



Press release: June 9, 2026

Viana do Castelo to Host New International Festival Dedicated to Documentary Cinema

The city of Viana do Castelo will host the DOC[iN] – Viana International Documentary Festival from 2 to 7 March 2027. This new cultural initiative is organized by AO NORTE in collaboration with the Municipality of Viana do Castelo. The festival aims to establish itself as a platform for promoting documentary filmmaking, critical reflection, and community engagement.

Dedicated to non-fiction cinema, DOC[iN] will showcase films that offer an authorial perspective on major contemporary challenges, including democracy, human rights, social justice, identity, labor, memory, and climate change.

Eligible submissions include non-fiction works distinguished by their artistic quality and the strength of the filmmakers' personal vision. Selected films will compete in the festival's Official Competition and will be eligible for awards presented by an **international jury**. Submissions are now open through the **FilmFreeway** and **Festhome** platforms. **Films may be submitted until 15 December 2026** via the official DOC[iN] [website](#).

According to the organizers, DOC[iN] seeks to go beyond film screenings, *“positioning itself as a space for dialogue and debate around the key issues of our time. Through diverse documentary perspectives and narratives, the festival aims to encourage reflection on the human condition, social transformation, and the global challenges facing the world today.”*

One of the highlights of the programme will be the creation of the **WORK/PRO** section, designed for higher education students enrolled in Film, Audiovisual, Multimedia, and Communication programmes. The initiative aims to **bridge academic training and professional practice in the audiovisual sector** through meetings with filmmakers and industry professionals, training activities, debates, and film screenings. The organizers believe this component addresses the need to create opportunities for young graduates to engage with the job market, enabling participants to explore different career paths, develop skills, and build professional networks relevant to their future careers.

The festival will also maintain a strong connection with the local community, considering **public involvement** one of its main areas of activity. To this end, **several cultural participation initiatives** will be promoted, including the “**DOC’S on the Move**” programme, which will bring documentary screenings to various parishes across the municipality. Additional activities will include discussions with filmmakers, educational programmes for schools, screenings of “Fotografias Faladas” (“Talking Photos”), and a photographic exhibition entitled “Cartografias Afetivas” (“Affective Cartographies”), created from family photo albums collected in parishes throughout Viana do Castelo.

The **community engagement** plan also includes partnerships with parish councils, cultural associations, and senior centres, as well as the involvement of local school students in covering the festival and the recruitment of volunteers to support its organization.

Through this initiative, AO NORTE and the Municipality of Viana do Castelo aim to strengthen the city’s position as a meeting point for cinema, culture, and citizenship, enhancing its national and international profile in the fields of cultural creation and dissemination.

DOC[iN] – Viana International Documentary Festival aims to bring together filmmakers, researchers, students, industry professionals, and the general public, establishing itself as a platform for intercultural dialogue and reflection on the major issues shaping contemporary society.