

# WAIFF

## WORLD AI FILM FESTIVAL

### Competition Rules – Edition

- 2026 -

## Article 1 – Competition Organizer

The Institut EuropaIA, an association governed by the French law of July 1, 1901, registered with the sub-prefecture of Grasse under number W061013887, with its registered office at 2000, route des Lucioles, Les Algorithmes – Building A, Thales, 06410 Biot, represented by Mr. Marco Landi, in his capacity as President, duly authorized for this purpose.

## Article 2 – General Information

### 2.1 Description of the Competition

The Institut EuropaIA organizes the *World AI Film Festival (WAIFF)*, a competition partly free of any purchase obligation, focused on the creation of films using Artificial Intelligence tools. This competition is entitled “WAIFF” (hereinafter referred to as “the Competition”).

The competition categories include:

- **Short Film**, subdivided into 4 genres: **Animation, Action, Emotion, Fantasy**
- **Feature Film**
- **Social Media Micro-Series (vertical format)**
- **Advertising**
- **Script with dialogues + AI teaser**
- **Youth Film**
- **AI Film Score — Original Creation**

The competition will take place from **September 15, 2025, to April 22, 2026**. These rules set out the conditions of participation and the requirements for each category.

## 2.2 Event Schedule

The key stages and dates of WAIFF 2026 are as follows:

- Submission period: begins on 15/09/2025 at 10:00 a.m. and closes on 27/02/2026 at 11:59 p.m.
- The competition organizing teams will verify compliance with participation requirements (see Article 5) in order to validate each submission.
- Selection of finalists: from 27/02/2026 to 23/03/2026. At the end of this stage, finalists will be designated as follows:
  - Finalists selected by the WAIFF committee.
  - Finalists proposed by partner countries.
- Screening of finalist works: during WAIFF on 21 and 22/04/2026.
- Announcement of winners: April 22, 2026, during the awards ceremony in Cannes.

## **Article 3 – Conditions of Participation.**

### 1. Eligibility

The Competition is open to any natural person worldwide, with the exception of employees of the Organizer and companies involved in the organization or execution of the Competition, as well as their families. Only one entry per household is permitted.

Minor participants must obtain prior parental authorization. The Organizer reserves the right to request this authorization at any time and to cancel the participation of any minor who does not meet these conditions.

### 2. Broadcasting and Use of Films

By participating, candidates authorize the broadcasting of their Film, in whole or in part, on the Festival Website, during public events organized or co-organized by Institut Europa and its partners at WAIFF, on social networks, as well as on other online platforms of Institut Europa and WAIFF partners.

This authorization also includes screenings in cinemas with mention of the participant's first and last name, pseudonym (if requested), country, and age. This authorization will be valid for a period of 18 months from the end of the Competition.

This authorization is granted free of charge. Consequently, the broadcasting of the Film shall not give rise to any financial or other compensation. The decision to broadcast or not broadcast the Film, as well as the terms and frequency of such broadcasting, shall remain at the sole discretion of the Organizer.

By submitting a film to the World AI Film Festival (WAIFF), candidates retain full copyright and intellectual property rights to their work.

However, participants grant WAIFF, Institut Europa (the brand owner), as well as their official partners, licensees, and sub-licensees, a non-exclusive, worldwide, royalty-free license, limited in time, for the following uses:

- Screening of the work within the framework of the festival (official selections, special screenings, ceremonies).
- Screening of the work within the framework of associated and WAIFF-labeled events, in France and internationally (public screenings, conferences, exhibitions, promotional tours).
- Use of excerpts or the entire film for the purposes of promoting and communicating about the festival (digital media, press, social networks, trailers, official compilations).
- Archiving of the film in the festival's video library for non-commercial purposes.

This license is granted without financial compensation, for a duration of 18 months from the date of submission of the work.

**Any direct commercial use of the film (outside of public screenings related to the festival and its promotion) shall remain subject to the prior express authorization of the rights holders.**

### **3. Team Participation**

A film may be created by several people. In such cases, a project leader must be designated with Institut Europa and the Competition juries. Since the award is personal and non-transferable, only the main director will receive the award in the event of a win.

### **4. Validity of Entries**

Any entry not complying with the conditions defined in these rules will not be considered. Any incomplete entry, submission outside the deadlines, or failure to comply with the general conditions defined in this document will be declared void.

## **5. *Fraud and Attempted Cheating***

Any fraud or attempted cheating, such as creating false identities to register multiple times, or failure to comply with the Creation Charter, may result in a permanent ban from participating in the Competition.

## **Article 4 – Engagements, Responsabilités des Participants :**

### **4.1 Warranties Provided by Participants**

The participant guarantees to Institut EuroplA that:

- The Film is an original creation, and all elements it contains are not copied from any third party.
- The Film complies with all applicable laws, including those relating to intellectual property, privacy, defamation, public decency, and public order.
- No element protected by intellectual property rights is included in the Film without the prior authorization of the rights holders.
- The Film contains no advertising, no element infringing the rights of third parties, and no resemblance likely to be interpreted as plagiarism.
- The participant holds all rights necessary for the broadcasting of the Film.
- The participant has obtained the necessary consents from the individuals represented in the Film, as well as from the owners of locations or property visible in the Film.
- The participant has not taken, and will not take, any action that could compromise the broadcasting of the Film under the conditions provided for in these rules.

In the event of third-party claims regarding the broadcasting of the Film, Institut EuroplA and its partners reserve the right to immediately cease broadcasting the Film, which the participant accepts unconditionally.

All participants grant Institut EuroplA and its partners a non-exclusive, worldwide, royalty-free license to use the submitted videos for promotional purposes for a period of five years from the date of submission.

Participants retain the copyright to their works but accept that their videos may be used in the context of events organized by Institut EuropaIA and its partners.

## Article 5 – Application Validation Criteria.

To have their application validated, each participant must follow the registration steps available on the official website, depending on the category in which they wish to compete. The validation criteria vary according to the selected category.

### 1. Short Film Category:

Candidates wishing to participate in the Short Film category must submit their work in accordance with the following conditions:

- **Duration:** the Film must have a length of **between 5 minutes (minimum) and 10 minutes (maximum)**.
- **Use of AI:** the Film must use at least three generative Artificial Intelligence tools, including at least one tool dedicated to image generation. Hybrid films, combining live-action footage and generative processes, are fully eligible. However, the work must demonstrate a significant use of Artificial Intelligence in order to be considered by the selection committee.
- **Format and Quality:** the Film must be submitted in digital format (.mp4 or .mov) and in High Definition.
- **Language:** The film must be in English or presented in its original language with English subtitles. (Finalists will be required to provide a French-subtitled version.)
- **Required Documents:**
  - A representative still image from the Film (.jpeg)
  - A short presentation of the Film
  - A production journal detailing the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence tools in the creation of the Film
  - A biography or CV of the director
- **Submission Method:** Films and the required documents must be uploaded to the official platform: [www.worldaifilmfestival.com](http://www.worldaifilmfestival.com)

### 2. Feature film or documentary category:

Candidates wishing to participate in the Feature Film category must submit their video in accordance with the following conditions:

- **Duration:** the Film must have a length of **more than 25 minutes..**
- **Use of AI:** the Film must use at least three generative Artificial Intelligence tools, including at least one tool dedicated to image generation. Hybrid films, combining

live-action footage and generative processes, are fully eligible. However, the work must demonstrate a significant use of Artificial Intelligence in order to be considered by the selection committee.

- **Format and Quality:** the Film must be submitted in digital format (.mp4 or .mov) and in High Definition.
- **Language:** The film must be in English or presented in its original language with English subtitles. (Finalists will be required to provide a French-subtitled version.)
- **Required Documents:**
  - A representative still image from the Film (.jpeg)
  - A short presentation of the Film
  - A production journal detailing the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence tools in the creation of the Film
  - A biography or CV of the director
- **Submission Method:** Films and the required documents must be uploaded to the official platform: [www.worldaifilmfestival.com](http://www.worldaifilmfestival.com)

### 3. *Social Media Micro-Series Category (Vertical Format):*

Candidates wishing to participate in this category must submit their micro-series in accordance with the following conditions:

- **Duration and Narrative Format:** the micro-series must include **4 to 6 episodes**, each with a **maximum duration of 2 minutes**.
- **Use of AI:** the Film must use at least three generative Artificial Intelligence tools, including at least one tool dedicated to image generation. Hybrid films, combining live-action footage and generative processes, are fully eligible. However, the work must demonstrate a significant use of Artificial Intelligence in order to be considered by the selection committee.
- **Format and Quality:** the Film must be submitted in digital format (.mp4 or .mov) and in High Definition.
- **Language:** The film must be in English or presented in its original language with English subtitles. (Finalists will be required to provide a French-subtitled version.)
- **Required Documents:**
  - A representative still image from the Film (.jpeg)
  - A short presentation of the Film
  - A production journal detailing the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence tools in the creation of the Film
  - A biography or CV of the director
- **Submission Method:** Films and the required documents must be uploaded to the official platform: [www.worldaifilmfestival.com](http://www.worldaifilmfestival.com)

#### 4. Advertising & Corporate Film Category

Candidates wishing to compete in this category must submit their video in compliance with the following conditions:

- **Theme** : the advertisement must present an imaginary product or service invented by the candidate. The product should demonstrate creative design work (name, logo, visual identity, advertising storytelling, etc.).
- **Use of AI**: the Film must use at least three generative Artificial Intelligence tools, including at least one tool dedicated to image generation. Hybrid films, combining live-action footage and generative processes, are fully eligible. However, the work must demonstrate a significant use of Artificial Intelligence in order to be considered by the selection committee.
- **Format and Quality**: the Film must be submitted in digital format (.mp4 or .mov) and in High Definition.
- **Language**: The film must be in English or presented in its original language with English subtitles. (Finalists will be required to provide a French-subtitled version.)
- **Required Documents**:
  - A representative still image from the Film (.jpeg)
  - A short presentation of the Film
  - A production journal detailing the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence tools in the creation of the Film
  - A biography or CV of the director
- **Submission Method**: Films and the required documents must be uploaded to the official platform: [www.worldaifilmfestival.com](http://www.worldaifilmfestival.com)

#### 5. Category: Script with Dialogue + AI Teaser (proposed by Genario)

**Genario**, official partner of WAIFF, is a French company specialized in artificial intelligence applied to scriptwriting. A registered trademark, Genario provides AI tools for generating, correcting, and optimizing pitches, synopses, and screenplays.

This year, WAIFF and Genario are joining forces to launch a brand-new category: Best Script with Dialogue + AI Teaser Award.

Candidates must submit a complete script with dialogue, accompanied by a teaser or animated moodboard (created using generative AI tools) showcasing the film's universe and artistic style.

#### **Conditions for participation:**

- **Mandatory use of Genario**: The script must have been designed, structured, or enriched with the Genario tool. Proof of this usage must be included in the application file.

- **Genario subscription:** Candidates must subscribe to the special WAIFF partnership offer, which provides at least one month of access to Genario with a 70% discount (€15 for the “Creation” plan instead of €49). This discount is valid throughout the festival period.

- **Required documents:**

- A copy of the subscription contract or proof of subscription to Genario.
- A description of how Genario was used in the writing process.
- The complete script with dialogue (PDF format).
- The teaser or animated moodboard (video file or viewing link).

- **Submission guidelines:**

The films and required documents must be uploaded to the official WAIFF submission platform: **[www.worldaifilmfestival.com](http://www.worldaifilmfestival.com)**

## 6. «Best Film from International Members »:

Each international member of WAIFF has the opportunity to select and propose a film representing their country, **regardless of its genre or format**.

The selected film will automatically qualify for the WAIFF Official Selection and will **receive an invitation to the Awards Ceremony in Cannes**. The director or project representative may, if applicable, take the stage to receive the award.

## 7. Best AI Music Award

The submitted music must be an original work created specifically for a film competing at WAIFF 2026. It must demonstrate a significant integration of artificial intelligence technologies within its creative process.

To participate in this category, applicants must comply with the following conditions:

- **Use of AI tools in music creation**

The music must have been composed, arranged, enhanced, or produced using one or more artificial intelligence tools (composition, sound design, AI-generated vocals, AI-assisted mixing, etc.).

A detailed description of the AI usage must be included in the submission dossier.

- **Eligible film**

The music must be associated with a work submitted and officially selected in one of the WAIFF 2026 competition categories, including:



- Short Film
- Feature Film
- Micro-Series
- Commercial/Advertising

- **Originality and rights**

Applicants must guarantee that the music is entirely original and that no copyright infringement, unauthorized sampling, or unlawful dataset usage is involved.

A signed declaration of compliance must be provided.

## Article 6 – Film Selection and Winner Designation

### 1. Evaluation of Submissions and Technical Review of Films

The organizing entity will conduct an evaluation of all submissions and a technical review of all films submitted. Applications that do not meet the eligibility requirements or selection criteria will be excluded. Likewise, films that fail to meet the required technical standards will be eliminated.

### 2. Artistic Selection of Finalists

Productions that pass the technical review will be examined by juries appointed by the EuroplA Institute and its partners. The finalist productions will be selected following this pre-selection and then submitted to the Jury's evaluation.

### 3. Jury Evaluation Criteria

The selection criteria include:

- Overall Quality: The technical and narrative excellence of the production.
- Integration of AI: How artificial intelligence has been used to enrich the content and storytelling.
- Storytelling and Emotional Impact: The ability of the production to evoke emotions, provoke reflection, or engage the audience.
- Technical and Aesthetic Quality: The overall production quality, including editing, special effects, and visual presentation for video productions.

### 4. Designation of Winners by the Jury

Each submission will be scored from 1 to 10 on each of the criteria mentioned

above, for a maximum of 40 points per judge. The highest average score will determine the winners. The judges' decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

## 5. Awards

At the end of the deliberations, the Jury will present awards to honor the excellence and creativity of the participants:

- **Alpes-Maritimes Department “Coup de Cœur” Prize, Best Youth Film**
- **Best AI Short Film — Animation**
- **Best AI Short Film — Action**
- **Best AI Short Film — Emotion**
- **Best AI Short Film — Fantasy**
- **Best AI Feature Film**
- **Best AI Micro-Series for Social Media (Vertical Format)**
- **Best AI Advertising or corporate Film (Commercial)**
- **Best AI Screenplay + IA teaser**
- **Best AI soundtrack**

## **Article 7 – Reward.**

Prestigious partnerships will be granted to the WAIFF winners (one for each award). These partnerships include:

- Exclusive meetings with renowned production and distribution companies.
- Concrete production opportunities for the winners, supporting the emergence of new projects and their development within the film industry.

Any attempt to sell, commercialize, or exchange the prizes is strictly prohibited. The awards are personal and non-transferable. They cannot be substituted for cash or any other form of compensation.

The EuroPIA Institute reserves the right to replace a prize with an equivalent reward in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

### 7.1 Film Market of the World AI Film Festival.

The Film Market of the World AI Film Festival is designed to meet the needs of all stakeholders in the AI cinema value chain—from production to promotion and distribution—within an open, inclusive, and responsible environment.

It is a dedicated space for the sales, acquisitions, and distribution of films featured in the Festival's Competitions. The Market provides concrete opportunities (partnerships, commercial contracts) in the French, European, and international markets for talents selected in the Official Selections and awarded by the Festival. Its full program of networking events, held at the conclusion of the Festival, fosters creation, co-production, and the circulation of works.

### 7.2 Participants and Accreditations.

The Film Market is exclusively reserved for active professionals in the film industry (production companies, distributors, film rights holders, sales agents, television broadcasters, VOD platforms), as well as talents awarded by WAIFF.

Listing films in the Short Film Market is free of charge and non-competitive. All films registered in the Official and International Selections of the World AI Film Festival will be listed in the digital catalog of the Film Market.

Access to the Film Market is available only to films submitted to the Competitions of the World AI Film Festival. The Film Market is organized by the World AI Film Festival and is dedicated to fostering economic activity and professional networking in the field of AI-driven cinema. It is a unique space for hosting, promoting, and connecting.

Participation in the Film Market is entirely free for rights holders from the Official Selections, with their accreditation offered by the Festival.

### 7.3 Fifteen-Day Exclusivity Clause

An exclusivity period is granted during the Film Market, for a reasonable duration necessary to establish contractual relations between active professionals in the film industry and rights holders. It is set for 15 days, starting immediately after the Awards Ceremony (from April 22, 2026, until May 14, 2026).

This Fifteen-Day Exclusivity Clause is included in these Regulations in order to enhance the Festival's visibility, optimize its services, and strengthen its activities.

Participation in the World AI Film Festival and the AI Film Market implies full and unconditional acceptance of the terms of this clause.

## **Article 8 – Notification of Winners.**

For the 2025 edition, the winners will be announced during the Awards Ceremony on April 22, 2026. A confirmation will be sent by email the day after the ceremony, including practical information regarding the collection of prizes.

Any winner who fails to respond within the allotted time will be considered to have forfeited their prize, which may then be awarded to another participant or cancelled,

at the Organizer's discretion.

## **Article 9 – Identity Verification.**

Participants authorize any verification of their identity and the information provided to the EuroplA Institute. Any falsification, fraud, or inaccurate information will result in the immediate disqualification of the participant.

The EuroplA Institute declines all responsibility in the event of identity theft or fraud.

## **Article 10 – Protection of Personal Data.**

The Organizer and its official partners are responsible for the processing of participants' personal data, in compliance with the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) No. 2016/679.

To participate in the Competition, the following personal data will be collected: first name, last name, pseudonym, date of birth, country, and email address. This data is necessary for the management of the Competition and will only be used for this purpose.

### **Participants' Rights:**

Participants have, at any time, the right to access, rectify, transfer, and delete their personal data, as well as the right to restrict its processing. They may also object to the processing of their data on legitimate grounds.

## **Article 11 – Liability of the Organizer.**

The Organizer and its official partners cannot be held liable in the event of malicious intervention, technical problems, or any other disruption affecting the proper conduct of the Competition. Participation in the Competition implies acceptance of the risks associated with the use of the Internet, including the risk of data misuse or hacking.

The Organizer reserves the right to modify, suspend, shorten, extend, or cancel the Competition if circumstances so require, without incurring any liability.

## **Article 12 – Acceptance of the Rules.**

Participation in the Competition implies full and unconditional acceptance of these Rules. Any claim or dispute relating to the Competition must be submitted in writing within one month from the closing date of the Competition.

Any interpretation of the Rules will be decided by the Organizer, and its decision shall be final.

## **Article 13 – Availability of the Rules.**

The Rules are available free of charge on the EuropaIA Institute's website at the following address: [worldaifilmfestival.com](http://worldaifilmfestival.com). They may also be sent by email upon request to: [contact@worldaifilmfestival.com](mailto:contact@worldaifilmfestival.com)

## **Article 14 – Contact for Information.**

For any questions regarding the Competition, please contact the Organizer at the following address: [contact@worldaifilmfestival.com](mailto:contact@worldaifilmfestival.com)