



European Film Academy
Annual report (2025–2026)

FINAL REPORT 2025



The Secretariat of the European Film Academy e.V. duly implemented the projects scheduled for 2025, as well as the Board meetings and the Annual General Assembly. The year concluded with the 38th European Film Awards ceremony on 17 January in Berlin.

As early as 2023, the European Film Academy was included in the budget of the State of Berlin. The grant to the operating budget, previously provided by the Stiftung Deutsche Klassenlotterie, has accordingly been assumed by the State of Berlin.

The Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg once again supported European Film Academy Productions gGmbH with funding of EUR 200,000.

The 38th European Film Awards marked the 20th ceremony jointly organised by the European Film Academy and European Film Academy Productions gGmbH, the non-profit subsidiary of European Film Academy e.V., whose mission is the production of the European Film Awards.

STRUCTURE / STAFF

The staff of the European Film Academy during the 2025 financial year consisted of the following employees:

1. Matthijs Wouter Knol, CEO & Director
2. Rainer Pyls, Administration / Finance - unfit for work since 8 July 2025, on his behalf since 23 September 2025: Kai Sannwald
3. Viviane Gajewski, Membership Administration, IT
4. Bettina Schwarz, Coordination of Awarding Procedures
5. Sandra Leege, Coordination of Short Film Selection, Head of Knowledge Sharing, Protocol
6. Julia Ritter, VoD, Coordination of Animation and Documentary Selection Procedures, Protocol
7. Pascal Edelmann, Film Heritage and Special Projects
8. Klaudia Matschoß, Membership / Accounting
9. Szerina Sebbes, Accounting & Administration - employed until 30 June 2025, left the company on 13 May 2025
10. France Orsenne, Membership Strategy Coordinator - from 16 June 2025
11. Alexandra Dorisca, Assistant to the Director - from 01 December 2025

The following people were employed by European Film Academy Productions gGmbH during the reporting year:

1. Jürgen Biesinger, Managing Director / Producer
2. Rainer Pyls, Managing Director / Producer
3. Viktoria Arenz, Project Manager
4. Pauline Sütthold, Head of Sponsoring & Partnerships
5. Ana López, Coordinator for Community Building and Social Media
6. Heidi Frankl, Project Manager European Young Audience Award

The Secretariat remained located on its premises at Stralauer Allee 2A.

STATUTORY MEETINGS

- General Assembly

In accordance with the statutes, the Annual General Assembly took place on 3 December 2025 - once again online. Four new Board members were welcomed. A total of 14 Board members were required to stand for re-election for a further two-year term. The Board composition as of 1 January 2026 is as follows:

<u>Board members</u>	<u>Duration</u>
Ada Solomon, Chair	2026 - 2027
Leontine Petit, Vice-Chair	2026 - 2027
Matthieu Darras, Vice-Chair	2026 - 2027
David Collins, Ireland/United Kingdom	2025 - 2026
Vanessa Henneman, Belgium/Luxembourg/Netherlands	2026 - 2027
Danijel Hočevár, Albania/Bosnia & Herzegovina/Kosovo/Croatia/ Montenegro/North Macedonia/Serbia/Slovenia	2026 - 2027
Giorgos Karnavas, Armenia/Georgia/Greece/Israel/Cyprus	2026 - 2027
Hanka Kastelicová, Slovakia/Czech Republic/Hungary	2026 - 2027
Tine Klint, Denmark/Finland/Greenland/Iceland/Norway/ Sweden	2026 - 2027
Paz Lázaro Barquilla, Andorra/Portugal/Spain	2026 - 2027
Guslagie Malanda, France/Monaco	2025 - 2026
Najwa Najjar, Azerbaijan/Kazakhstan/Palestine/Turkey	2026 - 2027
Maria Nevina Satta, Italy/San Marino/Vatican	2025 - 2026
Marija Razgutė, Estonia/Latvia/Lithuania	2026 - 2027
Petro Rusanienko, Representation of transnational minorities (Roma)	2026 - 2027
Maria Schrader, Germany/Liechtenstein/Austria/Switzerland	2025 - 2026
Maryna Sofiichuk, Poland/Ukraine	2025 - 2026
Mira Staleva, Bulgaria/Moldova/Romania	2026 - 2027
Anne-Lajla Utsi, Representation of indigenous peoples (Sámi)	2026 - 2027

Honorary Members

Sir Ben Kingsley, United Kingdom
István Szabó, Hungary

President

Juliette Binoche, France

- Board Meetings

In 2025, three ordinary Board meetings took place:

- **Vilnius, Lithuania, 6 April:**

Selection procedure for the European Film Awards (Part 1)

At the invitation of the Lithuanian Film Centre and the collecting society AVAKA

- **Online, 7-8 August:**

Selection procedure for the European Film Awards (Part 2)

- **Thessaloniki, Greece, 6-9 November:**

Nomination meeting

At the invitation of the Thessaloniki International Film Festival and EKKOMED

GENERAL INFORMATION ON SELECTION, NOMINATION AND AWARDING PROCEDURES

The rescheduling of the European Film Awards from December to January of the following year, the inclusion of films premiering during the summer months, and the objective of making selected films available to Academy members at an earlier stage resulted in the selection and nomination process extending over nine months.

During the transition year 2025/2026, films eligible for the European Film Awards were those that had their premiere between 1 June 2024 and 30 September 2025. In subsequent years, the timeframe will again be limited to 12 months, from October of the previous year to September of the current year, with the awards ceremony recognising films of the preceding year.

Depending on the premiere date of the films, feature, documentary and animated films were submitted in three phases:

- Films that premiered between 1 June 2024 and 31 March 2025 were submitted by 31 March 2025
- Films that premiered between 1 April 2025 and 31 July 2025 were submitted by 31 July 2025
- Films that premiered between 1 August 2025 and 30 September 2025 were submitted by 15 September 2025

EVENTS 2025

(in chronological order)

EUROPEAN FILM AWARDS SHORT FILM NOMINATIONS

October 2024 - September 2025

In cooperation with 30 European festivals

At each of the now 30 participating festivals, an international jury selected one short film from the competition as a candidate for the 38th European Film Awards. The festivals then selected the five nominated short films from among these candidates. The following festivals participated in the short film initiative to support emerging European talent in 2025:

Albania:	Tirana International Film Festival
Austria:	VIENNA SHORTS - International Short Film Festival
Belgium:	Leuven International Short Film Festival
Bosnia & Herzegovina:	Sarajevo Film Festival
Croatia:	Zagreb Film Festival
Cyprus:	International Short Film Festival of Cyprus
Denmark:	OFF - Odense International Film Festival
Estonia:	Black Nights Film Festival - PÖFF Shorts
Finland:	Tampere Film Festival
France:	Cannes Film Festival Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival
Germany:	Berlinale - Berlin International Film Festival Kurzfilm Festival Hamburg International Short Film Festival Oberhausen
Greece:	Drama International Short Film Festival
Ireland:	Cork International Film Festival
Italy:	Venice International Film Festival
Kosovo:	DokuFest - International Documentary and Short Film Festival
Latvia:	Riga International Film Festival
Netherlands:	Go Short - International Short Film Festival Nijmegen International Film Festival Rotterdam
Poland:	Krakow Film Festival
Portugal:	Curtas Vila do Conde - International Film Festival
Spain:	ZINEBI - International Festival of Documentary and Short Film of Bilbao SEMINCI - Valladolid International Film Festival
Sweden:	Uppsala Short Film Festival
Switzerland:	Locarno Film Festival Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur
Ukraine:	Lviv International Film Festival Wiz-Art

United Kingdom: Encounters Film Festival, Bristol

LUX SCREENINGS

November 2024 - April 2025

The five films nominated for the LUX Audience Award - ANIMAL by Sofia Exarchou (GR/AT/RO/CY/BG), INTERCEPTED by Oksana Karpovych (CA/FR/UA), JULIE KEEPS QUIET by Leonardo van Dijn (BE/SE), the Golden Bear winner DAHOMEY by Mati Diop (FR/SN/BJ), and the winner of the European Film Award for Best Animated Feature Film, FLOW by Gints Zilbalodis (LV/FR/BE) - were subtitled in the 24 official EU languages and screened publicly in all EU Member States.

The LUX screenings at Delphi Kino in Berlin were communicated in advance via email to the 660 Academy members based in Berlin and Potsdam and were very well attended. Matthijs Wouter Knol introduced a selection of the films to the audience.

SHORT FILMS ON TOUR - NOMINEES 2024

January - December 2025

The European Film Academy's Short Film Tour brings the short films nominated for the European Film Awards to a range of film festivals and cinemas across Europe - and beyond.

The stops of the short films nominated for the European Film Awards 2024 were:

- Minimalen Short Film Festival (Norway)
 - Cork International Film Festival (Ireland)
 - IBIZACINEFEST (Spain)
 - Tampere Film Festival (Finland)
 - Go Short (Netherlands)
 - Encontros de Cinema de Viana (Portugal)
 - Kraków Film Festival (Poland)
 - Kurzfilm Festival Hamburg (Germany)
 - The Norwegian Short Film Festival (Norway)
 - ShorTS International Film Festival (Italy)
 - Curtas Vila do Conde (Portugal)
 - European Film Festival Palic (Serbia)
 - Letní Filmová Škola Uherské Hradiště (Czech Republic)
 - FeKK - Ljubljana Short Film Festival (Slovenia)
 - Tirana International Film Festival (Albania)
 - Uppsala Short Film Festival (Sweden)
 - Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur (Switzerland)
 - EFF SCANORAMA (Lithuania)
 - Braunschweig International Film Festival (Germany)
- May 2026 / MWK

- ZINEBI - International Festival of Documentary and Short Film of Bilbao (Spain)

PARTICIPATION IN THE GÖTEBORG FILM FESTIVAL

29-31 January 2025

At the invitation of the Göteborg Film Festival

The CEO and Director of the European Film Academy, Matthijs Wouter Knol, took part in a roundtable discussion with executives from European funding bodies, industry organisations and associations as part of the “Nostradamus” conference, which annually examines and aligns on trends and future developments in the film industry.

EUROPEAN FILM CLUB @ BERLINALE

February 2025

As part of the European Film Club, young participants Denny from Croatia, Ifigenia from Greece, Kristine from Latvia and Tin from Bosnia & Herzegovina attended the Berlinale. With the support of Academy staff, they created content for social media. As part of the programme, they attended film screenings and a panel discussion on AI, and conducted and filmed interviews.

➤ <https://www.instagram.com/p/DGGFYhVtdQH/>

➤ <https://www.europeanfilmclub.org/>

SELECTION AND NOMINATION PROCEDURE - FEATURE FILMS

February - October 2025

The Academy Board and six selection experts from across Europe selected between 35 and 45 feature films to compete for the 38th European Film Awards in the categories EUROPEAN FILM, DIRECTOR, SCREENWRITER, ACTRESS and ACTOR. Five nominations in each category were then selected by the Academy members from the selection list. Based on these nominations, the winning film was chosen by the Academy members and announced during the awards ceremony.

The feature film selection list also forms the basis for the categories EUROPEAN CASTING DIRECTOR, CINEMATOGRAPHER, COMPOSER (ORIGINAL SCORE), COSTUME DESIGNER, EDITOR, MAKE-UP & HAIR ARTIST, PRODUCTION DESIGNER and EUROPEAN SOUND DESIGNER. For the first time, the winners were no longer determined by a jury composed of representatives of the respective crafts. Instead, the relevant membership sections (so-called “Chapters”) each selected three nominations, from which the Academy members then chose the winners. The announcements no longer take place in advance of the European Film Awards but were also made during the awards ceremony.

SELECTION AND NOMINATION PROCEDURE - DOCUMENTARY FILMS

February - October 2025

Following the introduction of a dedicated selection list for documentary films for Academy members in 2013, the growing importance of documentary filmmaking has been acknowledged by increasing the number of selected films from 12 in 2024 to 15 in the current year.

The committee responsible for the EUROPEAN DOCUMENTARY selection list consists of five members: one member of the Academy Board, one representative of the previous year's award-winning film, and three additional experts in the field of documentary filmmaking. Five nominations are selected by the Academy members from the selection list and are automatically included in the EUROPEAN FILM category. Based on these nominations, the winning film is chosen by the Academy members and announced during the awards ceremony.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE - ANIMATED FILMS

February - October 2025

In cooperation with CARTOON, the European association for animation film

For the first time, a dedicated selection list for animated films was provided to Academy members for the European Film Awards 2026.

The committee responsible for the EUROPEAN ANIMATED FEATURE FILM selection list consists of three members: one member of the Academy Board, one representative of the previous year's award-winning film, and one representative of the animation association CARTOON.

Five nominations are selected by the Academy members from the selection list and are automatically included in the EUROPEAN FILM category. Based on these nominations, the winning film is chosen by the Academy members and announced during the awards ceremony.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE - DEBUT FILMS

February - October 2025

In cooperation with FIPRESCI, the International Federation of Film Critics

Continuing a long-standing partnership, the European Film Academy, together with FIPRESCI, once again presented the EUROPEAN DISCOVERY award at the 38th European Film Awards to an emerging director for a first feature film.

The six nominations are determined by a five-member committee composed of members of the Academy Board and film professionals, as well as film critics representing FIPRESCI. Based on these nominations, the winning film was chosen by the Academy members and announced during the awards ceremony.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE - CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG AUDIENCE FILMS

February - October 2025

The EUROPEAN YOUNG AUDIENCE AWARD recognises films specifically aimed at a young audience aged between 12 and 14.

A committee composed of three film professionals and four representatives of the young audience (drawn from the consultation group of the European Film Club of the European Film Academy), each from a different country, nominates three films.

The three nominated films are viewed and rated by a young audience aged between 12 and 19 in partner cinemas and online in more than 30 European countries from mid-November 2025 to mid-January 2026, using a QR code.

On the day of the European Film Awards ceremony, a final jury event takes place alongside the screenings, organised by a network of partners across Europe. The winning film was announced during the awards ceremony.

PANEL DISCUSSION ON AI

14 February 2025

Spiegelzelt

In cooperation with the European Parliament

As artificial intelligence is transforming the creation, distribution and use of content, the event examined how the EU AI Act addresses issues of safety, fundamental rights and democratic accountability. Policymakers, industry experts and creatives discussed solutions that reconcile technological progress with cultural diversity and ethical considerations.

The event included two panel discussions featuring:

- Emma Rafowicz, Vice-Chair, Committee on Culture and Education (S&D, France)
- Renate Nikolay, Deputy Director-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology, European Commission
- Diana Riba i Giner, Vice-Chair, Committee on Culture and Education (Greens/EFA, Spain)
- Mads Damsbo, Producer of ABOUT THE HERO
- Pauline Durand-Vialle, CEO of FERA (Federation of European Film Directors)
- Volodymyr Ovsienk, Business Development Executive at Respeecher

Moderation: Sten-Kristian Saluveer, Director, Tallinn Digital Summit & Head of Cannes Next Marché du Film.

EUROPEAN FILM ACADEMY SHORT FILM NETWORK MEETINGS

16 February (European Film Academy, Berlin) & 31 May 2025 (mumok, Vienna)

As part of the 75th Berlinale and the 22nd edition of VIENNA SHORTS, representatives of the partner festivals of the European Film Awards short film category met to exchange on the latest developments and changes within the festival cycle.

The following participants attended in Berlin: Mark Cosgrove (Encounters Film Festival), Laurent Crouzeix (Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival), Maike Mia Höhne & Sven Schwarz (Kurzfilm Festival Hamburg), Barbara Orlicz-Szczypuła (Krakow Film Festival), Anne Gaschütz & Enrico Vannucci (Locarno Film Festival), Jukka-Pekka Laakso (Tampere Film Festival), Sigrid Hadenius-Ebner (Uppsala Short Film Festival), José Cabrera (Seminci - Valladolid International Film Festival), Selma Mehadžić (Zagreb Film Festival); and in Vienna: Jana Riemann (Berlin International Film Festival / Berlinale Shorts), Miguel Dias (Curtas Vila do Conde - International Film Festival), Diomedes Koufteros (International Short Film Festival of Cyprus), Mathieu Janssen (Go Short - International Short Film Festival Nijmegen), Olha Raiter (Lviv International Short Film Festival Wiz-Art), Laurence Boyce (Black Nights Film Festival / PÖFF Shorts), Daniel Haldenius-Ebner & Max Bergmann (VIENNA SHORTS - International Short Film Festival Vienna), Philine Erni (Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur), Rimante Daugelaite (Vilnius International Short Film Festival), Lana Matic & Selma Mehadžić (Zagreb Film Festival).

PARTICIPATION IN THE POLISH EAGLE AWARDS CEREMONY

10-11 March 2025

At the invitation of the Polish Film Academy

The CEO and Director of the European Film Academy, Matthijs Wouter Knol, attended the Polish Film Awards ceremony as a guest and presented the award in the category "Best European Film". The evening focused on support for Ukrainian filmmakers.

ACADEMIES OPEN DOORS: ISTANBUL

15 April 2025

During the Istanbul Film Festival (11-22 April), the European Film Academy supported a meeting between Academy members and festival guests. With the aim of expressing solidarity with the Istanbul film community, Academy members were invited to Firuze IKSU for refreshments and discussions.

FILM HERITAGE AND TREASURES OF EUROPEAN FILM CULTURE

April - December 2025

With the announcement of eleven additional sites designated as “Treasures of European Film Culture” - locations of symbolic significance for European film culture - the European Film Academy continued its activities in the field of film heritage.

The new sites in 2025 included architectural landmarks such as Liège-Guillemins railway station and the Summer Riding School in Salzburg; emblematic urban spaces such as May 1 Square in Piran (Slovenia) and Malko Tarnovo Street in Sofia; buildings such as the Günderrödehaus in Oberwesel and the Schatzalp mountain hotel in Davos; as well as sites of film production such as the Malta Film Studios with their remarkable seawater tanks. Also included were two major historic cinemas - Teatro Tivoli in Lisbon and the Royal Tuschinski Theatre in Amsterdam - the Quiet Man Museum in Cong (Ireland), and an entire landscape, the Curonian Spit on Lithuania’s Baltic coast.

From April 2025 onwards, local events took place at the newly designated sites in Amsterdam, Lisbon, Neringa (Curonian Spit), Oberwesel, Piran and Salzburg, including official plaque unveiling ceremonies attended by local dignitaries and media, representatives of the European Film Academy and members of the respective film industries.

➤ <https://www.europeanfilmacademy.org/activity/treasures-of-film-culture/>

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE LUX AUDIENCE AWARD WINNER

Brussels, Belgium, 29 April 2025

In cooperation with the European Parliament and with the support of the European Commission and Europa Cinemas

The European public and Members of the European Parliament selected FLOW by Gints Zilbalodis as the winner of the LUX Audience Award. Prior to this, the nominated films were presented in more than 500 screenings across European Union countries, with subtitles in the 24 official EU languages. The winner was determined through a combination of a public vote and a vote by Members of the European Parliament, each weighted at 50%. During an official ceremony held in the plenary chamber of the European Parliament in Brussels, the Chair of the Committee on Culture and Education, Nela Riehl, presented the award to the film team.

EUROPEAN FILM CLUB

From February 2025

In collaboration with the European Parliament and its Ambassador Schools (EPAS), the European Film Club recruited film clubs in schools across Europe. The Academy works closely with the Parliament on the LUX Audience Award and, this year, made two of the nominated films available to schools via the European Film Club platform: ANIMAL from Greece and INTERCEPTED from Ukraine. These were viewed by 2,604 young people

May 2026 / MWK

between February and April 2025.

Approximately 45 of these schools, along with many young participants, subsequently joined the European Film Club. Social media activities linked to this collaboration generated 286,000 organic views across all Academy channels. Educational materials were distributed to 2,000 EPAS schools.

Francisca (Portugal), a member of the European Film Club, attended the LUX Award ceremony at the European Parliament in Brussels and reported on the event. She also conducted interviews with Members of the European Parliament during the ceremony.

In June, a national recruitment campaign was launched in Romania as the first country, resulting in press coverage across 20 publications and registrations from more than 60 Romanian schools to date.

The European Film Club is a project co-created by young people from across Europe. In June, four new members were elected to the Youth Council: Jasmin (Turkey), Sara (Portugal), Ioana (Romania) and Francisca (Portugal).

SYMPOSIUM AT GOEAST - FESTIVAL OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN FILM

April 2025

At the invitation of the festival, the CEO and Director of the European Film Academy, Matthijs Wouter Knol, participated as a speaker in the symposium "Grandmothers, Babas, Babushkas - Gender and Ageing in European Cinema".

This year's edition, curated by Boglárka Angéla Farkas, Asja Makarević and Andrea Virginás, explored representations of female ageing in Eastern European cinema and the role of older women in the film industry through six lectures and panel discussions. A total of 14 feature films and three short accompanying films were screened as part of the symposium.

MEMBERS' RECEPTION IN CANNES

May 2025

Approximately 250 members of the European Film Academy gathered for a special cocktail reception. They were joined by the Academy's President, Juliette Binoche, who also served as President of the Jury of the Cannes Film Festival that year. The reception provided a unique and convivial opportunity for exchange and networking.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW ACADEMY MEMBERS

9 May 2025

On the occasion of Europe Day on 9 May, the European Film Academy announced the names of 770 new members. These included Leonardo van Dijn from Belgium; Fatih Akin, Paula Beer, Christian Friedel, Franz Rogowski and Soleen Yusef from Germany; Zar Amir and Lina Soualem from France; Melia Kreiling (Greece/USA) from Greece; Yuval Abraham from Israel; Isabella Rossellini from Italy; Renate Reinsve and Halfdan Ullmann Tøndel

May 2026 / MWK

from Norway; Annemarie Jacir from Palestine; Estibaliz Urresola Solaguren and Isabel Herguera from Spain; Frida Gustavsson, Noomi Rapace and Magnus von Horn from Sweden; Demet Evgâr, Mehmet Günsür (Turkey/Italy), Ercan Kesal and Selin Yeninci from Turkey; Tom Blyth and Eliot Sumner from the United Kingdom; and Tricia Tuttle from the United States.

The announcement was circulated to 5,400 Academy members via the Academy Circular and shared across social media channels, where the European Film Academy has 233,000 followers. It generated 1,068 views on the Academy's website, while the full list of new members received 2,694 views.

➤ <https://www.europeanfilmacademy.org/press/academy-new-members/>

_UNDERSCORE

May - July 2025

Since 2023, this series by the European Film Academy has focused on a range of themes and countries.

Immediately following the Cannes Film Festival, the first edition of the year highlighted the diversity of Palestinian cinema. A dedicated section was created for Academy members on the VOD platform, presenting 18 films by Palestinian filmmakers - including short, feature and documentary films. These were streamed a total of 301 times, with the highest number of views recorded in Germany. An article on the Academy's website provided context on the development and history of Palestinian cinema.

In June, the focus shifted to Polish cinema, marking Poland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the 100th anniversary of Polish film pioneer Wojciech Jerzy Has.

In collaboration with the Polish documentary and feature film studios WFDiF, a dedicated section was also created on the VOD platform for members, showcasing nine Polish film classics. These were streamed a total of 203 times. A feature article on the Academy's website explored the significance of the Łódź Film School and its lasting influence on Polish filmmaking.

To mark the 75th anniversary of the cinema premiere of STROMBOLI, the July edition focused on the artistic collaboration between Roberto Rossellini and Ingrid Bergman and its influence on European cinema. The VOD platform featured the Dutch film STROMBOLI, two documentaries on Ingrid Bergman, and an interview with Isabella Rossellini. These were streamed a total of 336 times.

Each edition of _UNDERSCORE reached 5,400 Academy members via the Academy Circular newsletter, nearly 10,000 film enthusiasts through the regular new

➤ <https://www.europeanfilmacademy.org/palestinian-cinema/>
➤ <https://www.europeanfilmacademy.org/underscore-polish-cinema-tradition/>
➤ <https://www.europeanfilmacademy.org/stromboli/>

KNOWLEDGE SHARING

June 2025

At the Slano Film Days, held from 17 to 21 June 2025 in Slano - a small coastal village in Croatia near Dubrovnik - emerging filmmakers from the Adriatic region were brought together with renowned filmmakers from across the world. Participants included leading European figures such as Maura Delpero, Ruben Östlund, Daniel Brühl, Juho Kuosmanen, Yves Cape, Jasmila Žbanić and Želimir Žilnik, as well as internationally recognised filmmakers including Steve Buscemi, Michel Franco and Michael Seresin.

Film discussions were organised for a small group of up to 20 emerging directors, actors and cinematographers, offering them the opportunity to learn from leading film professionals. In a relaxed setting, without competitive pressure, an intimate environment was created for participants to connect, spend time together, and exchange knowledge, ideas and experiences.

In 2025, Slano Film Days took place for the first time in collaboration with the European Film Academy as part of its Knowledge Sharing activities.

➤ <https://www.europeanfilmacademy.org/activity/knowledge-sharing/>

MEMBERS' SURVEY

17 June 2025

The Academy's 5,400 members were invited to participate in a comprehensive survey to identify their needs, expectations and perspectives regarding membership. The survey ran for one month, and the results were published in September of the same year.

FILMFEST MÜNCHEN

26 June - 6 July 2025

The CEO and Director of the European Film Academy, Matthijs Wouter Knol, participated in the festival as a full jury member in the CineCoPro award category.

The award, endowed with €100,000, recognises the best film co-financed and co-produced by a German producer. It was awarded to the Colombian-Swedish-German co-production UN POETA by Simón Mesa Soto, co-produced by ma.ja.de Fiction (Katharina Bergfeldt, Heino Deckert) in Berlin.

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FEDERATION OF FILM ACADEMIES EUROPE (FACE)

10 July 2025

Mantua (Italy)

Representatives of the national film academies from 20 countries, together with the European Film Academy, met in Italy for the annual General Assembly of the Federation of Film Academies Europe (FACE).

The Federation is a pan-European association officially registered in Luxembourg. It was established with the aim of formalising the relationships between academies that have been collaborating since 2006 through the former FAN of Europe network organised by the European Film Academy.

Members of this network - all institutions responsible for awarding their respective national or regional film awards - meet regularly to exchange insights and developments, to develop ideas for joint activities promoting European cinema, to align their efforts in integrating diversity, inclusion and sustainability into their work, and to strengthen collaboration in film education and audience development across Europe.

In addition to the European Film Academy, the following member institutions were represented:

- Austria: Akademie des österreichischen Films
- Denmark: Danmarks Filmakademi
- Iceland: Íslenska kvikmynda og sjónvarpsakademían
- Italy: Accademia del Cinema Italiano
- Luxembourg: D'Filmakademie
- Netherlands: Dutch Academy for Film
- Norway: Det norske Filmakademiet
- Portugal: Academia Portuguesa de Cinema
- Slovakia: Slovenská filmová a televízna akadémia
- Spain: La Academia de las Artes y las Ciencias Cinematográficas de España
- Spain: Acadèmia del Cinema Català
- Switzerland: Schweizer Filmakademie
- Ukraine: Українська кіноакадемія

The following academies were not in attendance:

- Belarus: Belarusian Independent Film Academy
- Belgium (Wallonia): L'Académie André Delvaux
- Belgium (Flanders): De Ensor Academie

- Czech Republic: Česká filmová a televizní akademie
- France: L'Académie des Arts et Techniques du Cinéma
- Germany: Deutsche Filmakademie
- Greece: Ελληνική Ακαδημία Κινηματογράφου
- Israel: האקדמיה הישראלית לקולנוע וטלוויזיה
- Poland: Polska Akademia Filmowa

➤ <https://www.europeanfilmacademy.org/activity/federation-of-film-academies-europe/>

A SUNDAY IN THE COUNTRY FOR FILM CRITICS

18-21 July 2025

Zagórze Śląskie (Poland)

In cooperation with the BNP Paribas New Horizons International Film Festival

This networking project is aimed at a small group of participating film critics and journalists; in 2025, they came from Estonia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Sweden and Spain. They met with Scott Roxborough, Head of the European Bureau of The Hollywood Reporter and a member of the Academy.

Following an introductory session on Friday evening, the programme began on Saturday with a screening of *SLOW* by Maria Kavtaradze, followed by a discussion with the Lithuanian director on the reception of her film, particularly among deaf and asexual audiences. This was followed by a screening of *YUNAN* by Ameer Fakher Eldin, which follows its protagonist to a small North Sea island. The director subsequently spoke about themes of belonging, filming in such a remote location, and the inclusion of a whale transported by truck from the Netherlands.

On Sunday, the group watched *WHERE ELEPHANTS GO* by Cătălin Rotaru and Gabi Virginia Sarga. The Romanian directors, joined by actress Iulia Verdes, discussed their experiences with film criticism and audiences more broadly. This was followed by the documentary *DO I STILL GET ON YOUR NERVES* by Michał Szcześniak. The Polish director spoke about the protagonists, Monica and Mariusz, and their unusual relationship, which began as that of hostile neighbours.

The programme also included *KONTINENTAL'25* by Radu Jude. The Romanian director reflected on his experiences with film criticism and how it has shaped his approach to filmmaking. The event concluded with *GLORIOUS SUMMER*, the feature debut by Helena Ganjalyan and Bartosz Szpak, portraying three women in a dystopian world living in a Renaissance palace, controlled remotely by a disembodied voice.

The project was communicated to 5,400 Academy members via the Academy Circular newsletter.

➤ <https://www.europeanfilmacademy.org/activity/a-sunday-in-the-country/>

LOCARNO FILM FESTIVAL

6-16 August 2025

Locarno (Switzerland)

As part of the festival, Fatih Abay, Diversity and Inclusion Officer of the Academy, participated in the festival's industry programme. He moderated a panel discussion on gender equality, led a workshop on social sustainability, and held one-to-one sessions with Match Me! producers.

MEETINGS IN STRASBOURG & BRUSSELS

6-8 October 2025

On the occasion of the announcement of the nominations for the LUX Audience Award, which the Academy presents in cooperation with the European Parliament and the European Commission, the CEO and Director of the European Film Academy, Matthijs Wouter Knol, travelled to Strasbourg and Brussels.

In addition to the announcement, a supporting programme took place with representatives of the film teams. There was also a meeting with ARTE to discuss a new collaboration regarding the Academy's honorary award recipients, as well as a meeting with Creative Europe MEDIA (Lucia Recalde, Martin Dawson) for the presentation of the biannual Media Policy Report.

MEETINGS IN SLOVENIA

22-26 October 2025

For a series of meetings with partners, the CEO and Director of the European Film Academy, Matthijs Wouter Knol, travelled to Ljubljana and Portorož at the invitation of the Slovenian Film Centre.

In the Slovenian capital, activities included visits to potential venues for future Academy events (Board meeting), as well as meetings with the Minister of Culture, Dr Asta Vrečko, and with Gregor Stibernik, Director of AIPA (Slovenian collecting society).

In Portorož, May 1 Square was inaugurated as a "Treasure of European Film Culture", with Slovenian filmmakers and Academy members in attendance.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SHORT FILM NOMINATIONS

30 October - 2 November 2025

Valladolid (Spain)

As part of the 70th SEMINCI - Valladolid International Film Festival, the five short films nominated for the European Film Awards were announced.

May 2026 / MWK

Following the announcement, the attending filmmakers participated in a live-streamed discussion on the European Film Awards, addressing the awards procedures, their relevance, the nomination process within the short film category, and the wider industry context.

The nominated films were screened at the festival, each followed by a Q&A with the audience. During the festival's closing gala, broadcast live on television, the nominated filmmakers presented the Golden Spike for Best Short Film.

Sandra Leege, responsible for the short film category at the Academy, attended on behalf of the European Film Academy.

THESSALONIKI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

5-6 November 2025

Thessaloniki (Greece)

Immediately prior to the Academy's Board meeting, the CEO and Director of the European Film Academy, Matthijs Wouter Knol, attended the festival and took part in a meeting with Greek filmmakers from the "Zero Gravity" initiative. He also held a meeting with Lefteris Haritos, President of the Hellenic Film Academy.

FESTIVAL DE CINE EUROPEO DE SEVILLA

16-19 November 2025

Seville (Spain)

The CEO and Director of the European Film Academy, Matthijs Wouter Knol, travelled to Seville on the occasion of the nominations announcement and met with Festival Director Manuel Cristóbal to discuss the renewed agreement with the City of Seville and the festival.

The visit also included a site inspection of the nominations announcement venue (Real Alcázar) and a technical rehearsal. This was followed by a meeting in Madrid at the agency Suma Content to discuss potential Spanish talent, including prospective presenters for the 2026 awards ceremony, as well as a meeting with Board member Paz Lázaro.

SHORT FILM TOUR - NOMINEES 2026

November/December 2025

The European Film Academy's Short Film Tour brings the short films nominated for the European Film Awards to a range of film festivals and cinemas across Europe - and beyond. The stops of the short films nominated for the European Film Awards 2026 up to the end of 2025 were:

- SEMINCI - Valladolid International Film Festival (Spain)
- Zagreb Film Festival (Croatia)

- Festival del Cinema Europeo, Lecce (Italy)
- Art-kino, Rijeka (Croatia)
- International Short Film Festival Leuven (Belgium)
- Luoghi dell'Anima - Italian Film Festival, Pennabilli (Italy)

The current short film tour continues beyond this period.

EUROPEAN AWARD SEASON 2026

17 November 2025 - 16 January 2026

125 partners in 47 countries

in collaboration with the Europa Cinemas network, the International Confederation of Arthouse Cinemas (CICAIE), MUBI, Festival Scope, Filmfriend and DAFilms, as well as numerous local partners

supported by the Creative Europe MEDIA Programme of the European Union

Over the course of eight weeks, the European Award Season celebrated the richness and diversity of European cinema. The pan-European programme concluded with the prestigious gala of the 38th European Film Awards in Berlin.

In its fourth international edition, the European Award Season (formerly the “Month of European Film”) recorded a record level of participation, with more than 125 cities in 47 countries involved. Montenegro once again participated with all cinemas in the country. Thanks to Europa Cinemas, a partner of the Academy, arthouse cinemas from Norway to Malta and from Portugal to Poland placed European films at the centre of their programming, presenting special programmes, events and curated retrospectives. This resulted in more than 43,000 screenings and 1,068,007 admissions (cinema tickets sold).

For the first time, cities outside Europe - including Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Hong Kong and Santiago de Chile - also took part.

In addition, several film festivals, including the long-standing partner Sevilla European Film Festival, aligned with the European Film Academy’s initiative and became part of the programme, alongside national film centres and film museums.

At the same time, the global streaming platform MUBI presented a dedicated focus on European films; the VOD platform DAFilms showcased a selection of European documentaries; Festival Scope highlighted the short film candidates for the European Film Awards; and Filmfriend offered a curated selection of European films via its network of public libraries, enabling audiences worldwide to participate.

➤ <https://www.europeanfilmacademy.org/activity/european-award-season/>

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NOMINATIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN FILM AWARDS

Seville (Spain), 18 November 2025

The nominations for the 38th European Film Awards were announced following the 22nd Festival of European Film at the world-renowned Royal Palace Real Alcázar in Seville, southern Spain. The nominated films and filmmakers were presented to a live audience and via livestream by Spanish actor Óscar Higares and Ukrainian producer and director Maryna Sofiichuk, member of the Board of the European Film Academy.

MEETINGS IN AMSTERDAM AND LONDON

19-23 November 2025

During a meeting with the Netherlands Film Fund, the CEO and Director of the European Film Academy, Matthijs Wouter Knol, discussed future activities in the Netherlands. A separate meeting with the Managing Director of IDFA focused on strengthening future collaboration in the field of documentary film.

This was followed by a special screening of the classic BATTLESHIP POTEMKIN in London for Academy members. Additional meetings took place with Isabel Davis, Executive Director of Screen Scotland, and with Mel Hoyes of the BFI.

ARTSCENICO - EUROPEAN FEDERATION FOR COSTUME & PRODUCTION DESIGN

28-30 November 2025

Paris (France)

Representing the European Film Academy, France Orsenne, Membership Strategy Coordinator, was invited to speak on the panel "Designing a Collective Future: Good Initiatives to Improve Working Conditions in the European Film Industry. She presented the work of the European Film Academy, with a particular focus on the newly established Chapters.

ICFR

As one of the founding members of ICFR (International Coalition for Filmmakers at Risk), the Academy campaigns for filmmakers who are at imminent risk and shows its solidarity. Some of these cases in 2025 were:

- The arrest of Georgian filmmaker Giorgi Mrevlishvili
<https://www.icfr.international/cases/immediately-release-giorgi-mrevlishvili/>
- The persecution of Palestinian filmmaker Hamdan Ballal
<https://www.icfr.international/cases/stand-up-for-hamdan-and-abdallah/>

- The arrest of Afghani filmmaker Sayed Rahim Saidi
<https://www.icfr.international/cases/release-sayed-rahim-saidi/>
- The arrest of Iranian filmmakers Maryam Moghadam and Behtash Sanaeeha
<https://www.icfr.international/cases/clear-maryam-and-behtash/>
- The sentence against Palestinian filmmaker Abdallah Motan
<https://www.icfr.international/cases/release-protect-abdallah-motan/>

NEWSLETTER: „ACADEMY CIRCULAR“

The Academy's newsletter, published approximately once a month as the "Academy Circular", informs Academy members in a visually engaging format about the Academy's activities and key topics. It also highlights individual members, showcases locations designated as "Treasures of European Film Culture", and covers a wide range of additional content.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Following a dedicated strategic approach, the Academy communicates via Facebook, reaching over 121,000 followers, and via Instagram, with more than 108,000 users. In November 2024, the Academy left X (formerly Twitter) to underline its commitment to freedom of expression. It subsequently increased its activity on LinkedIn, where it now has 7,253 followers, strengthening its professional presence within the film industry.

Content includes selected, nominated and awarded films, as well as live posts from national film award ceremonies and major film festivals. Additional content features photographs, quotes, competitions, congratulations and retrospectives on previous award winners.

The Academy's YouTube channel, with 9,840 subscribers, offers insights into the history of the European Film Academy through recordings of awards ceremonies from 1988 to the present day, as well as behind-the-scenes content and several original interview formats. Video content has increased significantly to align with Meta's algorithmic requirements and to reach wider audiences.

EUROPEAN FILM AWARDS 2026

Objectives & Results

- The new concept for the awards ceremony places a clear focus on the art of filmmaking and a strong visual identity. European elements such as languages, music and fashion are also integrated.
- Particular attention was again given this year to sustainability: all correspondence, with very few essential exceptions, was conducted digitally. Instead of printed materials, press lists, photo books and press dossiers were made available for downloading. Catering was exclusively vegan or vegetarian.
- Media interest in the European Film Awards remained exceptionally strong in 2026. Throughout the year, both the awards and the European Film Academy were widely covered across media. A total of 241 accredited media representatives reported internationally across television, radio, print and online platforms.
- In 2026, media monitoring recorded a total of 1,128 articles.
- During the week of the awards ceremony, the Academy's social media channels achieved the following reach: Instagram 12.54 million, Facebook 8.35 million and YouTube 527,470.
- A dedicated campaign engaged three influencers who also attended the ceremony, generating a combined total of 2.15 million views across their Instagram and TikTok channels.
- Once again, 28 European and national film institutions, production and distribution companies, as well as studios, supported the European Film Awards in 2025 through their patronage.
- The Academy's established short film programme was successfully continued and expanded: at 30 European film festivals, one European short film from the competition was selected as a candidate for the European Film Awards 2026. The participating festivals then selected five nominations, from which the Academy members chose the winner.
- As in previous years, the Academy team organised the selection, nomination and awards procedures. The selected and nominated films were made available exclusively to Academy members via a password-protected VOD platform.

- With six awards, the Norwegian film SENTIMENTAL VALUE was the big winner of the evening. The ceremony was broadcast by 49 television and streaming partners across 29 countries in Europe. For the first time, the awards ceremony was positioned within the international awards season, closer to the Golden Globes and within the Oscars nomination voting period. The ceremony marked the glamorous conclusion of the European Award Season, which had begun in November. Under the title “Why Do We Love European Cinema?”, the show presented an artistic journey created by Irish-Scottish filmmaker Mark Cousins and the Academy’s creative team, including German film composer Dascha Dauenhauer and theatre director Robert Lehniger.
- In total, awards were presented in 21 categories in 2026, including honorary awards for Norwegian actress Liv Ullmann (Lifetime Achievement) and Italian director Alice Rohrwacher (European Achievement in World Cinema), as well as the European Co-Production Award for German producers Maren Ade, Jonas Dornbach and Janine Jackowski.

EUROPEAN FILM AWARDS 2026

Funding / Sponsors

In years when the European Film Awards take place in Berlin, the overall funding volume is higher, as local partners in “international host years” cover parts of the event and production costs.

In 2025, the costs for the event, TV production and PR were financed as follows:

Public Funding

- Creative Europe MEDIA Sub-programme of the European Union
- State Budget of Berlin
- Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM)
- Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg (MBB)
- German Federal Film Board (FFA)

Own Resources

- Membership fees and contributions for accompanying persons
- Sponsorship (cash and in-kind), see below
- Licensing income

Awards Partners

- Cartoon
- Eurimages
- FIPRESCI
- Vimeo

Official Partners

- Aveda
- Dr Irena Eris
- Interprefy
- PFX
- RentitNOW

Suppliers

- 1664 blanc
- Carlsberg
- Dorint Kurfürstendamm
- Elephant Bay
- Kopf & Gaumen
- Theaterkunst

Cultural Partners

- CICAÉ
- DAFilms
- Europa Cinemas
- European Film Promotion
- Festival Scope

- filmfriend
- MUBI
- Yorck Kino-Gruppe

Media Partners

- ARTE (Europe)
- Athinorama (Greece)
- Audiovisual451 (Spain)
- British Cinematographer (United Kingdom)
- Cinebulletin (Switzerland)
- CINEMA (Norway)
- Cinema Sétima Arte (Portugal)
- Cineuropa (Europe)
- Deutsche Welle (Germany)
- EBU (Europe)
- Ekran (Slovenia)
- Euronews (Europe)
- European Animation Journal (Europe)
- Filmexplorer (Switzerland)
- Filmkrant (Netherlands)
- Filmweb (Poland)
- FLIX (Greece)
- FM4 Radio (Austria)
- Kino (Bulgaria)
- Kinopress (Armenia)
- Lithuanian Radio and Television (Lithuania)
- Moviezine (Sweden)
- MyMovies (Italy)
- Screen International (Europe)
- Sleek Magazine (Germany)
- The European Correspondent (Europe)
- The Hollywood Reporter (Europe)
- The Hot Corn (Italy)
- Trois Couleurs (France)

An additional key contribution to funding in 2025 came from the 28 “Patrons” from the international film industry:

Austria:	Österreichisches Filminstitut
Belgium:	Centre du Cinéma et de l'Audiovisuel de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles Vlaams Audiovisueel Fonds (VAF)
Cyprus:	Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth
Denmark:	Det Danske Filminstitut
Finland:	Suomen elokuvasäätiö
France:	Centre National du Cinéma et de l'Image Animée (CNC)
Iceland:	Kvikmyndamiðstöð Íslands
Ireland:	Screen Ireland / Fís Éireann
Italy:	Cinecittà SpA
Kosovo:	Qendra Kinematografike e Kosovës (QKK)
Lithuania:	Lietuvos kino centras
Luxembourg:	Film Fund Luxembourg
Malta:	Ministry for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government
Montenegro:	Filmski Centar Crne Gore
Netherlands:	Nederlands Filmfonds
North Macedonia:	Agency for Film
Norway:	Norsk filminstitutt
Poland:	Polski Instytut Sztuki Filmowej
Portugal:	Instituto do Cinema e do Audiovisual (ICA)
Slovenia:	Slovenski Filmski Center
Spain:	Catalan Institute for Cultural Companies (Ministry of Culture of Catalonia) ICAS - Instituto de la Cultura y las Artes de Sevilla ICAA - Instituto de la Cultura y las Artes Audiovisuales
Sweden:	Svenska Filminstitutet
Switzerland:	SWISS FILMS, supported by the Swiss Federal Office of Culture
International:	Eurimages Internašunála Sámi Filbmainstituhtta

Streaming Partner

- Acadèmia del Cinema Català (Spain)
- Academia Portuguesa de Cinema (Portugal)
- ART-kino Rijeka (Croatia)
- ARTE (international)
- Audiovisual451 (Spain)
- British Cinematographer (United Kingdom)
- CINEMA (Norway)
- CineMi (Italy)
- Cineuropa (international)
- Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival (France)
- Cork International Film Festival (Ireland)
- Curtas Vila do Conde - International Film Festival (Portugal)

- DAFilms (international)
- German Film Academy
- DokuFest Kosovo
- Encounters Film Festival (United Kingdom)
- Euronews (international)
- Filmweb (Poland)
- FLIX (Greece)
- FM4 Radio (Austria)
- Free Zone Film Festival (Serbia)
- Ghent Film Festival (Belgium)
- Helsinki International Film Festival (Finland)
- Istanbul Film Festival (Turkey)
- Locarno Film Festival (Switzerland)
- MyMovies (Italy)
- PÖFF Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival (Estonia)
- radioEINS (Germany)
- Slovak Film and Television Academy (Slovakia)
- Sofia International Film Festival (Bulgaria)
- Splendid Palace Riga (Latvia)
- Swiss Films (Switzerland)
- Tampere Film Festival (Finland)
- The Luxembourg Film Academy
- The Norwegian Film Institute (Norway)
- The Polish Film Academy (Poland)
- Vienna Shorts (Austria)
- Zagreb Film Festival (Croatia)

TV Broadcast

- 3cat (Spain)
- BHRT (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- Cosmote (Greece)
- HRT (Croatia)
- LRT (Lithuania)
- Movistar+ (Andorra)
- Movistar+ (Spain)
- Pickx+ (Belgium)
- RTVK (Kosovo)
- RTVSlo (Slovenia)
- TVN (Poland)
- TVR (Romania)

38th EUROPEAN FILM AWARDS

16-18 January 2026

Wednesday, 3 December 2025

18:00 - 19:30 **General Assembly** (Academy members only)
online

Friday, 16 January 2026

10:00 - 19:00 Academy Hub
Hotel Dorint Kurfürstendamm, Augsburger Str. 41, 10789 Berlin

16:00 - 18:00 **Guided Tour: Theaterkunst GmbH**
Europe's leading costume house

17:00 - 19:00 ICDA Reception
Lounge Bar Le Faubourg
Dorint Hotel Kurfürstendamm, Augsburger Str. 41, 10789 Berlin

17:00 **Academy Screening: SCENES FROM A MARRIAGE** (1974)
by Ingmar Bergman
Followed by a Q&A with actress Liv Ullmann, recipient of the
European Lifetime Achievement Award
delphi LUX, Yva-Bogen, Kantstraße 10, 10623 Berlin

20:00 - 22:00 **Member-hosted private dinners**
hosted by 30 Berlin-based Academy members

20:00 - 23:30 **Mayor's Night**
Rotes Rathaus, Rathausstraße 15, 10178 Berlin

22:00 - 01:00 Informal Reception
Hotel Dorint Kurfürstendamm bar

Saturday, 17 January 2026

10:00 - 15:00 Academy Hub
Hotel Dorint Kurfürstendamm, Augsburger Str. 41, 10789 Berlin

11:00 **Guided tours: Deutsche Kinemathek**
„Deutsche Kinemathek“ (90 min)
12:30 „Deutsche Kinemathek“ (90 min)
E-Werk, Mauerstraße 79, 10117 Berlin

13:30 **Academy Screening HAPPY AS LAZZARO** (2018)

Followed by a Q&A with director Alice Rohrwacher, recipient of the European Achievement in World Cinema Award
delphi LUX, Yva-Bogen, Kantstraße 10, 10623 Berlin

38th EUROPEAN FILM AWARDS

- 15:00-18:00** **Red Carpet**
Haus der Kulturen der Welt (HKW)
John-Foster-Dulles-Allee 10, 10557 Berlin
- 18:00-22:00** **Awards Ceremony (incl. 30' break)**
Haus der Kulturen der Welt (HKW)
John-Foster-Dulles-Allee 10, 10557 Berlin
- 22:00-02:00** **Aftershow Party**
Haus der Kulturen der Welt (HKW)
John-Foster-Dulles-Allee 10, 10557 Berlin

Sunday, 18 January 2026

- 10:00 - 14:00 Academy Hub
Hotel Dorint Kurfürstendamm, Augsburger Str. 41, 10789 Berlin