



Nachwuchspreis Darstellende Künste  
Prix d'encouragement pour les arts de la scène  
Premio d'encoraggiamento per le arti sceniche

## Call for Applications: PREMIO 2027

PREMIO is an award for newcomers in the performing arts, designed to encourage emerging talents and young companies to develop within a network comprising theatres, dance and contemporary circus venues, festivals and educational institutions across Switzerland. Each year, eight companies or artists receive various forms of financial support, including assistance with production and touring, as well as other forms of non-financial support.

# PREMIO 2027 Newcomer Award

Eight companies or artists will be selected in November 2026.

Each company or artist will present their project at the **PREMIO Kick-Off (February 23rd 2027 at the Théâtre du Jura in Delémont)** and will receive:

- a fee of **CHF 1,500** and the opportunity to present their project to more than 60 organisations.

Following the Kick-Off, each company/artist will receive:

- a co-production grant of **CHF 5,000** (CHF 6,000 if there are more than 4 artists on stage).
- a video recording and photographs of their performance at the Kick-Off event.
- the opportunity to secure a residency in another linguistic region with funding of **CHF 2,500**.
- the opportunity to remain in close contact with certain PREMIO member institutions.
- Further support from PREMIO, including, amongst other things, a review before summer 2026 on the progress of the project and the residencies.

Following their premiere, each company/artist will then receive:

- touring support for up to three guest shows with PREMIO members, over three seasons (several shows possible per guest invitation, with a **maximum cover of CHF 5,000**; for supra-regional events, a maximum of CHF 5,500)
- travel expenses to attend the premieres of other artists from the same PREMIO edition
- selection, and on-site networking with attending members (**PREMIO-Visits**)
- Translation into another national language of the presentation pack, subtitles, stage directions or any other text required for the project

## Eligibility criteria

**Professionalism:** PREMIO is aimed at professional artists across all disciplines of the Swiss performing arts.

**Premiere dates:** the proposed project should be at the conceptual stage with no public performances having yet taken place (with the exception of work-in-progress presentations). If a premiere is already planned, it must take place after the end of the residency period (30 May 2027).

**Original project:** The proposed project must not have been submitted to PREMIO before.

**Link to Switzerland:** the project leaders<sup>1</sup> must live and work in Switzerland and/or the company must be based in Switzerland.

**Experience:** PREMIO has no age restrictions. The project leaders must not have produced more than three professional productions<sup>2</sup>. The reference date is the application deadline: 1 October 2026. Both collective and individual projects are eligible.

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<sup>1</sup> Project leaders develop the concept and are responsible for the artistic aspects of the project. As a general rule, these are the director or choreographer, or the core team of the collective or company.

<sup>2</sup> Professional productions or full-length projects (lasting at least 40 minutes) are projects that have been professionally produced and staged, as well as financially supported. In most cases, they have been presented at recognised public institutions. All completed productions, whether in Switzerland or abroad, are taken into account.

When submitting a collectively led project, it is the individual experience of every project leader that is taken into account, not the number of projects carried out jointly. The same individuals may participate in several submitted projects.

**Independence:** the project must be independent of any educational institution<sup>3</sup>. The project may be co-produced by an institution, but this is not a requirement.

Applications that do not meet these criteria will not be considered.

# Application

## Deadlines:

From 1 July 2026 to 1 October 2026 included (application closes at midnight).

## Registration

Applications must be submitted via the online form at **[www.premioschweiz.ch](http://www.premioschweiz.ch)**. The application (a single PDF document) must be written in **German, French or Italian**<sup>4</sup> and must contain the following information:

- **Summary:** statement of intent and presentation of the project and the artists (max. 2,000 characters, written text)
- **What and how:** Description of the project, staging concept and details of the working method (max. 3 A4 pages).
- **Who:** Presentation of the company or project leaders (short biographies), number and duration of previous productions.
- **When, Where, How long:** Schedule, venue and date of the premiere (confirmed or proposed), duration of the play/choreography/piece, and, where applicable, confirmation of the co-production partner.
- **Cost:** Budget and provisional funding for the project as a whole (including support from PREMIO).

The budget template provided by PREMIO may be used for this purpose.

A **photograph, in landscape format, representative of the project** must be included with the application. If selected, it will be published on the PREMIO website. Max. 2 MB; please state the photographer's name.

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<sup>3</sup> The project may begin as part of a training programme. In parallel with the ongoing training or after its completion, the project will be developed and finalised independent of the training institution. Projects developed for the purpose of obtaining a qualification cannot be submitted.

<sup>4</sup> German or French, to be chosen according to the language region the artists wish to target and where they intend to perform primarily. Applications will then be discussed within the German or French group. Italian and Romansh applications will be translated into German or French by the company before the deadline, with the support of PREMIO.

**Video Submission (optional):**

You may submit a video in place of the written application. This must contain the same information as the written application (**Motivation, What, How, Who, When, Where, How long**). You may include a link to your video in the form (max. 8 mins and 500 MB).

The video must still be accompanied by a single PDF document containing the **written biographies** and **budget** (see online template).

## Online shortlisting

Applications received are divided into two groups according to language region: German-speaking applications / French-speaking applications. Applications in Italian or Romansh have been translated by the company, with financial support from PREMIO, into German or French, at the applicant company's discretion, and thus assigned to the corresponding language group.

## Selection meeting

The PREMIO members present at the selection meeting form the jury (on November 26th 2026 at the Schlachthaus theater in Bern). Following discussion, each of the two language groups selects four projects. In this way, they jointly determine the eight projects that will make up the PREMIO Selection 2027.

The results will be announced at the end of November 2026.

### *Contact*

*If you have any questions, please contact PREMIO:*

*info@premioschweiz.ch / (+41) 77 500 48 98.*