

**Verband Deutscher Drehbuchautoren e.V. /  
German Screenwriters' Guild**  
**www.drehbuchautoren.de**

**Report on production**

**in Germany**

**Professional screenwriters in Germany:**

about 800 - 1000

**Annual German production volume (fiction), based on screenwriter's work:**

about 35.000 minutes TV movies and feature films  
about 100.000 minutes TV series (incl. daily, weekly, comedy)

**Average production budgets:**

TV Movie (90 Min.): about € 1,5 Mio.  
TV Series (45 Min.): about € 400 – 500 tsd./episode  
Feature Film: about € 4 – 6 Mio.

**Who is producing:**

**TV Fiction (total market):**

Almost all German fictional TV programs are commissioned productions. This means triangular contractual relationships: broadcaster commissions a production company which commissions the screenwriter.

Over 70 % of annual German fiction production by public broadcasters.

ARD (+ Dritte)	48%
ZDF	21%
Arte, 3Sat, kika	4%
RTL	16%
ProSieben Sat1	10%

**TV Movie**

Over 90% of annual German TV Movie production by public broadcasters.  
Over 50% produced by production companies owned by public broadcasters.

### **TV Series**

About 65 % of annual German TV series production by public broadcasters.

ARD: about 50%

RTL: about 20%

ZDF: about 15%

Over 75% produced by only 3 German production groups.

Over 60% production of dailies and weeklies.

### **Online**

First original German series by netflix, amazon, TNT in production.

### **Examples of new public-private co-production models:**

„Berlin Babylon“, TV-event-series written by Achim von Borries, Hendrik Handloegten and Tom Tykwer, directed by Tom Tykwer:

Public private partnership of SKY Germany, BETA Film (sales company), X-Filme Creative Pool (production company of Tom Tykwer feature films like „Run Lola Run“) and public broadcaster ARD.

„Die lausige Hexe,“ TV-Children-Series, adaption of BBC-series „The worst witch“ based on the childrens books by Jill Murphy:

Co-Production of ZDF, ZDF Enterprises (sales company owned by ZDF), KiKa (public childrens program by ARD/ZDF), netflix

### **Feature Film**

About 280 – 300 active production companies in Germany

30 % of German film production companies are located in Berlin

Annual output of about 150 feature films (national and international co-productions)

All German film productions need to get subsidies. The majority of German feature films are co-produced with broadcasters.