



SHORTO FILM MARKET

11th Edition | November 29th - December 1st, 2026 | Torino

CALL: Think Outside the Keyframe

Think Outside the Keyframe is an international co-production pitching forum for upcoming animation short films. Selected participants will have five minutes to pitch their project to an audience of film professionals. Short film projects of any animation genre are eligible to participate. Following the pitch session, participants will attend a series of one-to-one meetings with industry professionals scheduled by the ShorTO team.

Think Outside the Keyframe is exclusively dedicated to two categories of applicants: single directors or creative teams composed by a producer and a director, from any country of the world, looking for development or production support in order to realize an animated project.

A diversified panel of Decision-Makers, composed by Italian and International film industry professionals – commissioning editors, buyers, distributors, festival representatives, directors, producers, and film institutions – will be invited to attend and provide feedback to the selected projects.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Directors or Creative Teams of Director and Author who have already graduated from an animation school, holding an original project for an animated short film;

Production Companies or Creative Producers holding an original animated short film project.

DATE AND PLACE

Think Outside the Keyframe pitches and one-to-ones will take place in Torino, Italy, during ShorTO Film Market 2026, from Sunday, November 29th, 2026, to Tuesday, December 1st, 2026.

The selection involves taking part in an online pitching training in November, before the market.

SUBMISSIONS

To take part in the selection process of *Think Outside the Keyframe* pitching forum, applicants are required to:

- Register and sign in at <https://shorto.filmchief.com>

If applicants have already been accredited to TSFM from 2017 on, their username and password remain the same, and they can be used to sign in. In the event of lost credentials, these can be retrieved directly on the website.

- Submit a filled online entry form, accessible at this link:

<https://shorto.filmchief.com/submit-work/think-outside-the-keyframe-2026>

Short film projects of any animation genre are eligible to participate. Short film projects in the following formats are accepted: fiction, documentary, hybrid, and one-offs, as well as series pilots.

Maximum length of 30 minutes; all stages of development (except for concept stage).

Projects must be submitted in English. Selected projects will be pitched exclusively in English.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

For all submitters.

- Reference images/Previews of concept art, up to 3 stills (Maximum file size: 5 MB, allowed extensions: jpg or png.)
- The film dossier MUST contain:

Project synopsis/treatment (max. 3 pages)

Note of intent (max. 1 page)

Moodboard, layout

A written description of the visual style/identity

A written description of the sound design concept

A written description of the project's audience

Samples of storyboard (when available)

Short bios/profiles of relevant team members (director, writer, producer/production company, animation, and talents attached, when applicable)

Link with an animation test (when available)

Compulsory for directors/creative teams:

- Motivation letter

Compulsory for production companies:

- The filled estimated budget and financing plan is downloadable from the submission form

The note of intent is the creative vision for the project, the author's personal insight, the source(s) of inspiration, the meaning of the film.

The motivation letter explains the reasons why this project should be done.

ShorTO selection panel retains sole discretion to accept or reject any project submissions that are deemed incomplete or lacking required materials.

DEADLINES & FEES

The call opens on Monday, May 25th, 2026.

Regular deadline: Friday, 31st July 2026 at 23:59 CEST. Fee/Regular: € 35,00

Late deadline: Monday, 31st August 2026 at 23:59 CEST. Fee/Regular: € 50,00

The fee is payable at the end of the submission process via PayPal only.

NOTIFICATION & GRANTS

Applicants will receive a selection or rejection notice via email by mid-October 2026.

All participants are required to travel to Torino to attend the on-site Think Outside the Keyframe pitch.

ShorTO will provide 2 nights of accommodation and free accreditation to the Market event for a single representative from each selected project. Travel and meals costs are not covered by the Market.

In case of selection, participation in the online pitching training and the on-site market event in November is mandatory.

AWARDS

Awards will be communicated further.

AI DISCLAIMER



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CONTACT

For any further information, please contact info@centrodelcorto.it.