

Civil Pitch 2.0

Films that make changes

Civil Pitch is:

- **a competition of ideas for short documentaries on relevant social issues;**
- **a platform that brings together documentary filmmakers and civic sector activists;**
- **a laboratory for documentary short films that can be a tool for changes.**

Representatives of the civic sector, as well as directors, strive to achieve changes in society each in their way. Combining their experience, knowledge, and efforts, they will be able to create films on important and complex topics of interest to a wide audience.

Docudays UA invites representatives of civil society organizations, directors from Ukraine to submit projects of documentaries at the stage of development or pre-production for an all-Ukrainian competition, the winners of which will receive funding for film production.

What ideas are we looking for:

We are waiting for bold stories with extraordinary protagonists who can surprise and capture the attention of a wide audience. Topics of primary interest are:

- inclusion: ensuring equal access to opportunities and resources for people from vulnerable and marginalized groups and those groups whose interests are insufficiently represented at the national and local levels, people with disabilities; gender equality and non-discrimination; inclusive space;
- the post-pandemic world: new human rights challenges that arise during a pandemic; robotization of employment; development of health care system and new technologies;
- anti-corruption;
- civic activism: the path to democracy.

The format of the upcoming film

The upcoming film should be a documentary story of length from 8 to 15 minutes. There are no genre limitations: it can be a portrait film or an investigation, a film essay or a film made from archival materials, or even a docufiction.

Who can apply?

- Human rights activists or public activists who are looking for a film crew to make a documentary and are ready to provide informational and organizational support (the Festival will help you find a director to create a team that will participate in the programme *).
- Directors with documentary projects at development or pre-production stages who are interested in working with civil society organizations or are looking for informational and/or organizational support (the Festival will help to find a human rights activist/civic sector representative to build a team, that will participate in the programme *).

- A team of human rights activists or civic sector activists and a director who wants to develop their project.

We welcome experience in film production, but this is not the main criterion for selection. First of all, we will evaluate the potential of the film's idea.

**The Festival will help with finding a director or human rights activist (or civic activist) in case the project passes the pre-selection stage.*

What will Civil Pitch 2.0 look like?

We will select up to 12 projects, the authors of which will be invited to a 3-day training in March 2022. During the training, international tutors will help you develop project ideas and prepare for pitching.

As part of the 19th Docudays UA, film ideas will be pitched in front of a group of international experts from various fields of the film industry (producers, representatives of online platforms, foundations, and festivals). After the pitching, we organize individual meetings for each team with experts, during which you can get more detailed feedback.

The pitching will also be judged by an independent jury, which will select the 4 winners. The winners will receive funding in the amount of **UAH 210,000** for the production of their films. The condition for receiving the funding is that the film should be premiered at the 20th Docudays UA in 2023.

In addition to financial support, each team will receive **mentoring support from international tutors** who will help go through all the stages of filmmaking.

What are the conditions for participation in the workshop, if my idea is chosen?

Each project can be attended by 2 people from each project: a director and a human rights activist or a civic activist.

We cover all costs associated with participating in the workshop, including travel and accommodation costs of participants from other cities of Ukraine. Meals will also be provided during the workshop. All participants will receive industry accreditation from the Festival, which provides access to the film programme, as well as industry events during the 19th Docudays UA.

Knowledge of English is required for more effective participation in the workshop, as the tutors will be foreign professionals.

Deadlines and important dates

13.12.2021 – 18.02.2022* – applications submission period.

**closing of submission period – February 18, 2022, 23:59 Eastern European Time.*

04.03.2022 – we will send a letter to all those whose applications will not be included in the list of finalists

08.03.2022 – announcement of finalists

24–26 March 2022 – workshop for participants

30 March 2022 – pitching within the programme of the industry section of the 19th Docudays UA

The winning projects will be announced on the evening of 31 March 2022, during the Festival Awards Ceremony.

The screening of the finished films will take place at the 20th Docudays UA in 2023.

How to apply?

You need to fill in the [online form](#) in Ukrainian and English.

To complete the form you will need the following documents and information:

1. Contacts and biography and, if available, filmography of the applicant who wishes to take part in the competition.

2. Detailed description of the project (no more than 2 pages):

- Logline: Describe the idea of the project in one or two sentences that will immediately attract attention and make you want to know more about your film.
- Synopsis: a short paragraph outlining the structure of the film's story. Of course, it is impossible to predict a story in a documentary film, but the synopsis should reflect the direction of the story you have chosen.
- The creative vision of the project: describe your vision and role in the project, your motivation, and your goal. Tell us about your team and your protagonists. Why is this idea important to you and what will interest the audience?

4. If available, provide supporting visual materials (photos and/or videos). Please note that video is only accepted if it is uploaded to Youtube, Vimeo, or Google Drive. Materials from other file hosting services will not be considered.

Please use the name of your project to name the files.

All documents must be provided **in Ukrainian and English**.

If you wish to submit more than one project, please create a separate application for each. But keep in mind: you can only work on one project during the programme.

If you have any questions about the programme or the application, please e-mail us at civilpitch@docudays.ua.

What are the funding conditions for the winning projects?

Financing of the production of the winning projects will be effectuated after the signing of the production agreement with the NGO Docudays. Money will be transferred in hryvnia equivalent.

The Contractor shall retain all prior intellectual property rights to the works created or owned by such Party or licensed for use prior to the signing of this Agreement.

If my project already has confirmed funding, can I get additional funding under Civil Pitch?

No. The project policy does not involve other donors. However, after Civil Pitch 2.0, you are free to continue working on the topic and develop your ideas in other formats (such as feature films or documentaries).

Docudays UA is the only international human rights documentary film festival in Ukraine and one of the largest in Eastern Europe. It takes place every year in the last week of March in Kyiv. Following the end of the festival, Docudays UA traditionally presents the best films in Ukrainian regions during the Travelling Festival. Every year, the Festival Industry Platform DOCU/PRO presents the best Ukrainian projects to the international professional community and is actively involved in the promotion of Ukrainian documentaries abroad.

The 19th Docudays UA will be held between 25 March and 3 April 2022 in Kyiv.