A brief overview of changes to the DFFF Guidelines

The new Guidelines apply effective immediately to all applications submitted to the German Federal Film Board (FFA) in full from 15 October 2018 onwards. The most important changes include the following:

**DFFF I:**

**Section 8 (2) / Schedule 1 No 9 Producer’s fee**
- The producer’s fee shall amount to a maximum of 2.5% of the total production costs, exclusive of the producer’s fee, up to a maximum of EUR 125,000.
- **New:** If the German production costs amount to more than EUR 5 million, the producer’s fee shall increase by EUR 25,000 per each additional EUR 1 million in German production costs, to a maximum of EUR 250,000.

**Section 16 (4) Production costs eligible for a grant**
now contains the provision that costs arising within one year prior to submitting an application may be recognized as German production costs eligible for a grant if and as far as they are necessary for submitting an application. General pre-production costs as referred to in Schedule 1, no. 6 remain ineligible for a grant.

**DFFF II:**

**Section 8 (2) / Schedule 2 No 8 Service provider’s fee**
- The production service provider’s fee shall amount to a maximum of 2.5% of the production costs of the project for which the production service provider is responsible, exclusive of the production service provider’s fee, up to a maximum of EUR 125,000.
- **New:** If the German production costs amount to more than EUR 5 million, the production service provider’s fee shall increase by EUR 25,000 per each additional EUR 1 million in German production costs, to a maximum of EUR 250,000.

**Section 22 (2) Specific thresholds for animated films and films with virtually animated components**
states that the German production costs for projects which pass the test of characteristics for animated films and films with virtually animated components must amount to at least €2 million. For all projects which do not have to pass the test of characteristics for animated films and films with virtually animated components, the minimum German production costs of the funded project remain unchanged at €8 million. The threshold of at least €20 million total production costs also remains unchanged.
Section 26 Archiving
requires the applicant to provide a print of the film for archiving to the German Federal Film Archive free of charge within 12 months of the first public showing of the film or after the theatrical release, if the film was produced in cooperation with a German co-producer.

Section 27 (4) Production costs eligible for a grant
now contains the provision that costs arising within one year prior to submitting an application may be recognized as German production costs eligible for a grant if and as far as they are necessary for submitting an application. General pre-production costs as referred to in Schedule 1, no. 6 remain ineligible for a grant.

Section 27 (5) Recognition of shooting done abroad
now provides for recognizing, under certain conditions, costs arising for shooting on location abroad as German production costs eligible for a grant. According to Section 37 (2), this also applies on request retroactively to DFFF II projects approved under the Guidelines of 1 August 2017 if the shooting abroad did not start until after the application was approved.

Section 30 (6) Payment of instalments
now allows grants to be paid in four instalments depending on the project’s progress. According to Section 37 (3), this applies on request also to DFFF II projects approved under the Guidelines of 1 August 2017. This ensures greater financial flexibility for production service providers.

Section 33 Data processing
was revised in line with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).