

PARTICIPATION RULES

32th International Environmental Film Festival of Serra da Estrela, Seia, Portugal | Out 09 – 17 2026.

CineEco - International Environmental Film Festival of Serra da Estrela, organised by the Municipality of Seia, is the only festival in Portugal dedicated to the environment, which has been held uninterruptedly since 1995

Based on the motto *Films that change the world*, the Festival is a meeting point for professionals, researchers and the public. Its mission is to give visibility to today's major environmental issues brought to the Festival by filmmakers and to be a space for reflection and action by offering quality cinema and little-known and alternative cinematographies in relation to the traditional market. It is a Festival that promotes public awareness of cinema, its history and aesthetics, and environmental issues.

1. OBJETIVES

- 1.1. To promote, exhibit and award fiction, animation, experimental and documentary films focusing on environmental issues, produced anywhere in the world.
- 1.2. Promote greater ecological awareness by encouraging reflection on the relationship between human beings and the environment.
- 1.3. Valorise the natural and cultural resources associated with environmental heritage.
- 1.4. Organise parallel actions and activities related to this theme.
- 1.5. To promote the exchange of experiences between Festival participants.
- 1.6. To contribute to the promotion and economic and tourist enhancement of the territory, affirming its identity in a globalised world.

2. DATA AND PLACE

- 2.1. The 32th Serra da Estrela International Environmental Film Festival will take place from the **9th to the 17th October 2026** at the Casa Municipal da Cultura de Seia.
- 2.2. CineEco also offers an Extensions Service, through which films screened during the Festival will be shown at various venues in the 12 months following the event.

CINE ECO SEIA

SERRA DA ESTRELA
INTERNATIONAL
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FILM FESTIVAL

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3. ADMISSION

- 3.1. Fiction and documentary films produced for cinema and/or television, national and international, and visual art works made after the 1st of January 2025 will be admitted.
- 3.2. There will be the following competitions:
 - a) **International Feature Film Competition** (fiction and documentaries, from 60 minutes);
 - b) **International Short and Medium-Length Film Competition** (fiction and documentaries, up to 60 minutes);
 - c) **Competition for Feature Films in Portuguese** (fiction and documentaries, from 60 minutes);
 - d) **Competition for Portuguese-language Short and Medium-length Films** (fiction and documentaries, up to 60 minutes);
 - e) **Regional Panorama Competition;**
 - f) **Fiction, non-fiction and animation short film competition** (up to 10 minutes)
- 3.3. Films in the Portuguese-language competitions may compete simultaneously in the international competitions.
- 3.4. The Festival organisation reserves the right to include in the international competitions, whenever justified by the quality of the works, Portuguese films that were only entered in the Portuguese-language categories.
- 3.5. Special screenings include films in competition that are not part of the Official Selection, but may be chosen by the programme-makers to be screened out of competition, as part of the Festival's parallel programme, through exhibitions or as part of the selection of films for the Extensions Service (for a period of one year).

4. SUBMISSION | SUBMISSION DEADLINES AND CONDITIONS

- 4.1. The submission of films to the competition implies acceptance of the Participation Rules available at www.cineeco.pt and must be made online from the **25th Jan to the 31st Mar 2026** on one of the following platforms:
 - Festhome: www.festhome.com
 - FilmFreeway: <https://filmfreeway.com>
- 4.2. The Festival will not accept films received after the submission deadline.
- 4.3. The following elements must be entered on any of the submission platforms:

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- a) Two stills of the film with good quality resolution (300 px in a maximum A5 size).
- b) Declarations of acceptance of these Rules of Participation, authorisation to screen at the Festival and Extensions, use of images and sounds for promotional purposes, for a period of one year (documents attached).
- c) Synopsis in the original language and in English.

Each competitor assumes full responsibility for the works they have entered in the competition for all legal purposes, and CineEco cannot be held liable in any way whatsoever towards third parties. Cost of submission:

4.4. The submission fee for the various competitions is:

- a) International and Portuguese Language Feature Film Competitions (fiction and documentaries, from 60 minutes) - €10.00
- b) Short and Medium-Length Film Competitions (fiction and documentaries, up to 60 minutes) - €5.00
- c) Fiction, non-fiction and animation short film competitions (up to 10 minutes) - €2.00
- d) Regional Panorama Competition - free of charge.

4.5. Submissions made between January 1st and February 6th will benefit from a 50% reduction.

4.6. In the event of cancellation, the amount paid will not be refunded.

5. OFFICIAL SELECTION

The official selection will be announced by **20 July 2026** and will be published on the Festival's website and other communication channels.

6. REGISTRATION

6.1. Once the selected films have been communicated to the participants, the requested materials and the respective copy formats must be sent by 20 June 2026 to the following email address: cineeco@cm-seia.pt:

- a) Two still photos of the film in 300px/A5 resolution;
- b) 2 Synopsis (a short, up to 60 s for digital promotional purposes, and a long one) in the original language and in English;
- c) Trailer or 2-minute extract from the film in video and DCP format;
- d) CV, filmography and photo (300px/A6) of the director;
- e) DCP screening copy;
- f) Complete film file;

- g) Contact details of the person responsible for the submission;
- h) Social networks of the film and the director;
- i) Declaration of acceptance of the Rules of Participation; authorisation to screen at the Festival and Exhibitions and use the of images and sounds for promotional purposes;
- j) Other material available for promotion (posters, press kits, etc.).

6.2. The Subject must contain the name of the proposed film(s) and the name of the Director.

6.3. Failure to fully comply with point 6.1 will result in the film being excluded from the Official Selection.

7. SUBTITLING

7.1. The selected non-english language films should not have hard-coded subtitles.

7.2. Selected non-English language films must be accompanied by a .srt and/or a transcription to English.

7.3. If existent, Portuguese subtitles should be sent.

8. AWARDS

8.1. Prizes will be awarded to the work judged to be the best in each of the categories.

8.2. The films presented in the Festival's Competitive Sections compete for the following awards:

a) INTERNATIONAL LONG FILM COMPETITION

Environment Grand Prize of €2,500 (two thousand five hundred euros).

b) INTERNATIONAL SHORT AND MEDIUM- LENGTH FILM COMPETITION

International short and medium-length film prize of €1,000 (one thousand euros).

c) PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE FEATURE FILM COMPETITION

Camacho Costa Prize worth €2,500 (two thousand five hundred euros).

d) PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE SHORT AND MEDIUM FILM COMPETITION

Portuguese Language Short Film Award, worth €1,000 (one thousand euros).

e) REGIONAL PANORAMA COMPETITION

Regional Panorama Prize, worth €1,000 (one thousand euros), awarded to a work produced in the Serra da Estrela region that best promotes local environmental issues.

f) FICTION, NON-FICTION AND ANIMATION SHORT FILM COMPETITION (up to 10 minutes)

Fiction, non-fiction and animation short film prize - €500 (five hundred euros)

OTHER AWARDS

- g) **ENVIRONMENTAL ANTHROPOLOGY AWARD** - €2,500 (two thousand five hundred euros), awarded to the work that best addresses the theme of environmental anthropology, in the Portuguese Language Feature Film competition, depending on the Official Selection and the Jury's decision.
- h) **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AWARD** - worth €1,000 (one thousand euros), awarded to the work that best promotes the theme of environmental education, entered in the Portuguese-Language Short and Medium-Length Films competitions, depending on the Official Selection.
- i) **ANIMATED SHORT FILM AWARD** - worth €1,000 (one thousand euros), awarded to the work judged to be the best animated short film in the International Short Film and Portuguese Language Short Film competitions, depending on the Official Selection and the Jury's decision.
- j) **YOUTH AWARD** - worth €500 (five hundred euros), awarded to the work judged to be the best of all the competitive categories.
- k) **WATER VALUE AWARD** - worth €500 (five hundred euros), awarded to the work that best addresses the theme 'The value of water' among all the competitive categories.

8.3. Exceptionally, Honourable Mentions may be awarded

8.4. The Prizes awarded will be accompanied by a trophy and a diploma

8.5. If Honourable Mentions are awarded, they will be accompanied by a diploma

8.6. The results of the competition will be announced at the closing ceremony of the 31st Serra da Estrela International Environmental Film Festival and via the Festival website and other communication channels.

9. JURY

9.1. Each jury for the different Competitions will be made up of five members: three national or foreign individuals of recognised merit in the film and/or environmental field and two young people with an interest in the fields of cinema and the environment.

9.2. The different juries may not include people who have a direct interest in the production and/or exploitation of the films submitted to the competition.

9.3. The juries may decide not to award one or more prizes.

9.4. Jury Constitution:

- a) Three juries will be set up to assess one or more competitions, distributed as follows. International Feature Film Competition;

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- b) International Short and Medium-Length Film Competition, Fiction, Non-Fiction and Animation Short Film Competition (up to 10 minutes) and Regional Panorama Competition;
- c) Portuguese Language Feature Film Competition, Portuguese Language Short and Medium Length Film Competition.

10. EXTENSIONS

CineEco reserves the right to show the competing works in its extensions, which will take place within one year of the Festival, in other locations in Portugal, on a non-profit basis and for educational purposes.

11. FINAL PROVISIONS

- 11.1. CineEco reserves the right to show short excerpts of the selected works or other works requested by the media on television, in the cinema and on other communication channels.
- 11.2. Competitors must comply with these Rules of Participation, accepting all their clauses, as demonstrated by signing the screening authorisation which must be attached to the entry form.
- 11.3. All matters not provided for in these Rules of Participation will be decided by the organisation as to their interpretation and compliance, and there will be no appeal.