

CinEuro Film Lab INDUSTRIAL CULTURE

Scriptwriting workshop on story development

An intensive dramaturgical mentoring programme for filmmakers from the Upper Rhine cooperation area and the Greater Region.

The Saarland Film Fund warmly invites screenwriters to an exclusive scriptwriting workshop as part of the CinEuro Film Lab.

Topic	Industrial heritage
Dates	28. November 2026 und 9. January 2027 Attendance on both dates is compulsory
Number of participants	Maximum 6 participants / teams
Working language	German
Lecturer	Erhard Schmied – author, editor and dramaturg



The Workshop

The CinEuro Film Lab offers filmmakers from the CinEuro region (the Upper Rhine and the Greater Region) the opportunity to further develop a specific audiovisual project with professional dramaturgical support. The workshop focuses on the theme of 'industrial culture' in its full thematic breadth – from industrial labour and structural change, through technical innovation and economic shifts, to the social, political and personal stories associated with industrial environments.

Who can apply?

- Filmmakers, in particular screenwriters, directors and/or producers, with a specific project in development.
- People resident in the CinEuro area (the Upper Rhine and the Greater Region).
- Individuals or teams. In the case of a team, one person must be designated as the contact person responsible for the submission and for taking part in the workshop.
- One project may be submitted per person or team.
- A prerequisite is a willingness to present the project to the group, take on board feedback and continue to develop it independently between sessions.

Which projects are eligible?

- Short, medium-length or feature-length films, either as standalone productions or series.
- Projects in the field of fiction and/or documentary film.
- Projects that are still in the story or screenplay development stage and could benefit from dramaturgical support.
- The thematic focus is on 'industrial culture'. A specific geographical link to the Upper Rhine region or the Greater Region is not required.
- Purely industrial, advertising, promotional or other commercial commissioned films are not covered by the workshop.

What is the aim of the writing workshop?

Participants are intended to receive professional dramaturgical input on their project and to refine the fundamentals of their material together with the tutor and the group. By the end of the workshop, the essential foundations should be in place to enable them to develop a robust treatment later on, based on the revised synopsis.

Methodology and Procedure

1 Submission of the synopsis

Before the first workshop, all participants must submit a synopsis of their project by 13 November 2026. The synopsis will then be made available to the tutor and all participants for review.

2. Workshop – 28 November 2026

The submitted projects will be discussed collectively. The discussion will focus on the concept, dramaturgy, characters or protagonists, conflicts, narrative perspective, structure and the particular potential of each project.

3. Individual follow-up work

After the first workshop, participants will revise their synopsis based on the feedback received and continue working on their project independently.

4. Revised version

Before the second workshop, participants must submit a revised version of their synopsis by 4 January 2027. This will in turn be made available to the tutor and all participants in advance to prepare for the joint discussion.

5. Workshop – 9 January 2027

The revised projects will be discussed collectively once again and explored in greater dramaturgical depth. The focus will be on determining which decisions should be made regarding the further development of the material and the subsequent creation of a treatment.

Documents to be submitted

- Project synopsis (guideline: maximum 3 pages)
- Brief details of the project and its format (e.g. feature film, documentary, series)
- A brief biography and filmography of the applicant or the team submitting the entry
- Contact address
- A brief statement explaining your motivation for taking part in the workshop and for working on the theme of 'industrial culture'

Application deadline: 30. October 2026

Submission: by email an filmfoerderung@staatskanzlei.saarland.de

Selection

The number of participants is limited to a maximum of 6 people per team. Selection will be based on the documents submitted. Particular consideration will be given to the quality and originality of the project idea, its dramatic development potential, its relevance to the thematic focus 'Industrial Culture', and the participants' willingness to continue working intensively on their own material.

There is no participation fee. The costs of catering and hotel accommodation (if required) during the programme events will be covered. Travel costs (to and from the venue) are expected to be borne by the participants.

The tutor: Erhard Schmied

Erhard Schmied studied psychology and lives in Saarbrücken, where he works as an author, editor and dramaturg. He writes screenplays, radio plays, plays and short stories. In addition, he has been leading workshops and seminars on screenwriting and radio drama for many years, including through teaching assignments.

He is a graduate of the Munich Screenwriting Workshop. He has been awarded several prizes and scholarships for his work.

A detailed list of works and further information can be found at: www.erhard-schmied.de

Format	Story development and screenwriting workshop
Focus	Industry
Project types	Short, medium-length or feature-length film; single production or series
Genre	Fiction and / or documentary
Dates	28.11.2026 und 09.01.2027
Number of participants	max. 6 participants/ Teams

Working language	German
Eligibility	Residence within the specified cooperation area of the Upper Rhine and the Greater Region
Work process	Exposé → discussion → revision → second discussion → basis for treatment

The CinEuro network and the CinEuro Film Lab

CinEuro is a network that promotes cross-border film co-production. It comprises seven regions: Grand Est (France), Baden-Württemberg, Northern Switzerland, Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Brussels-Capital Region and Wallonia.

The CinEuro Film Lab supports the development of feature films and series that explore the connections between these regions.