



Sunny Side of the Doc is launching its 2024 Call for Projects !

Looking for partners and financing for your next documentary? Submit your project to Sunny Side of the Doc's pitching sessions and join one of the most impactful markets for documentary and digital storytelling (La Rochelle, France, June 24–27, 2024).

**[Opening date for submissions: Thursday, December 7th 2023]
[Closing date for submissions: Thursday, March 14th 2024, 12pm CET]**

WHY PITCH AT SUNNY SIDE OF THE DOC?

Sunny Side of the Doc is the international market dedicated to supporting the international financing of documentary projects and the circulation of completed programs. Every June, the 4-day event brings together 2,200+ participants (decision makers, producers, filmmakers, sales agents, foundations and funders) from 60+ countries.

With 300+ top-level international decision makers in attendance, representing leading broadcasters, streamers, foundations, sales agents and other funders looking for impactful stories, pitching at Sunny Side of the Doc is a unique opportunity. Please check the complete [list of attending decision makers in 2023](#).

Key benefits also include: accessing a qualified and diverse professional audience, mentoring from industry experts, sealing financial deals, finding potential partners, meeting with peers for potential co-production discussions, and much more.

Our pitching sessions will be held on-site and online as well in order to accommodate participants who may not be able to travel to France. Wherever you are, you'll have the same chance to pitch, so make sure to submit your project!

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

For its 35th edition, Sunny Side of the doc is inviting the international community to think about the future of our ecosystem, as well as the future of the documentary genre itself, and to attempt to map it together. In a world that is losing its bearings, documentary is more than ever a genre of public interest, and we want to continue to support and anticipate its evolution.

The sector has gone through deep transformations over the past thirty-five years, affecting the professions, financing, distribution and modes of consumption of documentaries. How will the major functions (production, distribution, broadcasting) continue to evolve? What are the emerging professions of tomorrow? How is AI shaking up the industry? How will narrative modes evolve? And what stories should we tell in a world living in an era of climate change, conflict, geopolitical tension and growing inequality?

These questions will run through Sunny Side of the doc and will undoubtedly feed the projects selected in our 7 pitch categories, including the usual five specialist factual sessions. A growing number of documentaries fall into several genres, and the positioning of certain sub-genres can be the subject of lengthy debates (is archaeology science or history – or both?). If in doubt in which category to enter your project, do [reach us out](#).

#SSD24 Pitching Sessions

- Specialist Factual
 - **Science:** we welcome all types of science projects, from blue-chip and hard science to popular science
 - **History**
 - **Arts and Culture**
 - **Nature & Conservation:** natural history, environment, climate related stories
 - **Global Issues:** current affairs, investigation, social issues, human interest
- **New Voices:** we're looking for filmmakers/content creators who are making their first or second documentary project of 50+ minutes (or series) with international potential. Emerging filmmakers, stories inspired by under-exposed issues, tomorrow's nuggets - all are welcome!
- **Impact campaigns:** documentary is a powerful tool for change. Is the topic of your film highly social, political, environmental or does it offer a new vision that you want to share in order to raise awareness and trigger social change? This new pitching session is looking for such kind of activism. This session is specifically set up to develop and finance impact campaigns and not the production of the films. This pitch session will present 6 impact campaign projects to an audience of impact specialists and funders.

Eligible projects

- All talents, whether confirmed or not, can apply: filmmakers, producers, writers;
- Projects should be in advanced development. We do not encourage projects whose principal photography has been completed or which are in post-production;
- Projects should have the financial commitment from at least one third-party partner (broadcaster, platform, sales agent, supporting fund, foundation, crowdfunding etc.). A proof of the confirmed participation of all partners (Letter of commitment "LOC") is required;

- Submissions from all countries are accepted. Please check our special rates for submissions from the Global South and Low production capacity countries;
- All formats are welcome in our 7 pitching sessions: broadcast length, series, documentary, etc.

For projects submitted in Impact Campaign category:

Whether your film project is in development, production or even finalization, what matters here is that you build an impact campaign around it. How do you finance it, with whom and for what result? This session is specifically set up to develop and finance impact campaigns, not film production. Please note that, in the submission form, **the budget and provisional financing plan must concern the impact campaign only.**

Projects Assessment

Projects will be assessed and selected by a jury of industry professionals based on the following criteria:

- Power and originality of the story and of the storytelling;
- International relevance and potential for international coproduction;
- Financial feasibility;
- Without being a prerequisite, other elements will be taken into consideration, such as plans for an impact strategy or a green / sustainability certification.

Should you have any question about your project's eligibility, please contact programming@sunnysideofthedoc.com prior to submission.

WHAT'S YOUR PITCHING JOURNEY?

By submitting your project to Sunny Side of the Doc's pitches, you're entering an invaluable journey.

- **Before the 4-day event**
 - **SELECTION**
6 projects will be selected in each of our **7 pitching sessions**;
 - **COMMITMENT**
Selected projects must agree to:
 - register for Sunny Side of the Doc (if you bought a Pitch only, you will be required to buy your Market Pass)
 - follow the whole Pitching Journey;

- **MENTORING**

Once selected, each of the 42 projects will be offered mentoring sessions with Industry experts to prepare their video pitch, which should be sent to us before **June 7th 2024**.

- **During the 4-day event**

- **PROJECT PRESENTATION** which consists in:

- A pre-recorded video pitch of 5' (including trailer) aired on-site and online;
- A 2' live presentation, which should ideally focus on production issues (stage of production, financing secured and sought, expectations from the pitch etc.). The mentoring provided by Sunny Side will help you fine-tune your pitch;
- Followed by an 7' live Q&A session with Decisions Makers guided by seasoned moderators. Decision makers and selected producers will be able to attend either on-site or online.

- **TAILORED INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS**

At least three tailored one-to-one meetings with Decision Makers will be organized according to your wishlist to get straight into creative and financial discussions.

- **AWARDS**

- A jury of industry experts will select the best pitched project in each session. **The 7 winners will receive a cash prize** endowed by respective session sponsors: 3,000€ for the Specialist Factual Pitching Sessions and 2,000€ for New Voices & impact Campaigns Pitching Sessions;
- Additional special prizes and festival invitations may be granted by industry partners.

- **PUBLICATION**

The information about the selected projects will be published in the Sunny Side of the Doc resources made available to buyers and registered delegates, including the Official Selections Guide. While you will have the opportunity to verify and update this information, please ensure that it is accurate when applying.

- **After the 4-day event**

- **PROJECTS OBSERVATORY**

Sunny Side of the Doc's commitment goes far beyond the pitch. We wish to support the development of your project all the way to its international distribution. The Projects Observatory allows our organization to monitor your progress and share your achievements with the international documentary community.

Selected projects will comply with Sunny Side's requests for information and for including its credit and logo where needed.

HOW TO SUBMIT?

Submissions will open on Thursday, December 7th 2023
Deadline for submissions: Thursday, March 14th 2024, 12pm CET

All the submission process will be through an **online form**
and has to be completed in English only.

To submit a project to Sunny Side of the do, you should choose between 2 options:

1- Buy your **MarketPass** first, at the *early bird rate* and then, via the event platform, submit your project with the **"Submit a project"** purchase option.

2- Submit your project first with the **"Pitch submission"**, then purchase your Market Pass for the 4-day Market.

To submit your project, you will be required to provide and upload the following elements:

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- Original title *[not mandatory]*
- English title
- Pitch category
- Thematics / Subgenres
- Director's name(s), bio (max. 400 characters incl. spaces) & filmography (maximum 3 titles) *[not mandatory]*
- Is this project the 1st or 2nd film of the director?
- Production company profile (max. 300 characters incl. spaces)
- Producer's name(s) & bio (max. 400 characters incl. spaces)
- Is this project the 1st or 2nd film of the producer?
- Co-producer(s) if any & country
- Main contact for the project
- Artistic team *[not mandatory]*
- Technical team *[not mandatory]*
- Partners (Public or private funds & Institutions) *[not mandatory]*
- Broadcaster(s) & Platform(s) if any & Country *[not mandatory]*
- International sales agents (if any) & Country *[not mandatory]*
- Final estimated budget, Secured financing & Financing sought (in euros)

2. PROJECT

- Logline (350 characters, spaces included)
- Short synopsis (800 characters, spaces included)
- Short treatment (2500 characters, spaces included)
- Link to your trailer **[English or english subtitles, 4mins max., Vimeo preferred. Make sure your video is in free access and downloadable]** OR any other alternative visual support [PDF] which best illustrates your project - e.g. Moodboard, Marketing presentation.
- Industry event(s) your project would have been previously pitched? If yes, where and when?

- Does your project need a total media blackout for security reasons? (your project will appear on our website in case of selection, and will be available to all participants in our online catalog) For confidentiality or security issues, you may decide that your trailer should not be displayed with all the participants before, during or after the event.
- Sustainable strategy: what actions did you implement to make your documentary sustainable & green?y (800 characters, spaces included) *[not mandatory]*
- Impact strategy: What actions did you implement to make your documentary impactful: social media campaigns, partnering with NGOs, etc.? (800 characters, spaces included) *[not mandatory]*
- Diversity, Parity & Inclusion strategy: What actions did you implement to ensure diversity, parity & inclusion in front & behind the camera? (1,500 characters, spaces included) *[not mandatory]*

3. TECHNICAL SPECIFICITIES

- Beginning of Shooting
- Expected time of completion
- Is your project in post-production?
- Shooting format(s) - e.g. 4K, FHD, Web / Social Media
- Deliverable format(s) - e.g. Feature length, Series
- Language(s)
- Duration(s)

4. Attachments

- HD visual [\[Still or poster in landscape format, 10MB max., without text on it\]](#)
- Budget & financing plan [\[1 single PDF file, 10MB max.\]](#)
- Letter(s) of Commitment from a third party **(a letter from a private or public entity who's investing in your project with coproduction, in-kind or money.)** [\[1 single PDF file, 10MB max.\]](#)
- Additional information you want to share with the selection committee (biographies of directors, moodboard, etc.) [\[1 single PDF file, 10MB max.\]](#)

[5. SPECIFIC QUESTIONS FOR PROJECTS SUBMITTING TO THE IMPACT CAMPAIGN PITCH SESSION] **Please fill in these questions in a PDF document and upload it in the "Attachments" tab > "Impact specific questions"**

- Why do you plan an impact campaign?
- What are the key messages to your film, what issue are you addressing?
- What are your impact goals, what change do you want to see?
- Who is your target audience?
- What would success look like?
- Budget estimate for the impact campaign
- Do you already have a partner, Impact producer / NGO / Foundation on board? If yes, please specify.
- If applicable, contact details of your impact producer
- Who would be your ideal partner?

Should you have any questions about your project's submission, please contact projects@sunnysideofthedoc.com.

For more information visit:
[call for projects SSD24 - Sunny Side Of The Doc](#)

ABOUT SUNNY SIDE OF THE DOC

[Sunny Side of the Doc](https://www.sunnysideofthedoc.com) is the international community and marketplace dedicated to linear and non-linear documentary. Every June, a specific event brings together decision makers, producers, filmmakers, sales agents and funders to support the international financing of documentary projects and the circulation of completed programs. The 4-day market offers unique creative, business and networking opportunities for the 2,200+ participants from 60 countries through a mix of high-level pitching sessions, panels on the latest industry trends and an exhibition hall. The 35th Sunny Side of the Doc will be held in La Rochelle from June 24-27, 2024. Doc Services, the organising company of Sunny Side of the Doc, is a member of 1% for the Planet. <https://www.sunnysideofthedoc.com>