

ABOUT

Founded in 1999, connecting cottbus takes place in Cottbus, Germany, parallel to FilmFestival Cottbus. The 28th edition will be held on 4-6 November 2026 as an on-site event with additional online components. coco aims to foster European co-production with a special focus on East-West co-productions and to connect producers with potential partners. connecting cottbus is also open to producers from outside of Europe with an interest in Eastern European subjects and collaborations.

CO-PRODUCTION MARKET - PROGRAMME & EVENT

connecting cottbus selects up to 13 fiction feature projects in development as part of its cocoPITCH section. The selected projects will be pitched by two project representatives (producer & director/author) to an audience of potential co-producers, broadcasters, sales agents, distributors, representatives of film funds and financiers.

connecting cottbus additionally selects up to 6 films currently in production or post-production in its work in progress (cocoWIP) section. These projects will be presented to an audience of potential co-producers, broadcasters, sales agents, distributors, representatives of film festivals and financiers.

During the preparation period (cocoLAB), all project representatives will take part in a tailor-made mentoring programme with international specialists in script/story development, production, financing, marketing, audience design and pitch.

One2One meetings will take place throughout the event between the representatives of the projects and potential partners. The official meetings will be expanded with the possibility to take place both physically and online to maximise the reach of industry representatives.

Panel discussions, workshops and lectures will explore recent topics around the European film industry.

AWARDS

COCOPITCH AUDIENCE AWARD

The industry audience attending the cocoPITCH session will vote for their favourite public presentation of a selected project. The cash prize of €1,500 goes to the project's producer.

AVANPOST AWARD

Romania's Avanpost, one of Eastern Europe's most comprehensive post-production outfits, will offer in-kind post-production services up to €15,000.

HAVC PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AWARD

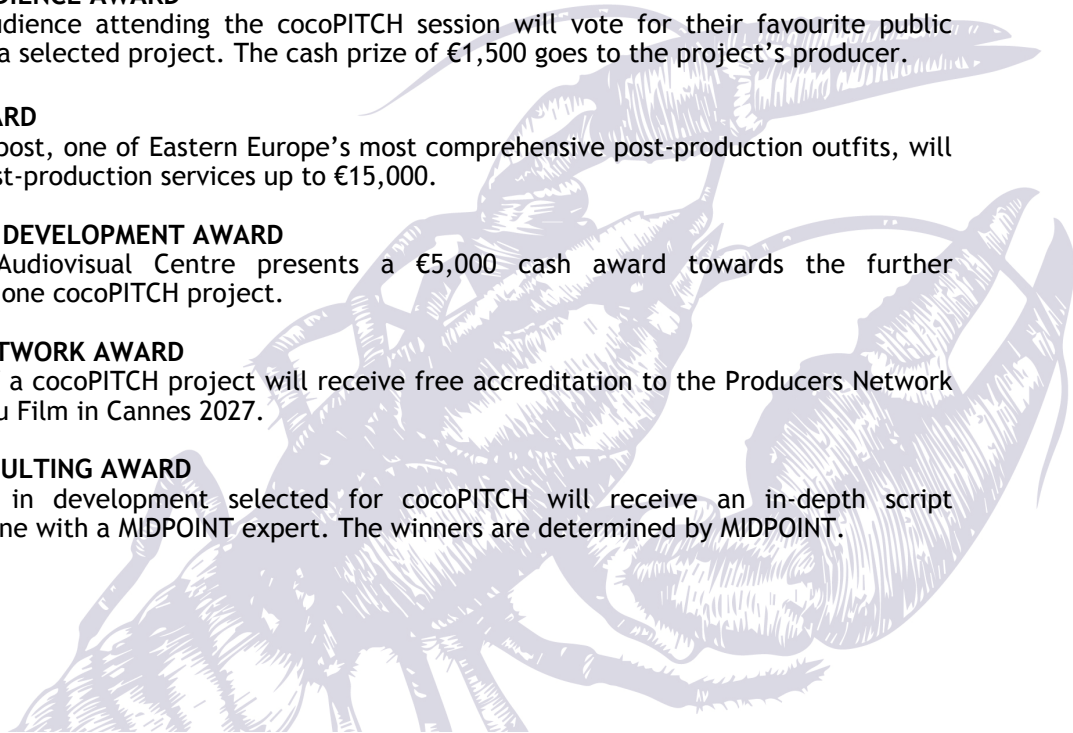
The Croatian Audiovisual Centre presents a €5,000 cash award towards the further development of one cocoPITCH project.

PRODUCERS NETWORK AWARD

The producer of a cocoPITCH project will receive free accreditation to the Producers Network at the Marché du Film in Cannes 2027.

MIDPOINT CONSULTING AWARD

Three projects in development selected for cocoPITCH will receive an in-depth script consultancy online with a MIDPOINT expert. The winners are determined by MIDPOINT.



D-FACTO MOTION WIP AWARD (tbc)

The D-Facto Motion WIP Award goes to a work in progress and consists in €10,000 in-kind services and up to €1,000 for additional expenses. The award is sponsored by D-Facto Motion, the renowned post-production studio with branches in six major German cities and the latest high-end technology.

STUDIO BEEP SOUND POST-PRODUCTION AWARD

Our second award in the cocoWIP section is the Studio Beep Sound Post-Production Award, €6,000 in-kind services sponsored by the high-end studios based in the centre of Prague, covering the full spectrum of sound and music solutions.

Please note all jury decisions for the awards as well as the vote of the coco Best Pitch Award are final and unappealable. There is no guarantee or legal right for project representatives to be connected with co-production partners as there is no legal right to participate in connecting cottbus.

ENTRY DEADLINES & REGULATIONS

The deadline for submitting projects in development (cocoPITCH) is **Wednesday, 15 July 2026** (midnight GMT). The deadline for submitting works in progress (cocoWIP) is **Friday, 21 August 2026** (midnight GMT).

Projects must be submitted by using the application forms available on the connecting cottbus website. The applications must include full information and material requested within the application forms. Information about current or intended submissions of the same project to other co-production markets or industry events (also training), as well as past participation, must be provided.

By applying to connecting cottbus, you agree to our regulations. In addition, applicants agree that their contact data as provided in the submission form will be added to our newsletter mailing list (approx. five newsletters per year). Contact data as well as the title and short summary of your project will be kept by coco for future reference. Please note that all other application material will be deleted after each submission period.

If selected, you agree that your project data and the project representatives' contact info will be published in the coco catalogue, the coco participants guide and online in a password-secured area of our website for the industry professionals attending coco. connecting cottbus staff will double-check this information with you before publishing it.

If selected, you are subject to pay a participation fee of €150.00 (plus applicable VAT) per invited team member per project, which includes full participation in the coco programme as project representative as well as hospitality (full accommodation and a partial travel allowance).

The projects will be selected by the coco director and a selection committee composed of industry professionals and advisors.

Eligibility for cocoPITCH / projects in development

- a) Your film project is a fiction feature (at least 75 minutes).
- b) A producer is attached to your project.
- c) The main producer is based in Eastern Europe, Central Europe or South Eastern Europe (incl. the Caucasus and successor states of the FSU) OR the project has a connection in subject to these regions.
- d) Your project is in development and/or financing stages.
- e) You are looking for international co-production, sales, financing and/or distribution partners.
- f) Your film is not a graduation/student film.

Eligibility for cocoPITCH / projects in development

- a) Your film project is a fiction feature (at least 75 minutes).
- b) A producer is attached to your project.
- c) The main producer is based in Eastern Europe, Central Europe or South Eastern Europe (incl. the Caucasus and successor states of the FSU) OR the project has a connection in subject to these regions.
- d) Your project is in development and/or financing stages.
- e) You are looking for international co-production, sales, financing and/or distribution partners.
- f) Your film is not a graduation/student film.

Selection cocoPITCH

We will inform you about the decision of the coco jury in early September 2026. If a project is selected, connecting cottbus will invite two members of the team (the producer and the director/author) to publicly present the project at connecting cottbus.

It is obligatory for the selected project representatives to take part in the preparation period prior to the co-production market that offers individual coaching, text editing and workshops, and to be available during the whole event on 4-6 November 2026.

Eligibility cocoWIP / works in progress

- a) Your film is a fiction feature (at least 75 minutes).
- b) The producer is based in Eastern Europe, Central Europe or South Eastern Europe (incl. the Caucasus and successor states of the FSU) OR the project has a connection in subject to these regions.
- c) Your film has not been completed and will have its premiere AFTER connecting cottbus 2026.
- d) You do not have an international sales agent attached.
- e) You are still looking for partners or have a financing gap.
- f) Your film is not shortlisted for a festival premiere.
- g) Your film is not a graduation/student film.

Selection cocoWIP

We will inform you about the decision of the coco jury in early September 2026. If your work in progress project is selected, connecting cottbus will invite the producer to present the project in the cocoWIP session at connecting cottbus.

It is obligatory for the selected project representative to take part in the preparation period prior to the co-production market that offers individual coaching, text editing and workshops and to be available during the whole event on 4-6 November 2026.

ACCREDITATION (INDUSTRY)

Industry representatives **without** projects (producers, commissioning editors, sales agents, distributors, film fund representatives, financiers etc.) are invited to apply for an industry accreditation. Applications must include full information requested within the application form. The deadline for applications without a project is **6 October 2026**. We will inform you about the result of your application by 9 October 2026. If accepted, the accreditation fee is €95.00 (plus applicable VAT).

By applying for an industry accreditation, participants agree that their contact information will be published in the coco participants guide and online in a password secured area of our website for attending industry professionals. In addition, participants agree that their contact data as provided in the application form will be added to our newsletter mailing list (approx. 5 newsletters per year). coco will keep contact data for future reference. Please note that all other application material will be deleted after each submission period.

REGLEMENT

PRESS

Press access is limited to selected journalists.

LEGAL WAIVER

As the number of participants is limited, connecting cottbus reserves the right to not accept all applications. There is no legal right to participate in connecting cottbus.

