH ÜBUNGEN* (Keren Shemesh)
- *WE ARE WHAT WE EAT* (Natalia Ehret)
- *CBЯ3b (CONNECTION)* (Serafima Orlova)
- *THE SUNSET SPECIAL* (Nicolas Gebbe)

b) Soirée Allemande • coup du cœur – Le court métrage allemand | SHORT EXPORT - Made in Germany



Since 2006, the International Short Film Festival in Clermont-Ferrand has also been the premiere venue for the [Soirée Allemande](#). This extraordinary project is a Franco-German cooperation of AG Kurzfilm - Bundesverband Deutscher Kurzfilm, the Goethe Institute Lyon, the Short Film Agency Hamburg, German Films and the festival management in Clermont-

Ferrand. The films in the short film program were selected by the partners from over 470 German festival submissions for the festival in Clermont-Ferrand.

After a year with an online version, there was another premiere in 2023 as part of the Marché du film court in Clermont-Ferrand.

The program then went on tour through Goethe institutes with German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic, Russian or English subtitles under the name "SHORT EXPORT - Made in

Germany". In some cases, there were also online Q&A sessions with the filmmakers and in autumn, additional trips were organized for the filmmakers to screenings within Europe.

In 2023, a total of 42 screenings of the SHORT EXPORT short film program took place worldwide in cooperation with Goethe institutes (nine screenings of SHORT EXPORT 2022 and 33 screenings of SHORT EXPORT 2023).

The AG Kurzfilm was responsible for managing the project, including the coordination of subtitling and DCP production as well as the conclusion of license agreements with the producers and the acquisition of event organizers.

Film selection:

- *DIE HÜTER DES UNRATS. EINE KURZE GESCHICHTE DES ABFALLS* (Susann Maria Hempel)
- *I WAS NEVER REALLY HERE* (Gabriel Bihina Arrahnio)
- *MUSS JA NICHT SEIN, DASS ES HEUTE IST* (Sophia Groening)
- *BORDER CONVERSATIONS* (Jonathan Brunner)
- *WUNSCHKIND* (Laura Solbach)
- *HELLO STRANGER* (Julia Ocker)

c) **PROTAGONISTINNEN** – Online short film program on Goethe on Demand



To mark the anniversary of the AG Kurzfilm in 2023, a special program was curated for Goethe on Demand (VOD platform of the Goethe institute) in cooperation with the Goethe institute headquarters in Munich. The resulting film series "[Protagonistinnen](#)" comprises seven German short films from the last seven years and focuses on female perspectives. There were a total of 325 online accesses from 29 countries.

Film selection:

- *ANNA* (Julia Roesler)
- *GABI* (Michael Fetter Nathansky)
- *GLÜCKSPFAD* (Jakob Werner, Thea Sparmeier, Pauline Cremer)
- *HALMASPIEL* (Betina Kuntzsch)
- *HOMEWORK* (Annika Pinske)
- *MEGATRICK* (Anne Isensee)
- *PIX* (Sophie Linnenbaum)

d) Deutscher Fokus in Drama (Griechenland)



The Drama International Short Film Festival (September 4-10, 2023) had a German focus in 2023. In addition to six German short films in various competition sections, Drama hosted other events related to German short film.

Together with German Films, the AG Kurzfilm supported the festival's **German Focus**. Managing Director Jutta Wille took part in the Short Film Hub Talk on the topic "From Script to Spotlight: Navigating the Development and Festival Circuit of Short Films".

As part of the festival's **supporting program**, two programs were also presented by AG Kurzfilm together with German Films and the

support of the Goethe-Institut Thessaloniki: The program SHORT EXPORT 2023 - Made in Germany with guest Jonathan Brunner (BORDER CONVERSATIONS) was shown as well as the program Emerging Artists - Contemporary Experimental Films and Video Art from Germany; director Bruno Christofletti Barrenha presented his film DIGITAL ASHES here. Several German projects were also selected for the festival's Pitching Lab.

e) Grants for travel expenses, additional copies and subtitling

Since 2004, filmmakers have been able to apply to the AG Kurzfilm for grants for travel expenses, additional copies and subtitling. The condition is participation in a competition at a relevant foreign festival. Applications are processed and approved by the office in consultation with German Films, with invoicing handled by German Films. A total of 89 applications for travel expense support or DCP or subtitle funding were approved in 2023.

The filmmakers took information material from AG Kurzfilm with them on their festival trips and thus acted as ambassadors for German short film. Short festival reports written by the filmmakers are then published on the AG Kurzfilm website (<https://ag-kurzfilm.de/de/festivalberichte.html>). This has already resulted in an extensive archive of festival reports from the perspective of filmmakers whose experiences are helpful to others.

3. Film Policy

3.1. Film Political Lobbying

a) Committee work

Since 2004, AG Kurzfilm has represented the interests of the German short film scene in the FFA's committees with a seat on the Board of Directors of the German Federal Film Board. Jana Cernik has held this position on the film industry's highest body since 2013 in order to represent the interests of short film. She is also a member of the FFA's Commission for Innovation and Structural Issues, and Alexandra Gramatke (board member of AG Kurzfilm and managing director of Kurzfilm Agentur Hamburg) is a member of the Commission for International Cooperation and EU Film Issues. Jana Cernik has also been a member of the Supervisory Board of German Films since 2023.

The Federal Association is the point of contact for the BKM and the German Federal Film Board (FFA) for all matters relating to short film funding and the short film scene. Representatives of the Federal Association regularly take part in forums and discussion rounds on the direction of film funding (including the amendment of the FFG). The aim of film policy lobbying is, among other things, to improve the funding conditions for short films with regard to production, exploitation and distribution.

In 2023, film policy work focused on the reform of film funding. In October, the AG Kurzfilm sent its proposals and demands to the BKM: <https://ag-kurzfilm.de/de/ffg/2172.htm> (in German)

b) Initiatives and Networks



Since 2020, the AG Kurzfilm has been one of the nine associations and organizations calling for a paradigm shift in German film culture under the name [INITIATIVE ZUKUNFT KINO + FILM \(IZK+F\)](#) [website in German]. On the occasion of the amendment of the FFG, the IZK+F published a joint position paper with the aim of creating a new model for film funding as a whole: <https://cdn.ag-kurzfilm.de/neuanfang-izkf-20230131-1.pdf> (in German)

This was followed in June by a PROPOSAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BKM'S 8 KEY POINTS FOR THE REFORM OF FILM SUPPORT: <https://cdn.ag-kurzfilm.de/8-punkte-izkf-20230615.pdf> (in German)



and racist structures in its own organizations.

Since 2021, AG Kurzfilm has also been a member of the [Democracy + Film Network](#) (website in German), which is an alliance of individuals, associations and organizations from the film and media industry, film and media education and media culture that oppose right-wing extremist and anti-democratic influence on media professionals, media content and media culture. The network shows solidarity with those affected by discrimination within the industry and questions discriminatory

In 2023, the Film + Democracy Network organized two events:

- 7 February 2023 [online event] DEMOCRACY UNDER PRESSURE - THE FILM INDUSTRY IN RESPONSIBILITY - introducing the Film & Democracy Network
- 26 June 2023 [Panel discussion as part of the Munich Film Festival] ATTACKS ON THE CULTURE OF THE RIGHT - NETWORKING, VIGILANCE, SOLIDARITY



The Central German film associations AG Animationsfilm, AG Dok Ost, fairTV e.V., Filmverband Sachsen, Mitteldeutsche Film- & Fernsehproduzenten Verband MFFV and AG Kurzfilm joined forces in 2021 to form the Network of Central German Media Associations, which held its first industry

summit on the topic of "Central German Media Landscape 2030" in Erfurt on September 29, 2023. Around 20 representatives from politics, broadcasters, the Broadcasting Council, funding and the media landscape discussed perspectives for Central Germany as a media location in various working groups. The event was captured by graphic artist Sandra Bach in the form of a [graphic recording](#).

c) Short Film on Television

Improving the visibility of short films on television remained an important topic for the AG Kurzfilm in 2023. In the run-up to the presentation of the German Short Film Award 2023, the third workshop discussion on the topic of "Short Film in Public Broadcasting" (ÖRR) took place on November 23 in Hamburg. Almost 25 representatives of the ARD and ZDF/arte broadcasters and the German short film scene took part. Specifically, the focus was on program formats with and mediation concepts for short film. The workshop was organized by Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk and the Bundesverband Deutscher Kurzfilm.

The federal association is in regular contact with the editors of MDR's short film magazine Unicato and suggests films for thematic focuses, for example. Unicato author Olaf Held is a member of the advisory board of shortfilm.de.

d) Short film in film education



Short films are ideal for use in film education both outside of school and in schools and kindergartens. The Short Film Working Group has been working for years to ensure that this potential is utilized to a greater extent.

For the anniversary year 2022/2023, the concept of the annual film policy theme "Short film and school" was developed (see point 1.1.) Under the title "Short film in school is feasible! On the way to sustainability", a public discussion took place on April 20 at the Goethe-Institut Dresden as part of FILMFEST DRESDEN. The event was captured by

filmmaker and graphic artist Robert Löbel in the form of a **graphic recording**.

3.2. Cultural policy lobbying

Since the end of February 2017, the Short Film Working Group has been a member of the German Cultural Council's German Media Council - Film, Broadcasting and Audiovisual Media and contributes to current discussions on cultural, film and media policy there and in various specialist committees.

In 2023, the German Cultural Council, the umbrella organization of the federal cultural associations, positioned itself with a statement on working conditions and qualification in cultural education, among other things.

The AG Kurzfilm is also a member of the "Netzwerk Kultur Dresden", an association of over 60 independent cultural institutions and initiatives founded in 2014. The network is committed to fair working conditions in the cultural sector and greater transparency in cultural policy. Together with local and state cultural institutions and the creative industries, Netzwerk Kultur Dresden promotes civic engagement and a culture of democratic discourse.

3.3. Overview of committee work / jury work

Jana Cernik represented the AG Kurzfilm

- on the FFA Board of Directors
- in the FFA's Committee for Innovation and Structural Issues
- in the shareholders' meeting of German Films Service + Marketing GmbH
- on the supervisory board of German Films Service + Marketing GmbH
- Netzwerk Culture Dresden
- Initiative Future Cinema + Film
- Network Democracy and Film
- German Cultural Council - Education Committee
- Network of Central German Film Associations

Jutta Wille represented the AG Kurzfilm in the

- German Media Council - Film, Broadcasting and Audiovisual Media of the German Cultural Council

Alexandra Gramatke (member of the Board of Directors) is

- deputy member of the FFA Board of Directors
- member of the Committee for International Cooperation and EU Film Issues Committee for European Affairs of the FFA
- member of the Initiative Zukunft Kino + Film
- member of the Network Democracy and Film

Felix Völkel was

- member of the selection committee at Kurzsuechtig - Central German Short Film Festival

Franziska Kache represented the AG Kurzfilm in the

- workshop series "Culture Needs Inclusion" of the German Cultural Council and the Federal Government Commissioner for Matters relating to Persons with Disabilities