

REGULATIONS
OF THE KUÇOVA INTERNATIONAL INDEPENDENT
FILM FESTIVAL (KIIFF), 1st EDITION
12–17 October 2026, Kuçovë, Albania

ARTICLE 1

PURPOSE OF THE FESTIVAL

1.1. The Kuçova International Independent Film Festival (hereinafter referred to as “KIIFF”) aims to promote national and international independent cinema, foster cultural dialogue, and contribute to the cultural and tourism development of the city of Kuçovë.

1.2. The Festival aims to provide a platform for emerging and established filmmakers, with a focus on artistic merit, originality, and the diversity of perspectives expressed through independent film.

ARTICLE 2

DATE AND VENUE

2.1. KIIFF shall be held in Kuçovë, Albania, from 12 to 17 October 2026.

2.2. Independent feature, documentary, and animated films shall be screened at “Kadri Roshi” Cinema, Kuçova, Albania.

2.3. Films submitted to the competition sections of the Festival must have been produced during the period 2019–2024.

ARTICLE 3

COMPETITION CATEGORIES AND AWARDS

3.1. The main competition categories of KIIFF are as follows:

- Best Feature Film;
- Best Short Film;

- Best Documentary;
- Best Animation Film;
- Jury Special Mention.

3.2. The Producer reserves the right to add, merge, or amend categories, as well as to create non-competitive sections, including special screenings, retrospectives, and thematic programmes.

ARTICLE 4

FESTIVAL STRUCTURE

4.1. KIIFF – 1st Edition is organized with the financial support of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sports, the National Center of Cinematography, and the Municipality of Kuçovë.

4.2. The Festival shall be held under the special patronage of Mr. Kreshnik Hajdari, Mayor of the Municipality of Kuçova and President of KIIFF.

ARTICLE 5

DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT

5.1. The President shall consult with the Festival Director on matters relating to the organization of the Festival, and in particular on matters concerning the effective implementation of the Festival's content and objectives.

5.2. The President shall propose the composition of the jury for the films in competition, in cooperation with the Festival Director.

5.3. The President shall approve the KIIFF Regulations jointly with the Festival Director.

5.4. The President shall personally present the trophies to the Festival winners, or appoint other distinguished figures from the fields of art and culture for this purpose.

5.5. The President shall co-sign, together with the Festival Director, invitations for participation in KIIFF addressed to the diplomatic corps, figures from the arts, public life, and other invitees.

5.6. The President shall deliver the opening and closing speeches of the Festival, or may invite distinguished Albanian cultural personalities to deliver the closing address.

ARTICLE 6

DUTIES OF THE FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

6.1. The Festival Director shall be responsible for the proper conduct and successful implementation of the Festival and shall oversee its artistic components.

6.2. The Festival Director shall enter into negotiations, or delegate to the Production team the authority to seek financial support from public and private institutions, donors, and/or domestic or foreign sponsors. Any funds secured shall be used to ensure the highest possible standard of implementation of KIIF.

6.3. The Festival Director shall supervise the Production team during the preparatory phase and throughout the Festival days.

6.4. The Festival Director shall approve all visual and organizational details, including all materials and accessories necessary for the smooth running of the Festival.

6.5. In cooperation with the Production team, and subject to available financial resources, the Festival Director shall determine the number of VIP guests invited to attend the Festival.

6.6. In cooperation with the Production team, the Festival Director shall approve the structure of the Festival and the committees necessary to ensure its smooth operation, as follows:

i. Media and Publicity Unit, responsible for:

- Organizing the opening and closing press conferences of the Festival, during which the President and the Festival Director shall provide journalists with all necessary information concerning the Festival;
- Preparing a daily bulletin of Festival activities and informing the media accordingly;

- Organizing debate roundtables and masterclasses with the participation of filmmakers;
- In cooperation with the Festival's media partner, preparing the materials necessary for the production of special programs intended to ensure the broadest possible coverage of the Festival and its activities;
- Subject to available financial resources, establishing an editorial team to publish a special newspaper covering the Festival's overall activities.

ii. Hospitality Unit, responsible for:

- Preparing the guest list and distributing invitations, securing physical film copies, presenting authors to the public, coordinating transport and communications, and responding to various requests;
- Organizing the welcome and departure of participants and guests, as well as their accommodation, meals, and daily schedules;
- Organizing cocktails and other receptions that may be held at the opening, during, or at the closing of the Festival.

iii. Marketing and Finance Unit, responsible for:

- Securing additional Festival funds, properly administering the funds available for the implementation of the Festival, ensuring timely payments, and preparing interim and final reports for funders, donors, and the Festival Director, in accordance with the expenditures foreseen in the Festival draft budget;
- Drafting contracts with partners, funders, and donors.

iv. Technical Services Unit, responsible for:

- Determining, organizing, and securing the technical means required for film screenings, and maintaining the proper functioning of all equipment;

- Ensuring the technical operation of equipment used for press conferences, debates, seminars, receptions, and the Festival's opening and closing events;
- Establishing additional units or working groups during the Festival, where necessary.

v. Volunteers Unit, responsible for:

- Selecting young people from the city of Kuçovë who express a willingness to serve as Festival volunteers;
- Organizing the volunteers engaged during the Festival;
- Directing and assigning the specific tasks to be performed by each volunteer;
- Supporting the Production team with volunteers in order to ensure the smooth running of the Festival.

ARTICLE 7

FESTIVAL JURY

7.1. The Jury shall be fully independent in its work and decision-making.

7.2. The Jury may view the films prior to the Festival; however, all films must also be viewed during the Festival days. Any jury member who has not viewed all films in competition shall be excluded from participation in the awarding of prizes and shall also forfeit voting rights.

7.3. Decisions concerning the awarding of trophies and other prizes shall be taken by the Jury in full session, by open vote, and by a majority of its members.

7.4. Should a jury member be unable to attend the Festival in person, that member shall be replaced by a new member.

ARTICLE 8

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

8.1. KIIFF is open to independent films from all over the world, without discrimination on the basis of the film's nationality or the authors' ethnicity, gender, religion, or political beliefs.

8.2. Eligible films must have been produced between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2024.

8.3. Film running times shall be as follows:

- Feature Film: no less than 70 minutes, including opening and closing credits;
- Short Film: up to 30 minutes, including opening and closing credits;
- Documentary Film: no less than 30 minutes and no more than 65 minutes, including opening and closing credits;
- Animated Film: no more than 30 minutes, including opening and closing credits.

8.4. The following genres are eligible for competition: fiction/live action, documentary, animation, and experimental film.

8.5. Films in an unfinished stage ("work in progress") may be accepted only with the explicit consent of the Author, who guarantees that the final version shall be delivered within the deadline established by the Festival for the submission of links.

ARTICLE 9

LANGUAGE AND SUBTITLES

9.1. The official languages of KIIFF are Albanian and English.

9.2. All non-English-language films must include English subtitles both in the version submitted for selection and in the final screening copy.

ARTICLE 10

APPLICATION AND REQUIRED MATERIALS

10.1. Applications shall be submitted via the FilmFreeway platform and through the official KIIFF website. Each film must be submitted separately.

10.2. Each application must include the following materials, as set out in Annex 1 to these Regulations:

- An online screener link (Vimeo, FilmFreeway, or another supported platform) of sufficient viewing quality;
- A short synopsis of the film;
- The director's biography and filmography;
- A high-resolution film poster;
- Three to five stills from the film, excluding behind-the-scenes photographs;
- Basic technical information, including width, format, resolution, aspect ratio, and similar details.

10.3. Incomplete applications shall not be considered by the Selection Committee.

ARTICLE 11

SUBMISSION FEES AND DEADLINES

11.1. Submission to the 1st Edition of KIIFF is free of charge, except for any fees and commissions charged by the FilmFreeway platform. Such fees and commissions are non-refundable regardless of the outcome of the selection process.

11.2. Submission deadlines shall be published on the official website and on KIIFF's official social media channels.

ARTICLE 12

SELECTION PROCESS

12.1. All submissions shall be reviewed by the Selection Committee appointed by KIIFF.

12.2. The decisions of the Selection Committee are final and may not be appealed. The Festival is under no obligation to provide individual explanations for films not selected for competition.

12.3. The Author/Producer agrees that, if the film is selected, it may be scheduled by the Festival in any screening slot during the dates of KIIFF, in accordance with the programming decisions of the Festival's programme management.

ARTICLE 13

JURY AND AWARDS

13.1. The winners shall be determined by a Jury composed of professionals from the fields of film, art, and the creative industries. The composition of the Jury shall be published before the start of the Festival on the official website and KIIFF social media channels.

13.2. The Jury shall act independently in its decision-making, and its decisions shall be final.

13.3. The Festival shall grant various awards, including trophies, certificates, and cash prizes, as announced in the official call for films.

13.4. The Festival reserves the right not to grant an award if the artistic standard of the films in a given category is deemed insufficient.

ARTICLE 14

SCREENING FORMAT AND DELIVERY OF COPIES

14.1. Once a film has been selected, the Author/Producer must deliver the final copy of the film within the deadline established by the Festival and in the required technical format, as set out in Annex 2 to these Regulations.

14.2. All costs related to the preparation of technical materials, including subtitles and online delivery, shall be borne by the applicant.

14.3. The Festival does not pay screening rental fees for films included in the official programme.

ARTICLE 15

COPYRIGHT AND LEGAL LIABILITY

15.1. By submitting a film to KIIFF, the applicant declares and warrants that they are the legal rights holder of the film or are duly authorized by the legal rights holder, and that the film does not infringe copyright, image rights, trademarks, or any other rights of third parties.

15.2. The applicant shall bear full legal responsibility for the content of the film and the materials submitted. The Festival shall not be liable for any legal issues arising from the infringement of such rights.

15.3. In the event of any legal claim, the Festival reserves the right to disqualify the film from the programme and remove any related materials from its communication channels.

ARTICLE 16

USE OF PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

16.1. By submitting a film to KIIFF, the applicant grants the Festival a non-exclusive right to use short excerpts from the film, up to a maximum of two minutes, as well as the poster, stills, and other promotional materials, for the purpose of promoting the Festival in the media, on social media, in the catalogue, in the Festival trailer, and in related promotional activities.

16.2. Such use shall not entail any financial compensation to the applicant and shall not prejudice the applicant's rights to other screenings outside KIIFF.

ARTICLE 17

TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

17.1. Subject to available budgetary resources, KIIFF may provide partial or full accommodation support for the directors/producers of

selected films. Such conditions shall be communicated by the organizer on a case-by-case basis.

17.2. Travel to and from Kuçova shall be the responsibility of the participants, unless otherwise specified in a separate agreement.

ARTICLE 18

POSSIBLE CANCELLATIONS

18.1. The Festival reserves the right to cancel the edition or make substantial changes to its structure, dates, or format, including a transition to an online or hybrid format, in cases of force majeure or circumstances beyond the organizers' control.

18.2. In the event of the complete cancellation of the edition, the organizer shall inform the applicants and may offer alternative solutions, including the transfer of submissions to the following edition.

ARTICLE 19

ACCEPTANCE OF THE REGULATIONS

19.1. Submission of an application to KIIFF through FilmFreeway constitutes full and unconditional acceptance of these Regulations by the applicant.

19.2. In the event of any discrepancy between language versions, the English-language version shall prevail.

19.3. In the event of any dispute concerning the interpretation of these Regulations, the final decision shall be made by the Festival management.

These Regulations shall enter into force on 20 May 2026.

PRESIDENT OF KIIFF

DIRECTOR OF KIIFF

Mayor of the Municipality of Kuçova

Kreshnik Hajdari

Steljo Gaçe

ANNEX 1

FILM SUBMISSION FORM

Kuçova International Independent Film Festival (KIIFFF)

Film Information

Film Title:

Director:

Country of Origin:

Year of Production:

Running Time (minutes):

Language:

Subtitles (if any):

Technical Specifications

Resolution: 1920x1080 (Full HD) 3840x2160 (Ultra HD / 4K)

File Format: MP4 (H.264) MKV (H.265/HEVC)

Frame Rate: 24 fps 25 fps Other:

Audio: Dolby Digital 5.1 Stereo WAV/PCM

Sample Rate: 48 kHz

File Delivery

Media: HDD/SSD USB 3.0

File Name:

Backup Copy Submitted: Yes No

Contact Information

Name of Submitter:

Email:

Phone:

Address:

Declaration

I hereby confirm that the submitted film complies with the Festival's technical guidelines and that I am duly authorized to submit this work.

Signature: Date:

ANNEX 2

ACCEPTABLE FILM DELIVERY FORMAT

Kuçova International Independent Film Festival (KIIF)

- Subtitles must be submitted exclusively in SRT format.
- Subtitle files must be delivered separately from the video file. Hardcoded subtitles are not accepted.

Subtitle Language

- English subtitles are mandatory for all films.
- The Festival reserves the right to replace English subtitles with Albanian subtitles for public screenings.

Synchronization (Timecode)

- Subtitles must be accurately synchronized with the runtime of the film.
- Unsynchronized subtitle files shall not be accepted.
- Filmmakers are required to test their subtitles in advance using a media player such as VLC in order to verify synchronization.

Delivery of Subtitle Files

- The subtitle file must bear the same name as the video file, for example: *Title.mp4* and *Title.srt*.
- Subtitle files must be delivered together with the film in a separate folder.

Preliminary Testing

- The organizers shall carry out a preliminary test of the subtitles to ensure that they are readable and properly synchronized.
- In the event of technical issues, the creator shall be notified and requested to submit a corrected version.