

XXIII INTERNATIONAL **SOCIAL FILM FESTIVAL OF** **CASTILLA-LA MANCHA,** **Short Film and Documentary** **Competition Rules 2026**

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Aware of the importance of audiovisual media in Spanish society today, and with the aim of promoting it as both a communication and educational tool to foster values such as solidarity and tolerance, the International Social Film Festival of Castilla-La Mancha was created.

The Festival will be held in Toledo and will also take place in Torrijos, Cuenca, Olías del Rey and other municipalities.

Public and private entities that share these concerns are invited to participate.

The Festival consists of several sections, including a Short Film and Documentary Competition. Social issues addressed may include: xenophobia, generational conflict, child labour, domestic violence, social roles, ecology, children's rights, coexistence, and related topics.

ASES OF SHORT FILMS AND DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

1.- Participation in the short film and documentary competition is open to filmmakers:

- Over 16 years old, individually or collectively, regardless of nationality or residence.
- Under 16 years old, individually or collectively, regardless of nationality or residence.

2.- The subject of the short films and documentaries must be social, similar to those mentioned in the introduction of these rules, and must have been completed from 2024 onwards.

3.- Short films and/or documentaries, regardless of their original format, may be submitted either physically (DVD), with shipping costs covered by the participant, or online via Movibeta, Click for Festivals, or Festhome. Submitted copies will become part of the archive of the organizing body (FECISO).

4.- Films may be silent or include sound. If the original language is not Spanish, they must include Spanish subtitles. Both documentaries and short films must not exceed 25 minutes.

5.- Each author and/or group may submit more than one short film or documentary. Premiere status is not required, and works may have been awarded in other competitions.

6.- Each submission must clearly include: the author's details, photocopy of ID, postal and email addresses, telephone numbers, title of the work, running time, original format, technical data sheet, author's biofilmography, two still frames from the film, the cover image of the work, and a brief synopsis. When submitted physically on DVD, this documentation must also be sent in digital format.

7.- Physical works must be sent to:

Cinema Festival. Short Film and Documentary Competition
Avda. de la Estación, 64, 3º A
45500 Torrijos (Toledo)
SPAIN.

Online submissions must be made through Movibeta, Festhome, or Click for Festivals.

8.- Registration dates: from 24 February until 10 May 2026, 14:00 h.

9.- The organization will make a preliminary selection of up to 16 short films and 6 documentaries. Selected authors will be notified. The selected works will form part of the official Festival programme.

10.- These 16 short films and 6 documentaries, at most, will enter the final competition, establishing the following awards:

- 1st Award for Best Short Film, endowed with a sculpture. Additionally, a Prize granted by the New Directors Platform consisting of a 1-year membership for all PNR actions.
- Young Europe Award for Best Short Film by a director under 30, endowed with a sculpture. Sponsored by Toledo City Council in honour of Toledo's candidacy for European Capital of Culture.

- Biblioteca Solidaria Award (voted by this jury), endowed with a sculpture.
- Documenta Award for Best Documentary, endowed with a sculpture, plus a Distribution Prize granted by Movibeta.
- Documenta Award 2, for the second most voted documentary, plus a Distribution Prize granted by Movibeta.
- Young Jury Award (Short Film), endowed with a sculpture.
- Award for Best Actress (Short Film), endowed with a sculpture.
- Award for Best Actor (Short Film), endowed with a sculpture.
- Award for Best Children/Youth Performance (Short Film), endowed with a sculpture.
- Special Mentions at the discretion of the jury.
- “Plena Inclusión” Award (First and Second Prize), for the documentary or short film that best reflects physical and/or intellectual disability.
- “European Union Values” Award, endowed with a sculpture.

The “European Union Values” Award aims to promote dialogue on the values set out in Article 2 of the Treaty of Lisbon and in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU. The prize will be awarded to the documentary or short film that best illustrates one or more of the following EU values and/or best advocates for their effective implementation for all citizens living in the EU:

Human dignity
 Freedom
 Human rights
 Equality
 Democracy

The European Commission Representation in Spain may broadcast the winning work or excerpts thereof (with proper credit given to filmmakers and rights holders) on its communication channels. The winner grants broadcasting rights for promotional purposes and may be required to provide additional documentation regarding image rights and distribution.

Children section:

“Friends of the Children Award” for the short film or documentary that best expresses the world of children. Three works may be selected. The endowment is identical to the other awards.

11.- The jury will be composed of prominent figures from the fields of culture and cinema. Its verdict is final and any award may be declared void.

The jury for the European Union Values Award will be composed of officials from the European Commission. The Youth Jury will consist of secondary school students. For the under-16 category, the jury will be composed of members of the Children's and Teenagers' Council of the City of Toledo.

The Biblioteca Solidaria Award jury will be composed of associations and social entities designated by Biblioteca Solidaria.

The Plena Inclusión jury will be composed of members of this organization.

The Documentary jury will include representatives from Amnesty International in Castilla-La Mancha.

Award winners must attend the awards ceremony in person. In duly justified cases, they may designate a representative.

12.- Participants declare that the submitted works are free from legal claims and that they hold all necessary rights.

13.- The organization reserves the right to modify any point of these rules if circumstances require it. Participants will be duly informed.

14.- Participants grant the Festival non-commercial screening rights for educational and cultural purposes.

15.- Participation in this competition implies full acceptance of these rules.