

Terms & Conditions

of the MegaCities-ShortDocs Film Festival



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* No purchase is necessary to enter or win the contest.

* Entering the contest means that you agree to the following Terms & Conditions.

I. THE ORGANISATION

MegaCities-ShortDocs (from now on called MC-SD) is a French non-governmental organisation with its headquarter in Paris and representatives worldwide. Since 2014, we have collected inspiring ShortDocs from all over the world with the aim to raise awareness on urban challenges and encourage knowledge circulation and action.

Contacts

Email: contact@megacities-shortdocs.org

II. HOW TO ENTER THE CONTEST

ONLY for ED 10 (2024-2025)

To celebrate its 10th anniversary, the Megacities Shortdocs Festival is organising a special edition, offering the public the chance to vote for the best documentaries among the winners of the first nine editions !

Throughout the year, screenings will be held around the world to showcase the films.

Everyone can vote on equal terms.

The winners in each category will be invited to the Cannes Film Festival, and the overall winner of the Best of the Best Shortdocs award will walk up the steps !

III. KEY DATES

- **January 31st 2025 :** Close of voting. Votes received after this deadline will not be taken into account.
- **February 2025 : Jury pre-selection**
The festival team, composed of documentary filmmakers, journalists, and staff from the non-profit and SSE sectors, selects the 50 films that will be presented to the jury.
- **March 2025 : Jury Final Selection**
A professional and international jury selects the 15 films that will be screened at the ceremony, as well as the winners of the festival awards.
- **May 2025 Paris Award Ceremony**
The awards for the MegaCities-ShortDocs Festival will be delivered at the Paris Award Ceremony or online. Multiple screenings across the world will occur throughout the rest of the year.
- **May 2025 Megacities Shortdocs at the Cannes Film Festival**
The winners are invited to the Cannes Film Festival. Their films will be screened as part of the 9th Positive Cinema Week. The "Best ShortDoc" winner is going up the steps.

IV. AWARDS, PRIZES & RECOGNITIONS

By entering our contest, you will be eligible for:

Two awards | Should you win an award, in addition to the given reward, you will be granted a **roundtrip flight ticket** between your city and Cannes to participate at the Cannes film festival 2025.. The awards you can be eligible for are as follows :

- “The VERY Best ShortDoc”, in partnership with Positive Cinema Week, under the auspices of the Cannes Film Festival goes to the best film of the edition shot in an urban environment, with a reward of 1 000 € and an invitation to the Cannes Film Festival (transport and accommodation).

- “The VERY Best Student” goes to the best ShortDoc made by a student¹, with a reward of 1 000€, and an invitation to the Cannes Film Festival (transport and accommodation).

The Special Prizes from our Partners | Each of the following prizes amount to 1 000€, and an invitation to the Cannes Film Festival (transport and accommodation). ; they are respectively given to:

- “The Greater Paris Metropolis Prize”, to the ShortDoc maker behind the best ShortDoc shot in Paris and/or its metropolitan area ([Métropole du Grand Paris](#)), with an invitation to the Cannes Film Festival (transport and accommodation).
- “The 15 Minute City Prize”, in partnership with the [Chaire ETI - Paris La Sorbonne](#), to the ShortDoc maker behind the ShortDoc which best presents the 15 minute city concept². See [Appendix 1](#) for more info.

Moreover, we announce that the 30 most inspiring ShortDocs of each edition will be involved in our new **Mini-series Program**. We are considering co-producing the series with **regional channels** and eventually a **global streaming platform**.

V. THE SHORTDOC

Framework | The spirit of MC-SD’s contest is to address urban challenges. It encourages filmmakers to present a positive initiative or denounce an unacceptable situation in their metropolitan context. Our goal is to raise awareness on the potential and relatability of one docu-story for it can inspire a chain of changes worldwide. We want our ShortDocs to involve and encourage other individuals, associations, businesses, and governments to set in motion initiatives for a society which values a greater respect for the environment and solidarity among citizens.

The ShortDocs submitted to the contest should focus on both or one of the following:

¹ If you are a student you must provide us with a **valid student card/certificate** to prove your status.

² The ShortDoc maker who applies to *the 15 Minute City Prize* agrees to let their ShortDocs be **uploaded on the platform Proximedia**, to present existing initiatives that showcase the concept of the "Happy Proximity" in cities.

- a **social-impact initiative**, defined as an action which answers individual basic needs and fosters cohesion amongst communities or groups;
- an **environmental-impact initiative**, defined as an action directly linked with the preservation of our planet and its resources.

A ShortDoc might also denounce an **unacceptable situation**, to draw people's attention to a specific challenge which must be addressed.

As a means of inspiration, we encourage you to closely review the **17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, in their challenges and solutions. We remind you that these topics are often interdependent, and you can present many together.

We recommend focusing on solutions which include viable initiatives in terms of **durability, inclusivity and equity**.

Location | The ShortDoc must be shot **in an urban environment**. In the past, we only accepted films shot in a “megacity” which is defined by the UN as any urban agglomeration having over 10 million inhabitants. Therefore, we have a long list of inspiring and impactful ShortDocs shot in cities like Paris, New York, Los Angeles, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Al-Qahirah (Cairo), Lagos, Delhi, Jakarta, Tokyo, Beijing, Shanghai, and many more. From now on, we are ready to welcome in the MC-SD Festival **any city**.

Length | The ShortDoc must be a maximum of **4.00 minutes long**. For a better quality, we recommend 4K or **Full HD format** (1920×1080) encoded in **h264** (.mov, .mp4). The ShortDoc **title** must appear at some point during the **first 20 seconds** on the screen.

Subtitles | The ShortDoc must be uploaded with **subtitles in English**.

Thumbnail | The ShortDoc thumbnail must be uploaded with a **high-quality** (JPG picture format 1600×1200) and must well represent your film and topic. This picture might be used and published for general public release.

Closing Credits | **Closing credits** must appear within the 4 minutes of the ShortDoc. They should include the ShortDoc maker's name, year of production, participants, stakeholders and location. Here you can also include the “initiative

holder” presented in the ShortDoc, if any. If you provide statistics, data, quotes in your ShortDoc make sure to **check the source** and reference it in the closing credits.

VI. WINNERS SELECTION

Please be aware that a ShortDoc sent after the deadline will not be accepted, unless a deadline extension is officially given by MC-SD.

The winners of the 2 awards (Best ShortDoc and Best ShortDoc by a student) will be the film in each category with the most votes from the public, according to the voting procedures communicated during the edition.

The winners of the 2 special prizes are decided by the partners involved, according to the usual jury procedures.

Jury selection criteria

- **Quality: esthetics of the production and clarity of the message**

This criterion includes technical choices about the image and the sound, as well as the creativity and the vision behind the theme selected.

- **The power of the proposal and its transferability**

The ShortDocs will be evaluated in their ability to clearly show the impact of the problem and/or the solution represented in the video. They should also encourage reflections on how the chosen social and/or environmental initiative can contribute to universal challenges.

- **Respect of the right format**

Formats (image, title, description, subtitles, credits, etc.) must be consistent and coherent with the given instruction. Please notice that this is not a minor detail, but an evaluation object.

VIII. GENERAL CONDITIONS

MC-SD Administration has the right to modify the given Terms & Condition information anytime, if deemed necessary. In case of updates, the new information

will be posted on our website and the ShortDoc makers who registered through our website will be notified by email. This is also why we highly encourage you to register as soon as possible, even if you still do not have a clear idea of the documentary you want to realise.

By accepting the prize, the winner acknowledges that MC-SD neither made, nor is in any manner responsible or liable for any warranty, representation or guarantee, express or implied in fact or in law relative to the prize or to any portion thereof.

If for any reason, the promotion is not capable of running as planned, including any suspected evidence of tampering or technological corruption or if any portion of the contest is compromised by a virus, bugs, fraud, strikes, terrorists acts, criminal acts of third parties, an insufficient number of qualified entries, or any other causes beyond MC-SD control which in MC-SD sole opinion, corrupts, threatens or impairs the administration, security, fairness, integrity, or proper conduct of the promotion, MC-SD reserves the right to cancel, terminate, modify or suspend the contest at their sole discretion.

IX. DATA PROTECTION

Any information collected by entering the contest will be used by MC-SD only in accord with these official contest rules. The data subject has the right to access its collected data. In addition, they also have the right to rectify, delete and oppose the processing of their data about if based on legitimate grounds, pursuant to the conditions stipulated by law no. 78-17 of the 6th of January 1978 [January 1978, modified in 2004 on computer information, files and civil liberties]. To exercise this right, contact the MC-SD staff by email.

X. GUARANTEES

Participants declare that their ShortDoc does not violate the rights of any third parties or does not promote content that are of a violent, pornographic or libelous nature - more specifically, racist, xenophobic, pedophile, unhealthy content. No encouragement of criminal offence, war or crimes against humanity will be tolerated. In addition, each submitted ShortDoc should not encourage the consumption of cigarettes, alcohol drinks, drugs or any other prohibited products.

Participants declare that their ShortDoc does not infringe from an industrial or intellectual property right or copyright (an original work, a brand or a logo) nor mention any content subject to copyright and intellectual property rights (trademarks, photos, logos and banners) without the prior approval of the owner. Participants certify that they have obtained all the publicity right to any persons who could be identified in the video.

Participants declare that they hold all the copyrights, intellectual property rights and all the authorizations required for the film to participate in the MC-SD competition and for all other rights granted to MC-SD under the terms of the present regulations. Consequently, participants guarantee MC-SD against any claims, demands, suits, and actions taken by possible third parties on any grounds whatsoever, including, but not limited to, libel, defamation and invasion of privacy. Participants undertake to guarantee, compensate and hold harmless MC-SD against any expenses, in particular, expenses and fees related to court proceedings, and direct or indirect damage, as well as any sentences imposed on MC-SD or payment resulting from a settlement signed with the plaintiff. In addition, participants are reminded that failure to hold the rights and authorizations required for the film to participate in the MC-SD competition and for all other rights granted to MC-SD as referred to in the present article, may result in the application of criminal and civil penalties as provided by the law.

In general, participants declare that their ShortDoc complies with any current legislation and regulations in effect.

If the MC-SD team identifies a non-compliance with these conditions, the concerned ShortDoc will be disqualified from the contest. This decision belongs to the MC-SD judgement and if, unfortunately, the ShortDoc will be disqualified, MC-SD's team is committed to explain the non-compliance reason to the ShortDoc Maker.

XI. BROADCASTING

Participants give MC-SD the permission to reproduce and broadcast clips of the selected films presented in the Festival on terrestrial, digital, cable, satellite and ADSL television channels, on Internet sites, mobile telephony or by any other communication network. A film could be displayed in the given format or only a part of it, with the closing credits, with or without subtitles, dubbed or with audio description. They can only be used as part of stories covering the Festival, TV or Web

programs and interviews and/or promotional trailers or advertising for the Festival current or future editions and for MC-SD's official partners supporting social and/or environmental causes. Permission to use these clips is granted once for all, starting on the date of submission of the film.

Films may also be used by our media partners to be broadcast on the web or at various screenings.

As already mentioned above, in the case of the Mini-series, the NGO will expressly request the filmmakers if they want to be part of it.

XII. MISCELLANEOUS CONDITIONS

The online registration to the MegaCities-ShortDocs Film Festival implies acceptance of these terms and conditions. Failure to comply might result in disqualification from the contest. The contest is subject to all country and local-city laws and regulations.

XIII. APPLICABLE LAW AND JURISDICTION

These Terms & Conditions are governed by and construed in accordance with French law. The French courts shall have jurisdiction.

Paris, April 15th 2023

The MegaCities-ShortDocs Team

Appendix 1 - Prizes

➤ 15 Minute City Prize

Living in a city often means having to deal with certain dysfunctions, such as long commutes, noisy streets and under-utilised spaces. The **15 minute City Prize** aims at addressing urban challenges by encouraging debates on the need to rethink city design and living spaces. Also called the “City of Proximity”, the 15 Minute City is a model in which the daily necessities can be accomplished by either walking or cycling from residents’ homes, in just 15 minutes. It is a different way of living, of consuming, of working, of getting access to healthcare services, education and culture. It is a new way of being in the city. As a result, quality of life, social inclusion and wellbeing improve, while transportation costs, nuisances, GHG emissions and stress decrease. This concept has nowadays spread around the world: the 15-minute city is at the heart of debates and reflections on today and tomorrow’s urban planning. In particular, we wish to bring attention to:

- new ideas concerning housing (shared, solidarity, etc) and co-working initiatives;
- new approaches to healthcare (health centres that bring together several specialists, data transmission systems, etc.), to school and education in general (opening schools on weekends, decarbonized school transport, school assistance.), to meal delivery services for vulnerable people, to cultural and sport activities;
- innovation in terms of transportation (logistic platforms, mutualisation of transport, car sharing, bikes).