

# Information sheet on the introduction of minimum fees

*for applicants to the funding programmes of the NRW Landesbüro Freie Darstellende Künste  
(North Rhine-Westphalia State Office for the Independent Performing Arts)*

New as of October 2026:

Increased minimum rates for rehearsal and production fees in accordance with BFDK recommendations from November 2025.

## 1) What is it about?

In short: it is about fair payment for artists in the independent performing arts, something we as the State Office have been campaigning for for many years. Until now, our funding programmes have been based on the minimum fee recommendations of the Federal Association of Independent Performing Arts (BFDK).

With the [Cultural Code](#), which has been in force since 2022, the state government of North Rhine-Westphalia has enshrined binding minimum fees for freelance artists in law, specific to each discipline. Since the summer of 2024, the guideline specifying concrete values for implementation in [a fee matrix](#) has been in force.

This matrix sets minimum fees for performances and rehearsals for performing artists. As we have always co-funded production and rehearsal phases in our funding programmes, we will continue to use the recommendations of the [BFDK \(as of November 2025\)](#) in addition to the matrix.

Here is an overview of what this means for general project funding and our other funding programmes:

## 2) When does it come into effect?

From 1 January 2026 the guideline must be implemented in all state programmes, and the minimum fee thresholds will thus also become a mandatory funding requirement for all funding programmes of the NRW State Office. This applies to all projects that are implemented from 1 January 2026 and for which an application is submitted after 1 January 2025.

## 3) Who does it apply to?

The minimum fee requirements apply to self-employed professional artists in the independent performing arts in North Rhine-Westphalia. It does NOT apply to amateur artists or to the artistic activities of students.

## 4) What does 'planned event size' mean?

When calculating fees according to the fee matrix, the criterion of 'planned event size' will be decisive in future. This means that if you plan your performances for more than one hundred spectators, the minimum fee to be calculated will increase.

The guideline states that ‘the circumstances at the time of application are decisive’, which means that you must decide in the planning stage what size audience you are producing for.

Please note that this is a minimum rate. Higher fees are of course possible.

*Note: The breakdown into rehearsals, run-throughs/final rehearsals and performances should be specified in the contracts with the performers.*

| Production / Rehearsal*                                        |       |                           |                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Month                                                          | Week  | Day                       |                                                                   |
| 4.220 €                                                        | 970 € | 192 €                     | Non-KSK insured persons                                           |
| 3.600 €                                                        | 830 € | 165 €                     | KSK insured persons                                               |
|                                                                |       |                           |                                                                   |
| 2 full-day final rehearsals (approx. 6 hours) – if planned –** |       |                           |                                                                   |
|                                                                | Day   |                           |                                                                   |
|                                                                | 180 € | < 100 expected spectators | Exception: for more than 5 performers, the standard fee is 180 €. |
|                                                                | 270 € | > 100 expected spectators |                                                                   |
|                                                                |       |                           |                                                                   |
| Performances (max. 5)**                                        |       |                           |                                                                   |
|                                                                | Day   |                           |                                                                   |
|                                                                | 250 € | < 100 expected spectators | Exception: for more than 5 performers, generally: 250 €           |
|                                                                | 375 € | > 100 expected spectators |                                                                   |

### Special features of theatre for children and young people

| 2 full-day final rehearsals (approx. 6 hours) – if planned –** |       |                           |                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                | Day   |                           |                                                                   |
|                                                                | 180 € | < 200 expected spectators | Exception: for more than 5 performers, the standard fee is 180 €. |
|                                                                | 270 € | > 200 expected spectators |                                                                   |
|                                                                |       |                           |                                                                   |
| Performances (max. 5)**                                        |       |                           |                                                                   |
|                                                                | Day   |                           |                                                                   |
|                                                                | 250 € | < 200 expected spectators | Exception: for more than 5 performers, generally: 250 €           |
|                                                                | 375 € | > 200 expected spectators |                                                                   |

\*In accordance with the [minimum fee recommendation](#) of the Federal Association of Independent Performing Arts (As of 2025)

\*\*According to the [fee matrix](#) of the Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (as of December 2025)

As of: 1. October 2026