



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

Information on participation

PREMIO is a newcomer award for 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, such as assistance with production and touring, as well as other forms of non-financial support.

Version:
2026–2027

Application

See the document 'Call for Applications: PREMIO 2027'.

Applications must be submitted online at www.premioschweiz.ch between July 1st 2026 and October 1st 2026 at midnight.

Online shortlisting

Applications received are divided into two groups according to language region: German-speaking applications / French-speaking applications. Applications in Italian or Romansh will 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. All applications are sent to members in electronic form. In order to keep the number of applications at a manageable level, a shortlist of 20–25 applications will be discussed within the Swiss German-speaking group and the French-speaking group at the selection meeting to be held in the autumn. The shortlist will be determined by an online vote by PREMIO members. This shortlisting procedure is only used if more than 25 applications per group are received. Applications from Ticino will be automatically assigned to either the German-speaking or French-speaking Swiss discussion group, depending on the language chosen by the company for the translation when submitting the project.

Selection meeting

The PREMIO members present at the selection meeting form the jury. Following discussion, each of the two language groups selects four projects. In this way, they jointly determine the eight PREMIO 2027 projects.

Support: following the selection of applications, the eight chosen projects are each assigned a mentor from amongst the members. The assignment is based on the following criteria: geographical proximity, shared artistic interests, existing relationships and availability. Mentors provide advice, for example, on preparing the 20-minute showings for the Kick Off or offer feedback during a rehearsal, and help the company, artist or collective to find rehearsal spaces.

Choice of residency location: following the announcement of the selection, artists are asked to state their preferences regarding the choice of members from other linguistic regions and when they would prefer to undertake their PREMIO residency.

Kick-Off

At the Kick-Off event, the focus is on cross-regional cooperation. The Kick-Off event builds networks, helps participants get to know one another and fosters strong working relationships between members and artist groups. Attendance for the entire day is compulsory.

Expenses: Each company receives an expense allowance of **CHF 1,500**.

Showcase: The eight companies present their projects. This presentation:

- lasts a maximum of 20 minutes;
- may take the form of excerpts or a full performance;
- requires minimal technical infrastructure;
- provides an overview of the project's progress.

Getting to know one another: After the eight presentations, all members and artists come together to introduce themselves, discuss their projects and their needs.

Allocation of support: The companies' support groups determine what support is to be provided. Residencies are planned in consultation with the members.

Evening: The day ends with a drinks and finger-food/canapés reception.

Residency

Following the Kick-Off Event, the companies continue to work on their projects independently. They undertake their residency at an agreed PREMIO member institution and receive the various forms of support discussed during the Kick-Off.

Financial support: Each company receives residency funding of **CHF 2,500** and co-production funding of **CHF 5,000** (**CHF 6,000** if there are more than four performers on stage).

Check-In

Following the initial residencies, the companies meet online with PREMIO's management, the mentors, the member organisations hosting the residencies and the PREMIO committee to review the projects and the support provided.

The Tour and Host Venues

Coverage of performance fees during tours with PREMIO member venues

Each of the eight participating companies receives financial support for performances of their PREMIO project whilst on tour during the next three PREMIO seasons. Stage costs are covered for three hosted performances (a single hosting period may include several dates, **with a ceiling of CHF 5,000** per hosting period; **CHF 5,500** for supra-regional events). Please note: **The premiere is not covered by this support.**

PREMIO Visits

For the premiere or other performance dates, artists from the same PREMIO selection are invited to see the work of the other artists.

Travel expenses and tickets are paid for by PREMIO. During PREMIO-Visits, one or more members of the committee and the PREMIO management, interested members and the other artists from the same selection come together, where possible, for a form of exchange, such as a workshop, a discussion or a drinks reception.

Note from PREMIO's funding partners

PREMIO artists are restricted in their applications for funding by the award of the PREMIO Encouragement Prize, as PREMIO is already extensively supported as an overarching project. The following points should be borne in mind:

Pro Helvetia

- Only from the fourth residency onwards is it possible to receive support for residencies in other language regions (applications must be submitted via a PREMIO member).
- Support for residencies abroad is available at any time.
- Companies may submit applications for their PREMIO project for all other forms of support (production, research, residencies, etc.).

Ernst Göhner Foundation:

- **no additional funding is permitted for PREMIO projects.**

Migros Culture Percentage:

- National – support during the ideation phase (must be applied for before submitting to PREMIO); no support for dissemination in the same year as participation in PREMIO.
- Regional – the various Migros cooperatives may provide support.

Contact

If you have any questions, please contact PREMIO:

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