

## „Doc Together“ Initiative Officially Launched by DOK Leipzig and Thessaloniki International Documentary Festival

Press Release  
12 March 2025

Supporting displaced and exiled filmmakers in accessing funding and resources



f.l. Alex Shiriaieff, Thomas Kaske, Talal Afifi, Nadja Tennstedt, Angeliki Vergou | Photo: Thessaloniki Film Festival / Dimitra Merziemekidou

DOK Leipzig teams up with the Thessaloniki International Documentary Festival to launch „Doc Together“, a new initiative dedicated to supporting displaced or exiled filmmakers and those working under perilous conditions in their home countries. „Doc Together“ aims to explore how these professionals can access funding, resources and industry support in their current locations or in their countries of origin if they are excluded from national funding opportunities or unable to receive support.

68th International Leipzig  
Festival for Documentary and  
Animated Film

27 October to 2 November

Publicist  
Nina Kühne  
Tel. +49 (0)341 30864 1070  
presse@dok-leipzig.de

The initiative was officially presented yesterday at the Thessaloniki International Documentary Festival by Nadja Tennstedt (Director of DOK Industry, DOK Leipzig) and Angeliki Vergou (Head of Agora, Thessaloniki International Documentary Festival) together with Talal Afifi (filmmaker, producer and founder of Sudan Film Factory) and producer Thomas Kaske (Seera Films). The event was moderated by Alex Shiriaieff (co-founder of B2B Doc and Chief Executive Producer of Euro Arctic Media Group).

Initiators Angeliki Vergou and Nadja Tennstedt: „Documentary filmmakers often face significant challenges in their home countries, compelling many to relocate for a variety of reasons. Some are persecuted due to their political views or aspects of their identity, including ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation, as oppressive regimes or religious establishments impose restrictions on freedom of expression. Others are forced to flee as wars devastate their homelands, while some struggle with the lack of necessary infrastructure to sustain a filmmaking career. At the same time, there are also filmmakers who choose to remain in their countries, navigating hardships while finding ways to continue creating under difficult circumstances. On countless occasions, documentary filmmakers have had to re-establish their careers in foreign countries.“

As part of this initiative, the Leipzig and Thessaloniki festivals will host events that foster critical discussions on these issues. These events will also provide a platform for selected filmmakers to present their works and share their stories, ensuring that their voices are heard and their creative endeavors are supported.

Leipziger Dok- Filmwochen GmbH  
Katharinenstraße 17  
04109 Leipzig

Chairwoman of  
the Supervisory Board  
Dr. Skadi Jennicke

Managing and Artistic Director  
Christoph Terhechte

Place of Performance  
Leipzig

Handelsregister  
Commercial Register, HRB 35 89

VAT Tax ID  
DE141498242

With „Doc Together“, DOK Leipzig and the Thessaloniki International Documentary Festival reaffirm their commitment to fostering inclusivity and resilience in the documentary film industry, advocating for filmmakers whose creative expression is at risk.

**Press Release  
12 March 2025**

**page 2 of 2**

**Wir bedanken uns bei den langjährigen institutionellen und projektfördernden Partner\*innen**  
We would like to thank our long-standing institutional and project-supporting partners

---



**Stadt Leipzig**

SACHSEN



Gefördert durch das Sächsische Staatsministerium für Wissenschaft, Kultur und Tourismus. Diese Einrichtung wird mitfinanziert durch Steuermittel auf der Grundlage des vom Sächsischen Landtag beschlossenen Haushaltes.



**Creative  
Europe**  
MEDIA

Von der Europäischen Union finanziert. Die geäußerten Ansichten und Meinungen entsprechen jedoch ausschließlich denen des Autors bzw. der Autoren und spiegeln nicht zwingend die der Europäischen Union oder der Europäischen Exekutivagentur für Bildung und Kultur (EACEA) wider. Weder die Europäische Union noch die EACEA können dafür verantwortlich gemacht werden.



Mitteldeutsche  
Medienförderung



Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung  
für Kultur und Medien

**Weitere Partner\*innen, Unterstützer\*innen und Fördernde gibt DOK Leipzig in Kürze bekannt.**  
DOK Leipzig will announce further partners, supporters and sponsors shortly.