



Regulations for VdR–Development Lab VdR 55th edition - 12 to 21 April 2024

1. Presentation

The VdR–Development Lab is Visions du Réel's incubator for the development of films by teams based in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. It offers filmmakers the opportunity to be accompanied through the development process to best reach and access the international market. In addition, each selected project receives a grant of CHF 2,000.- to support this development phase. [See the complete list of eligible countries here.](#)

The VdR–Development Lab is supported by policy implemented by the SDC, the Swiss Agency of Development and Cooperation.

2. Activities

The aim of VdR–Development Lab is to stimulate the creative documentary sector in regions where independent filmmaking is particularly challenging and to help new projects to gain access to the international market.

The 2024 edition of the Lab provides a tailor-made programme to best accompany the development phase of four projects, it consists of:

- online preparation in March on varied development aspects of the project,
- in person participation in the 2024 edition of Visions du Réel as part of the VdR-Development Lab delegation,
- tailored lab during the 2024 festival to further bolster the project's potential for success in the international market
- the opportunity to engage in activities including discussions, consultancies, and networking opportunities with international decision-makers.
- personalised guidance, post April session, regarding the priority development next steps, particularly in relation to the international market.

The precise programme of the Lab will be communicated later to the selected participants, based on their profiles and projects. The VdR–Development Lab will take place from March to December 2024.

In addition to the support offered by the VdR-Development Lab, each selected team will receive a development grant of CHF 2,000. This grant can be spent on research, development of the treatment or script or production of promotional material (such as the production of a teaser).

Besides the four projects officially selected to take part in the program, the Festival may invite additional teams to participate in the VdR-Development Lab as observers – especially the on-site session – and to receive some professional guidance.

3. Selection

The application deadline for VdR-Development Lab is **October 31, 2023**.

The team of the Festival will collaborate with regional organizations based in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Eastern Europe for the promotion of the VdR-Development Lab.

The main criteria for selection are the artistic quality of the project, its international potential, as well as its stage of development (to take better advantage of the Lab) and the previous work(s) of the directors and/or producers.

We are looking for projects:

- in feature length (duration over 60'). which reflect the strong vision of the author, with precise formal intentions;
- with international potential, both in terms of production and distribution;
- at development stage: with a fully-fleshed out story, ideally with a draft of the treatment already written and some scenes already shot (projects that have completed shooting are not eligible);
- directed by filmmakers exclusively from the above-mentioned regions and countries.

The selection for VdR-Development Lab 2024 will be announced in January 2024.

4. Conflict of interest

In order to avoid any conflict of interest in the project selection process, members of the selection committee who are decision-makers in the development of a project may not take part in discussions concerning it.

5. Eligibility

- Applying projects must be developed as a feature length film (duration over 60').
- All directors attached to the project must have the nationality of a country from the South and East as listed [here](#) (according to the new SDC's policy).
- The Festival welcomes projects with or without a main producer attached, preferably also based in a country included in the same eligible country list.

- Applications must be accompanied by visual material of the project. It can be a teaser, select scenes or selected research material. A link to at least one previous work is also requested.
- Entry forms must be filled out in English. Visual material and the full current version of the dossier can also be sent in French for the selection process, but the Lab participant must speak English.

6. Participation to VdR–Development Lab

The participation of the director is compulsory for all sessions throughout the ten-month program.

If it is possible to travel to Switzerland at Visions du Réel dates, VdR–Industry will cover travel, hotel costs and meals of the director.

In case a producer is on board, her/his participation online before/after the April session during 2024 VdR edition is welcome. As to her/his onsite attendance of the April session in Nyon, details of participation costs will be discussed with the selected teams.

7. Financial contribution

In addition to the accompaniment during the development phase, each participating team will receive a grant of CHF 2,000.-

Visions du Réel will send the money to the project representative according to a signed agreement.

8. Project holders' obligations

In return for its financial contribution, Visions du Réel requests:

- Recognition of the Visions du Réel support by placing the logo on the credits of the final film and all publicity material. Specific details will be outlined in the funding agreement.
- Guaranteed rights to use material from the project for promotional purposes by Visions du Réel.
- First look for the Swiss premiere of the completed film and the right to screen the final documentary in any Visions du Réel related (non-commercial) screening.
- The applicant grants Visions du Réel the worldwide non-exclusive internet rights of the film for a period of 10 years (after the first public screening) on any current and future online platform operated by Visions du Réel (such as the existing VdR at School). Visions du Réel will take into consideration any arrangement made by the applicant with various distribution partners.

9. Conditions for participation

Participation in VdR–Development Lab implies the unconditional acceptance of all articles set out in these regulations. The Direction of the Festival alone is permitted to grant exemptions from these Regulations and to make exceptions.

The Festival reserves the right to change these Regulations at any time and without notification.

Nyon, September, 2023