

24th International Film Festival ETNOFILM Čadca

Rules and Regulations

I. Characteristics of the Festival

The International Ethnographic Film Festival ETNOFILM Čadca, founded in 1980, is one of the oldest festivals of ethnological and anthropological film in Europe. Its tradition and international significance place it among prestigious events that have long contributed to the preservation and presentation of the world's cultural diversity.

II. Venue and Date

The 24th edition of the ETNOFILM International Film Festival will take place from 23 to 27 November 2026 in various regions of Slovakia. The main venue of the festival is the House of Culture in Čadca.

III. Mission and Objectives of the Festival

The mission of the festival is to present and confront contemporary worldwide documentary and ethnographic film production, with a focus on:

- diverse expressions of traditional folk culture,
- the life and values of contemporary people,
- generational reflections and themes from the margins of society.

Main Goals of the Festival:

- to present the latest documentary films on cultural and social diversity of humanity and support its protection,
- to stimulate the creation of new film works, including student and amateur productions,
- to contribute to the development of Slovak visual anthropology,
- to organize professional and educational events, engaging both experts and the general public.

The festival pays special attention to films mapping European cultural diversity as the foundation of European cultural heritage.

IV. Programme Structure

Competition Section

The international competition includes professional and non-professional documentary films (from film agencies, television, student, amateur and cultural-educational productions), divided into two categories based on length:

- 1. Short films: up to 30 minutes,**
- 2. Other films: over 30 minutes.**

The organizer prefers films up to 60 minutes; longer films may only be included in exceptional cases, in a limited number, and based on the recommendations of the Selection Committee.

Non-Competition Sections (optional)

- From the IFF ETNOFILM archive,
- Submitted films not included in the competition,

- Documentary films from V4 (Visegrad) countries.

V. Conditions of Participation in the Competition

- Films can be submitted by filmmakers, producers and distributors (both institutions and individuals).
- Submission is free of charge and there is no limit to the number of films that can be submitted.
- Applications are submitted via the online form at www.etnofilm.sk by 31 May 2026.
- Films produced after 1 January 2024, that were not submitted to the 23rd edition of the IFF ETNOFILM, are eligible for the competition.
- The applicant is responsible for copyright and licensing rights and declares that he/she is authorized to submit the film.

VI. Submission Requirements

- Properly completed online form.
- Film delivered via a video link (Vimeo, YouTube, etc.) with an access password.
- Dialogue list in Slovak or English in SRT format with time codes for the respondents' lines.
- Films must include English subtitles if the original language is not Slovak or English.

Note: The dialogue list and subtitles ensure proper synchronization of lines and readability of the film for screening in cinemas and online, as well as for archiving for non-commercial purposes.

Film Length:

- Short films: up to 30 minutes,
- Other films: over 30 minutes (preferably up to 60 minutes).

Required Materials:

- Synopsis,
- Information about the director and filmography,
- 1 photo of the director, 3 photos from the film,
- Poster and a trailer up to 2 minutes.

Technical parameters:

HD 1080p, minimum bitrate 20 Mbit, H264 or X263/H265, container mp4/mov/mkv/mxf.

Films will be added to the IFF ETNOFILM archive for non-commercial purposes (education, research, post-festival screenings).

The organizer will confirm registration electronically within 7 days.

VII. Film Selection

The selection of films for the competition is decided by the Selection Committee.

The results will be announced to the applicants by 31 July 2026 and published on the festival website.

VIII. International Jury

The Jury consists of five personalities from the fields of film, science and culture.

The Jury may award honorary mentions or choose not to give an award.

The decisions of the Jury are final.

IX. Awards

Awards may be given to films of any length that meet the competition requirements:

- GRAND PRIX – Golden Turon,
- Silver Turon,
- Bronze Turon,
- VIA EUROPA Award – the best film on European cultural heritage,
- Martin Slivka Award – the best individual achievement by a Slovak filmmaker,
- Ethnologist Behind the Camera – award of the Slovak Ethnographic Society,
- City of Čadca Award – for a full length documentary,
- Student Jury Award – for a short documentary,
- Marián Veselský Award – for the musical component of a film.

The Jury and the Festival Director reserve their right to grant additional awards.

X. Attendance of Filmmakers

- Authors of competing films can personally attend the festival and the awarding ceremony.
- Awards are not sent by mail and must be collected in person.
- The organizer will provide and cover accommodation to awarded filmmakers attending the awards ceremony.
- The application for personal attendance must be sent by 30 September 2026, to the email: etnofilm@etnofilm.sk.

XI. Promotion

By submitting a film, the applicant grants the festival the right to use a preview of up to 2 minutes, texts, and photographs for promotional purposes (catalogue, press, website, social media).

XII. Deadlines

- Submission deadline: 31 May 2026,
- Announcement of selection results: 31 July 2026,
- Application for personal attendance: 30 September 2026.

XIII. Consent

By submitting a film, participants agree to all provisions of the Festival Rules and Regulations.

The Slovak and English versions are equivalent; the Slovak version is binding.

In case of uncertainties, the Festival Director's decision is final.

XIV. Organizational Structure

- The Festival Director heads the festival and the Organizing Committee.
- The Chairman of the Preparatory Committee is responsible for professional preparation.
- The Preparatory Committee forms the Selection Committee, Programme Committee and International Jury.
- The Organizing Committee ensures the complete operation of the festival and its promotion.

Main Organizers:

Kysuce Cultural Center in Čadca, Žilina Self-Governing Region, City of Čadca.

Co-Organizers and Partners:

Slovak Ethnographic Society, Literary Fund, University of Žilina, Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica, Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava, Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Artforum 21 Slovakia, House of Culture Čadca, Kysuce Cultural Foundation, CULTURFORUM o. z., National Enlightenment Center Bratislava, cultural organizations under the jurisdiction of Žilina Self-Governing Region.

XV. Final Provisions

The organizer reserves the right to make changes to the festival programme and its rules and regulations.