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# Locarno Festival

1-11 | 8 | 2018

## OPEN DOORS 2018 RULES & REGULATIONS

### 1. Preamble

Within its program, the Locarno Festival (LF), proposes a section titled Open Doors, in collaboration with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA).

The organization of the section is guaranteed by the Festival, which consequently also allocates people responsible for the project.

### 2. Dates

The 71st Locarno Festival will take place from August 1st to 11th, 2018. The days dedicated to the Open Doors Hub and to the Open Doors Lab will be from the 1st to the 7th of August 2018.

The deadline for submissions to the Open Doors Hub and the Open Doors Lab 2018 is **January 23rd, 2018**.

### 3. Goals

Organized with the collaboration of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, the Open Doors section aims primarily at assisting directors and producers from countries in the South and the East, where independent filmmaking is vulnerable.

For 3 years (2016 – 2018) Open Doors concentrates on 8 countries from South Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Every year, following a call for submissions, the Festival selects projects and professionals, operating on two different levels.

On the one hand, up to 8 feature-length projects from the South Asian countries in focus will be chosen every year to take part in the **Open Doors Hub**, a dynamic platform where the project-holders will meet potential



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European and international partners, to foster co-financing and collaborations.

On the other hand, the **Open Doors Lab** will select 8 promising emerging producers/filmmakers producers (applicants from all 8 countries listed above are eligible for the Open Doors Lab in 2018). Participants will benefit from a tailor-made program including group and individual sessions, aiming at better embracing the international market specificities and opportunities, increasing their professional skills and profile, and networking with the international players attending the Festival.

In order to introduce the Festival audience to the cinematographic and cultural landscape of the 8 South Asian countries, a number of feature-length and short films will be presented in the curated section **Open Doors Screenings** (August 1st – 11th, 2018).

## 4. Entry Conditions

### 4.1. Open Doors Hub

a) The producer and/or the director of the project submitted for the selection must be citizen of or originally from one of the eligible 8 countries in South Asia.

b) We select feature-length projects with potential for international distribution. Only projects of at least 70 minutes are eligible for the prize Open Doors Grant.

b) Projects participating in the selection (feature-length fictions, documentary and animation films) must be submitted at advanced stage of development, in form of script or, if not possible, in form of treatment, and with a complete dossier and production plan (see paragraph 5. for details on the submission dossier), in order to be introduced to the international market in the best possible conditions.

c) The submission dossier must be presented in English. Knowledge of the English language is necessary to participate in the Open Doors Hub.

d) Projects that will be shot in any official or spoken language of the eligible countries are suitable for application to Open Doors 2018.



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## 4.2. Open DoorsLab

a) The applying producer must be citizen of or originally from one of the eligible 8 countries in South Asia.

b) The Open Doors Lab is open to emerging producers/filmmakers producers who wish to start working internationally and producing independent film projects.

c) Producers/filmmakers producers are requested to apply with a feature-length project in development (early stage is accepted), including a first draft of script or treatment, or a long synopsis if not possible otherwise. This project will provide the working basis for the participants during the Open DoorsLab.

The applicant must also provide a line-up of projects of his/her production company.

See paragraph 5. for the exhaustive list of requested documentation for submission.

d) The submission dossier must be presented in English. Knowledge of the English language is necessary to participate in the Open DoorsLab.

d) Projects that will be shot in any official or spoken language of the eligible countries are suitable for application to the Open DoorsLab 2018.

## SUBMISSION IS FREE OF CHARGE

Directors without producers and producers without directors are both eligible for submitting projects to the Open Doors Hub and/or Lab.

It is allowed to subscribe to both Hub and Lab at the same time, as long as the requested documentation for both activities is provided (see paragraph 5 for specifications).

A maximum of 2 different applications per applicant can be accepted.

## 5. Requested material for application

The submission is made in two mandatory steps. First, fill in the online entry form at <http://opendoorsefo.pardo.ch/>.

The online entry form is a compulsory step. If the project is selected the signed entry form is considered an agreement of participation between the representative of the project and the LF.



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Then, the following material in English must be collected in 1 PDF document and uploaded following the instructions provided via email by **January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018**.

## For the Open Doors Hub:

- Synopsis (max 2 pages)
- Full script or advanced treatment (min. 10 pages or 15.000 characters)
- Director's Visual Concept (in form of a description)
- Cast, crew and technical details
- Rough cut, first edited version if parts of the film have been shot already
- CV/biography and filmography for the director and the producer(s) (max 2 pages). Please make sure that everyone writes clearly if they are citizens/originally from one of the eligible countries.
- Director's Note in form of presentation letter
- Producer's Intention and Motivation Note in form of presentation letter (ex: why Open Doors Hub in particular? Co-production and distribution strategy?)
- Production company profile(s) and line up of projects in development (with list of filmmakers)
- Budget topsheet in Euros or USD (i.e. one-page estimated budget with main budget development/production/post-production lines)
- Foreseen financing plan (in Euros or USD) and financing strategy
- Foreseen schedule including development (various script versions, funding applications), production, post-production and distribution stages (which international and national festival premieres? Ideal domestic release date/period)
- If available, financing agreements and/or letters of intent from financing partners
- If available, co-production/co-operation agreement(s)
- Portrait photo of the director and the producer – JPG Format (300 dpi/1'000 pixels X 1'000 pixels)
- **At least 2 previous films** by the director subtitled in English (shorts and long features are both accepted).

Accepted formats: previous films can be sent with any file sharing programs, by link if the film is uploaded on any website or by regular post (DVD). In any case must arrive in Locarno by the submission deadline, **January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018**.

Film links must be active until the end of the Locarno Festival, on **August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018**.



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## For the Open Doors Lab:

- CV/biography and filmography of the producer/filmmaker-producer (please mention your role(s) on each film; also mention clearly if you are citizen / originally from one of the eligible countries)
- Production company profile and line up of completed films and projects in development (shorts and features, fiction, documentary and animation, with mention of filmmakers' names, years of production, festival participations as well as awards if applicable)
- Submit a project (at early stage of development is accepted) at least with a treatment if possible (or with a long synopsis, 3 to 5 pages, with explanations of the dramatic structure including the number of facts in the story, or/and of the character development)
- Any other available project elements should be attached to provide us with the clearest idea of the production, financial and creative aspects of the feature film project (you can take the list of the requested documents for the Open Doors Hub as reference)
- Motivation and Expectation Note of the producer/filmmaker producer (why Open Doors Lab in particular?)
- Portrait photo of the applicant – JPG Format (300 dpi / 1'000 pixels X 1'000 pixels)
- At least **2 previous films** produced by the applicant subtitled in English (shorts and long features are both accepted).

**Accepted formats:** previous films can be sent with any file sharing programs, by link if the film is uploaded on any website or by regular post (DVD). In any case must **arrive** in Locarno by the submission deadline, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018.

Film links must be active until the end of the Locarno Festival, on August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Projects submitted lacking requested documentation might not be considered for selection.

All requested material necessary for the submission process must be submitted online, following the instruction provided.

The requested DVDs must be sent at the following address if sent by Post:

**Locarno Festival  
Open Doors  
via Franchino Rusca 1  
CH-6600 Locarno**



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The LF will not cover the postal expenses and the material sent will not be returned.

### 6. Deadline

The deadline for submitting applications to the Open Doors Hub and Lab is set on **Tuesday January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 at midnight Central European Time (UTC +1).**

### 7. Invitations

The Festival will take charge of travel (to and from Locarno) and hotel arrangements and expenses, and will provide daily allowances to lunch and dinner for:

- the director and producer of each project selected to participate in the Open Doors Hub (2 persons maximum per project)
- each producer/filmmaker producer selected to take part in the Open Doors Lab

Participants are expected to fully attend the activity for which they have been selected, either the Open Doors Hub or the Open Doors Lab, also including the networking events (lunches, meet & greets).

### 8. Official Prizes and Jury

At the end of the workshop, the Open Doors Jury will award some projects among those of the Open Doors Hub the Open Doors Grant worth up to CHF 50'000 (about 45'000€) funded by the Swiss Fund Visions Sud Est with the support from the SDC and the City of Bellinzona.

Other prizes for the projects-holders of the Open Doors Hub will be announced in spring 2018.

Only feature-length film projects of at least 70 minutes are eligible for the Open Doors Grant.

Professionals participating in the Open Doors Lab can only benefit from in-kind awards; they will be announced early summer 2018.



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9. If a project is selected for the Open Doors Hub and/or Lab, the following is compulsory:

## 9.1 Open Doors Hub

### a) Until the end of the Festival

The result of the selection must stay strictly confidential until the official announcement by the Locarno Festival through its press release at the end of April (date to be confirmed).

From the confirmation of selection to the end of the Festival (11<sup>th</sup> August, 2018) any subscription to another co-production platform must be submitted to the Open Doors team in advance for approval.

### b) After the end of the Festival

a. Producers, distributors and international sales agents of the selected projects agree to quote in their publicity and advertising the participation of the film project in the LF's Open Doors Hub.

b. The mention of the participation in Open Doors must appear on the opening as well as end credits once the film is completed. The mention should appear as follows:

- i. At the opening credits: either the Open Doors logo or the written mention "With the support of Open Doors – Locarno Festival"
- ii. At the end credits: the Locarno Festival – Open Doors logo that mentions the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).
- iii. The winning projects of the Open Doors Grant must as well include the logos of Visions Sud Est and the Township of Bellinzona in the end credits.
- iv. The Open Doors logo will be provided directly by the Festival and must not be, in any case, altered without the LF's approval. All publications using the logo must receive the printing approval from the LF ([marketing@pardo.ch](mailto:marketing@pardo.ch)).

c. Directors and producers with a project participating in Open Doors must regularly inform the Open Doors Team concerning the developments of such project.



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We are especially interested in: production status, date of national release, Festival selections (national and international), award nominations and prizes, any details regarding national or international distribution (including deals with sales agents).

This information is necessary to keep track of the projects selected in Open Doors and to keep updated our website [www.pardo.ch/opendoors](http://www.pardo.ch/opendoors).

- d. Once the film is completed a screener (possibly an online download, other formats like online links or DVD are accepted) must be sent to Open Doors for archive purposes. One copy will be handed to the SDC for internal use only. The DVD will not be given to third parties without the director's or the producer's prior approval.

## 9.2 Open Doors Lab

### a) Until the end of the Festival

The result of the selection must stay strictly confidential until the official announcement by the Locarno Festival through its press release at the end of April (date to be confirmed).

### b) After the end of the Festival

- a. The mention of the participation in the Open Doors Lab must appear on the end credits once the film is completed.

- b. Producers with a project participating in Open Doors (both the Hub and the Lab) must regularly inform the Open Doors Team concerning the developments of such project.

We are especially interested in: production status, date of national release, Festival selections (national and international), award nominations and prizes, any details regarding national or international distribution (including deals with sales agents).

This information is necessary to keep track of the projects selected in Open Doors and to keep updated our website [www.pardo.ch/opendoors](http://www.pardo.ch/opendoors).

- c. Once the film is completed a screener (possibly an online download, other formats like online links or DVD are accepted) must be sent to Open Doors for archive purposes. One copy will be handed to the SDC for internal use only. The DVD will not be given to third parties without the producer's prior approval.