

BUL GARIAN CINEMA

2024

facts & figures



НАЦИОНАЛЕН ФИЛМОВ ЦЕНТЪР
BULGARIAN NATIONAL FILM CENTER



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**BULGARIAN
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Sofia – May, 2024

EDITORIAL

This special edition, prepared by the Bulgarian National Film Centre in conjunction with Creative Europe MEDIA desk – Bulgaria, and with the help of the Observatory of Cultural Economics – Bulgaria, presents the current state of affairs in Bulgaria’s audiovisual industry.

We did our best to offer more information both about the cinema education and studies, the financing opportunities in this country, as well as about gaining support outside Bulgaria, the recent Bulgarian productions and their success, about the TV environment and the legislation.

We believe that the booklet could expand on the idea of the processes taking place in Bulgarian film industry. We also believe that the reference information, providing addresses and contact details of producers, festivals, distributors and institutions, could prove helpful to our readers to establish contact and enter into dialogue with their Bulgarian colleagues more easily.

If not mentioned explicitly, the source of information is the National Film Center.

I. LEGISLATION

The institutional and legal environment for the development of the Bulgarian film industry, put in place over the years of transition, consists of primary and secondary legislation, and the institutional bodies thereby established. The Bulgarian film industry functions under three legal frameworks:

- the national legal framework;
- the *acquis communautaire*;
- the international legal framework.

National legal framework

Two major periods of creating the legal and institutional environment at a national level are discernible: the 1990s, when the legal framework of the sector was amended on more than one occasion, albeit only partially (for example, automatic funding of co-productions was introduced at the time (1994)); and the period following 1997, relating to preparation for this country's EU accession and the development of an integral, specialised, regulatory framework. Over the decade, Bulgarian culture obtained its own sectoral law, the *Act on Protection and Development of Culture* (1999), while in 2003, a specific law on Bulgarian film was passed—the *Film Industry Act*.

The audiovisual sector and, in particular, audiovisual products and services have a dual cultural and economic nature, and their regulation reflects the entire economic infrastructure. So, in view of the considerable number of legal instruments intended for the sector, the legislation at the national level should be divided into 'direct' and 'indirect', according to its impact.

The direct legislative instruments, providing the main structures of organisation, management, and funding, are as follows.

The *Act on Protection and Development of Culture* (1999), where, for the first time, the term 'producership in culture' is introduced and potential forms of funding are provided, as well as the equality of public and private subjects with regard to state aid.

The *Film Industry Act* (2003), which provides for a stable environment of development of the national film industry through direct and indirect measures, facilitating the overall process of making a film production, from

the idea through exhibition to promotion. Financial stability is guaranteed by the mechanism set out in Article 17, under which the amount of the annual subsidy may not be less than the total of the previous-year average budgets of 12 feature films, 22 full-length documentaries and 250 minutes of animation, respectively.

In terms of percentage, state aid is divided thus: no less than 85 per cent for film production; up to 5 per cent for financing the distribution of films; up to 5 per cent for financing festivals and cultural events; up to 5 per cent for financing the promotion and screening of films, of which 90 per cent is for the screening of films and 10 per cent for the promotion of films; with up to 5 per cent for support to Bulgarian films involving national events and the celebration of historic figures and events.

Under the Film Industry Act, the Bulgarian National Film Center was transformed into an Executive Agency with an information office under the MEDIA programme.

The *Radio and Television Act* (1998) regulates the functioning of public and commercial radio and TV broadcasters. As regards national audiovisual policy, the law introduced EU standards for the share of European works and those made by independent producers. An obligation was placed on the public broadcaster, the Bulgarian National Television (BNT), to support the making and screening of national audiovisual production with no less than 10 per cent of the BNT subsidy slated for the making of Bulgarian TV films. The law has been amended on more than one occasion in conformity with the dynamism of the *acquis communautaire* (Audiovisual Media Services Directive, AVMSD) and the development of new media services in the digital era. The Radio and Television Act is applied by a media regulator, the Council for Electronic Media (CEM).

The *Electronic Communications Act* (2007) covers some aspects of digital television in Bulgaria. The law is applied by a national telecommunications regulator, the Communications Regulation Commission (CRC). In compliance with the amendments to the *Electronic Communications Act* (2011), Bulgaria switched over to digital television as of 30 September 2013. Analogue signals were turned off across the country.

The *Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Act* (1993) establishes the framework for the intellectual products market and related moral and property rights. The film industry is a chain of authors creating value in a number of differentiated, though related, markets. The Act also protects and unites creators by providing the opportunity to create collective bodies for managing both copyright and neighbouring rights (Filmautor, Artistautor, ProPhon). This body of legislation received a natural and important extension with the later adoption of the following Law.

The *Act on Administrative Regulation of the Production and Trade with Optic Discs, Matrixes and Other Media containing Objects of Copyright and Neighbouring Rights* (2005), which sets the reproduction, distribution, import and export of discs, matrixes and other storage media containing objects of copyright and neighbouring rights.

The Act establishes a certification regime pertaining to the commissioning of production of matrixes with recordings and their reproduction on optical or other storage media containing objects of copyright and neighbouring rights, as well as to transactions in acquiring rights to reproduce and/or distribute; all of these being activities relating to the distribution channels of audiovisual media products and accounting for modern technological changes in the distribution of audiovisual services.

The indirect regulatory framework of Bulgaria's film industry relates to:

- the *Commerce Act* (1991), under which legal entities engaged in producing, distribution, exhibition, and/or promotion of film production are registered;
- the *Protection of Competition Act* (1998), which is of increasing importance in the context of the European single market, what with the specifics of film productions, which are regarded as a 'cultural exception', but are equally part of a liberal economic environment;
- the *State Aid Act* (2007), which regulates the conditions, terms, and procedures for the granting of state aid.

The laws relating to social security and the payment of those working in the sector. are also Indirectly regulatory.

The EU Acquis

Bulgaria joined the European Union on 1 January 2007. EU primary law regulates policies in the field of culture as being under the cognisance of each of the EU Member States. The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union provides for freedom of information and pluralism of the media, freedom of the arts, and freedom to conduct a business. These four freedoms underlying the single domestic market are also applicable to audiovision.

As the audiovisual sector has both economic and cultural dimensions, the EU acquis also deals with economic issues, including competition and state aid standards. Bulgaria introduces on time the directives significant to the sector. Audiovision is in fact a reflection of the entire economic infrastructure (falling,

as it does, within the scope of the liberalisation of the exchange of products and services within the single European market) and this is where EU law is best developed on uniting the market and the state budget, encouraging new technologies while at the same time preserving the cultural specifics of the product.

International Legal Framework

Bulgaria is party to a number of international legal acts vital to the film industry. Within the Council of Europe, Bulgaria is a party to the *European Convention of Cinematographic Co-productions*.

II. INSTITUTIONS

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

The Bulgarian Ministry of Culture is primarily responsible for creating, developing, and implementing state cultural policies. It also governs distribution of state budget in cultural areas such as cinema, theatre, music, the visual and fine arts. There are several distinct cultural entities such as museums, galleries, community art centres, art schools and art academies, libraries, that come under its jurisdiction. The Ministry is also the principal of the Bulgarian Cultural Institutes abroad (Berlin, Bratislava, Budapest, London, Moscow, Paris, Prague, Rome, Skopje, Vienna, and Warsaw).

BULGARIAN NATIONAL FILM CENTER

The Bulgarian National Film Center is an Executive Agency of the Bulgarian Ministry of Culture that administrates the implementation of the Film Industry Act (FIA). The principal functions of the Agency are to finance film production, the distribution and exhibition of films and TV series; to support the promotion of Bulgarian films, locally and abroad; and to stimulate the development of film culture. The Bulgarian National Film Center represents Bulgaria at the Board of Management of the Eurimages Fund of the Council of Europe; it is the coordinator for Bulgaria of the European Audiovisual Observatory and hosts the MEDIA office of the Creative Europe Programme of the EU. The Bulgarian National Film Centre has been a European Film Promotion member since 2005 and is also a member of EFAD.

Additionally, the Bulgarian National Film Center organises the Golden Rose Festival of Bulgarian Feature Films (Varna), and the Golden Rhyton Documentary and Animation Film Festival (Plovdiv) on an annual basis. The newly established Cash Rebate scheme is also managed by the agency.

BULGARIAN NATIONAL TELEVISION

Bulgarian National Television is a national public broadcasting station and was officially launched on 26 December 1959. At present, BNT operates on the basis of the Law for Radio and Television of 1998. It has four regional centres located in the cities of Blagoevgrad, Plovdiv, Ruse, and Varna. In 1999, BNT started broadcasting the 'BNT World' Satellite Channel. In 2001, BNT was licensed as a nationwide communication operator and TV broadcaster. It is an active member of the European Broadcasting Union, and of the following international organizations: EGTA, IMZ, CIRCOM Regional, FIAT and BBLF.

BULGARIAN NATIONAL FILM ARCHIVE

The Bulgarian National Film Archive was founded in 1952. In 1959, it became a member of the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAP). Today, BNFA has the status of National Cultural Institution, directly under the Ministry of Culture; it is a legal entity funded by government. It holds the national film archive, which consists of some 15,000 titles with more than 40,000 copies.

The absolute priority of Bulgarian National Film Archive is to preserve 'moving pictures' for the posterity. BNFA is in the process of transferring the flammable nitrate films of the home collection to non-flammable, digital storage devices. A significant part of the BNFA film collection is regularly screened at the Odeon Cinema in Sofia. Films are screened in the context of a planned annual calendar including anniversaries, dates, and notable events in Bulgarian and world cinema.

UNION OF BULGARIAN FILM-MAKERS

The Union of Bulgarian Filmmakers is a creative professional organisation making its own contribution to the development of film art and audio vision in Bulgaria as an active party in the devising of all concepts, legislation, norms, and decisions that correspond to the problems of audiovisual culture. The Union represents its members in international organisations: FERA, FIPRESCI, ASIFA, CIFEJ, UNI-MEI (EURO-ME). Through its activities, the Union of Bulgarian Filmmakers contributes to the growth and protection of Bulgarian cinema; to the elaboration of the theory and history of film; to the aesthetic education of cinemagoers; and to the application of criteria of high art.

FILMAUTOR

Established in 1993, Filmautor is the Bulgarian Society for collective management of authors, and producers' rights in audiovisual works. It is recognised by the Ministry of Culture in the Register of Collecting Societies under Article 40 of the Bulgarian Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Act. Among its members, there are more than 1,500 directors, scriptwriters, camera operators, artists of animation and film producers. Filmautor is a member of CISAC and has signed reciprocal representation agreements with 27 sister societies from all over the world.

NATIONAL CULTURE FUND

The National Culture Fund was formed within the framework of the Ministry of Culture and began functioning in November 2000. Its principal objective is to support the development of culture by raising, managing, and spending funds for the purpose of pursuing national policy in the field of culture and

as defined in the Culture Protection and Development Act. The priorities in NCF's activity are also in compliance with the criteria elaborated in the Chapter, 'Culture & Audiovisual Policy', of the EU Treaty of Accession of Bulgaria. The Fund's financial resources are raised through a subsidy set forth in the State Budget for the respective year, while other sources of funding are described in Article 31 of the Culture Protection and Development Act. Funds are predominantly granted for artistic projects aiming at development of the cultural sector. Artistic projects are funded following the announcement of competitions under a programme prepared and approved in advance by the Managing Board. Individual artists, and private, municipal, and state cultural organisations are equally eligible to take part in these competitions.

STATE INSTITUTE FOR CULTURE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The State Institute supports and works towards priority delivery of national and international cultural projects and programmes as an element of the transformation of cultural cooperation into integrated intercultural dialogue. It offers assistance to Bulgarian diplomatic missions abroad in their efforts to expand bilateral and multilateral cultural relations and cooperation. It preserves, makes acquisitions, and promotes the artwork collection of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria.

The Institute supports the participation of Bulgarian films in European and international film festivals, and is an active contributor to the training modules of the Diplomatic Institute and other educational organisations that deal with the possibilities of cultural diplomacy. In 2021, it became a full member of EUNIC–European Union National Institutes for Culture, and the Global Public Diplomacy Network–GPDNet, which creates prerequisites for new partnerships and the realisation of joint international projects.

OBSERVATORY OF CULTURAL ECONOMICS

The Observatory of Cultural Economics, Sofia, was set up early in 2008 as an open research platform. Its major mission is to provide sustainable support for arts and culture through devising and disseminating economic and financial analyses and prognoses to facilitate the development of the cultural sector. The goal of the Observatory of Cultural Economics is to develop and encourage the theory and practice of economic analysis in the cultural sector; to act as a mediator between arts, society, politicians, researchers, i.e., to foster the efficient inclusion of the cultural institutions in building cultural policies and strategies. To this end, the Observatory initiates discussions, develops cultural projects, and encourages the establishment of networks and communities in the field of cultural economics.

III. STATE AID

The Bulgarian National Film Center focuses on support for the creation of competitive Bulgarian films with high artistic and commercial potential and opportunities for international recognition; promoting public interest in Bulgarian and European films and access to various forms of film art. Since 2003, the Film Industry Act (FIA) and its implementing regulation create the conditions for objectivity and transparency in the competitive selection procedure for film projects, and priority conditions for supporting young artists throughout the process of film production.

With an amendment to the FIA made at the end of 2018, revised rules and conditions for the application of Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 (GBER) were introduced: two aid schemes for financing the Bulgarian film industry, for production (case SA.52684) and for distribution (case SA.52685) respectively, expiring on 31.12.2020. It is necessary to amend the method of providing state aid under already-existing formats and to introduce two new schemes under Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014: concerning reimbursement of expenditure and festivals and cultural events. Following the action taken over more than 18 months, a new draft law concerning amendments to the FIA was introduced at the end of 2020. In August of that year, Regulation (EU) No. 2020/972 was adopted, regarding the extension of the expiry of the existing state aid schemes Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 and Regulation (EU) No. 1407/2013 until 31.12.2023.

These new amendments to the FIA came into effect as of March 2021; in addition to the two procedures for state support for production and distribution (Art. 54 GBER), three new schema—for the reimbursement of film production costs, including series (Art. 54 GBER), for the production of series (Art. 54 GBER), and for festivals and cultural events (Art. 53 GBER)—were introduced. And again, to implement these five plans, it is necessary, first, to notify the EC of the existence of the new schemes and, second, to adopt new administrative rules and begin their implementation. The Bulgarian National Film Center's new rules of procedure for implementing the FIA were adopted in August 2021, but, until now – the beginning of 2023 – an organisational regulation of the Center, ensuring its administrative capacity – a sub-legislative normative act, which is a mandatory condition for implementation of amendments to the FIA and a necessary condition for the introduction and implementation of the new schemes – has not been adopted.

Nevertheless, 2023 may be defined as a relatively successful year in fulfilling the goals set by the Bulgarian National Film Center. In that year, a total of

44 films were produced: 12 feature films (8 feature-length and 4 shorts), 14 documentaries and 9 animations, of which 4 were directorial debuts. And, last but not least, 9 international co-productions, providing opportunities for the international recognition of Bulgarian cinema.

Public funding for Bulgarian film industry 2015–2020
(in BGN; BGN 1 = €0.511)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Film production	12,064,100	12,219,369	11,403,300	11,856,160	13,140,952	13,386,030
National film production	8,786,400	7,064,169	8,582,600	9,826,420	11,180,852	10,357,230
* <i>Feature films</i>	6,923,200	5,361,569	6,538,600	7,899,420	9,205,535	8,011,180
* <i>Documentaries</i>	1,382,800	1,267,400	1,262,300	1,202,100	919,600	1,138,250
* <i>Animations</i>	480,400	435,200	781,700	724,900	1,055,717	1,207,800
Minority coproduction	1,624,000	1,687,500	1,366,200	809,940	634,900	1,261,500
Development	296,700	323,300	253,700	215,500	282,500	391,000
First film	1,317,000	3,124,400	1,005,800	904,400	1,022,700	1,376,300
TV coproduction	40,000	20,000	195,000	99,900	20,000	0,000
Distribution & exhibition	312,480	368,740	992,530	417,640	1,020,914	888,870
Festivals & promotion	823,420	611,891	804,170	543,000	461,000	423,000
TOTAL	13,200,000	13,200,000	13,200,000	12,816,800	14,622,866	14,697,900

Public funding for Bulgarian film industry 2021–2023
after the law amendments
(in BGN; BGN 1 = €0.511)

	2021	2022	2023
Films production	3,891,700	14,179,848	15,292,270
National film production	3,187,200	9,980,548	9,434,930
<i>* Feature films</i>	<i>2,685,500</i>	<i>7,331,348</i>	<i>5,898,080</i>
<i>* Documentaries</i>	<i>306,200</i>	<i>1,727,700</i>	<i>2,321,800</i>
<i>* Animations</i>	<i>195,500</i>	<i>921,500</i>	<i>1,215,050</i>
Development	34,000	828,500	689,080
First film	386,500	796,500	2,417,400
TV coproduction	0,000	25,000	79,860
National events & eminent figures films	0,000	71,800	86,000
Minority coproduction	284,000	2,477,500	2,585,000
Distribution	0,000	670,596	1,275,527
Festivals & culture events	0,000	974,140	1,281,136
Promotion & exhibition	0,000	1,295,119	1,292,846
Serials production	0,000	0,000	2,305,000
25% Cash rebate Scheme	0,000	0,000	3,145,510
TOTAL	3,891,700	17,119,703	24,592,289

**State subsidy for film industry:
amounts according to the state budgets for respective years
(in BGN; BGN 1 = €0.511)**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Subsidy for film industry according to the state budget	13,200,000	13,200,000	13,200,000	13,200,000	14,700,000	14,700,000	16,000,000	26,000,000	44,000,000
Ministry of Culture total budget expenditures	126,693,600	139,547,501	157,143,900	175,282,400	194,396,200	217,050,500	244,617,100	344,491,800	357,307,000
Percentage of subsidy for film industry to the Ministry of Culture total budget	10,42%	9,45%	8,39%	7,53%	7,56%	6,56%	6,54%	7,54%	12,31%

**Average film budgets
(in BGN; BGN 1 = €0.511)**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Features	1,829,960	1,398,847	1,339,302	1,340,782	1,498,902	1,550,742	1,485,943	1,970,135	1,989,243
Documentaries	144,779	130,044	133,077	129,331	202,871	202,337	0,000	163,048	178,437
Animation per minute	12,346	11,815	11,804	12,197	12,926	12,261	14,010	14,212	13,578

Film projects, supported by Bulgarian National Film Center in 2023

	Production		Development	Minority coproduction	Total
Features	23	4 first films	16	9	48
Documentaries	27	5 first films	11	7	45
Animations	9	3 first films	2	-	11
	59		29	16	104

Films, supported by Bulgarian National Film Center, completed in 2023

	Production		Minority coproduction	Total
Features	12	- first films	7	19
Documentaries	14	1 first film	2	16
Animations	9	3 first films	-	9
	35		9	44

INTERNATIONAL CO-PRODUCTION SCHEME

The following activities in the field of co-production are eligible for funding by the Bulgarian National Film Center:

- minority co-production of feature films, short features, short and feature-length documentaries and animation;
- local theatrical distribution of Bulgarian movies (including supported minority co-productions);
- cross-border production of series (features, documentaries, and animation).

Selection criteria

State aid is granted on a competitive basis to film projects selected by a National Commission of experts. A project shall be considered in accordance with the competition procedures, in sessions held by the Art Commission and the Financial Commission, respectively, within three months of the date of its submission.

Applicants shall be rated according to the following set of criteria:

- artistic potential in the European context of cultural diversity;
- commercial potential and prospects for international recognition;
- economic justification for the proposed budget;
- comprehensiveness of the strategic plan submitted by the producer;
- professional experience of the producer and director; viewers' recognition of their earlier works; recognition of those works at international festivals, and nominations by professional organisations and associations.

Eligibility

Only production companies registered under the Bulgarian Commerce Act *and* with the Bulgarian National Film Center shall be eligible for funding.

- cross-border productions and films produced under conditions of co-production with countries—parties to the Convention of the Council of Europe on Cinematographic Co-production (revised) 30 January 2017, Rotterdam—and other countries with which The Republic of Bulgaria has concluded agreements in the field of the film and audio-visual industry may receive public funding, following an application by the Bulgarian producer;
- cross-border productions of series with a duration of 6–14 episodes per season with a duration per episode exceeding 40 minutes of pure programme time, and for Bulgarian animated series with a total series duration of not less than 24 minutes, which are produced by independent producers at the conditions of co-production with countries—parties to the Convention on cinematographic co-production—and other countries with which the Republic of Bulgaria has concluded agreements in the field of the film and audio-visual industry;
- state support for projects may not exceed 50 per cent of the eligible costs;
- at least 75 per cent of the allocated state funding for the production of series according to the scheme is to be spent within the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria;

- the contribution of a foreign coproducer to the project shall be facilitated by an international, national, or regional fund or institution, and/or a national TV broadcaster within the territory of the foreign coproducer's country;
- the share of the Bulgarian producer in the project budget shall be not less than 10 per cent for a bilateral co-production, and not less than 5 per cent for a multilateral co-production.

Deadlines and total amounts

The Bulgarian National Film Center schedules **four deadlines on an annual basis for minority co-productions and two for series.**

Funding for 2024, amounting to BGN 3.1 million (aprox 1.6 million EUR), shall be granted at extraordinary sessions on international co-production and cross-border productions of series as follows:

	First Session		Second Session		Third Session		Fourth Session	
Type of projects	Submission Deadline	Decision-making	Submission Deadline	Decision-making	Submission Deadline	Decision-making	Submission Deadline	Decision-making
Fiction films	19.01.2024	23.02.2024	01.03.2024	31.05.2024	19.07.2024	23.08.2024	02.09.2024	29.11.2024
Fiction Series	08.03.2024	26.04.2024	02.08.2024	23.10.2024				
Docu films	19.01.2024	23.02.2023	08.03.2024	26.04.2024	19.07.2024	23.08.2024	09.09.2024	25.10.2023
Docu Series	15.03.2024	03.05.2024	09.08.2024	01.11.2024				
Animation films	19.01.2024	23.02.2024	15.03.2024	19.04.2024	19.07.2024	23.08.2024	16.09.2024	18.10.2023
Animation Series	22.03.2024	10.05.2024	16.08.2024	08.11.2024				

For more information and forms, please visit our website at www.nfc.bg

THE 25% CASH REBATE SCHEME

The scheme allows for the reimbursement of expenses in the amount of 25 per cent of all eligible costs incurred for the production of a work, related to services provided in the Republic of Bulgaria by natural persons registered under the legislation of a member state of the European Union, or of another state that is a party to the Agreement on the European Economic Area, or of the Swiss Confederation; whose income, generated from a source in the Republic of Bulgaria, is subject to final taxation under Bulgarian legislation. Eligible costs shall not exceed 80 per cent of the total production budget.

- feature film with a duration of over 70 minutes;
- documentary longer than 60 minutes;
- documentary series with a duration of each episode of over 40 minutes;
- animated film of over 24 minutes;
- animated series with a total duration of over 24 minutes;
- a film intended for broadcast on television or on platforms, with a duration of over 70 minutes;
- series with a duration of each episode of over 40 minutes.

IV. INTERNATIONAL FILM SUPPORT

CREATIVE EUROPE MEDIA

The Creative Europe program 2021–2027 has a budget of €2.44 billion, compared to €1.47 billion of the previous program (2014–2020). Creative Europe invests in actions that reinforce cultural diversity and respond to the needs and challenges of the cultural and creative sectors.

The main objectives of the program are to safeguard, develop and promote European cultural and linguistic diversity and heritage increase the competitiveness and economic potential of the cultural and creative sectors, in particular the audiovisual sector, The novelties of the program will contribute to the recovery of these sectors, reinforcing their efforts to become more inclusive, more digital and environmentally more sustainable.

The Creative Europe programme is divided in 3 **strands** – MEDIA, Culture, Cross sectorial.

The MEDIA strand of the Creative Europe programme supports the European film and audiovisual industries to develop, distribute and promote European works, taking into account today's digital environment. In addition it

- encourages **cooperation across the value chain** of the audiovisual industry and at EU level in order to scale up enterprises and European content globally
- nurtures **talents** – wherever they come from – and facilitates knowledge-sharing
- **supports innovative solutions** to meet the market demands and trends
- **engages with audiences** of all ages, especially the younger generations

CREATIVE EUROPE MEDIA AND BULGARIA

Bulgaria was part of MEDIA family since 2002. The MEDIA's information desk in Bulgaria is opened since 2003. CREATIVE EUROPE Desk Bulgaria has two offices: MEDIA and Culture.

The official website of the desk is: www.creativeeurope.bg

Support for Bulgarian projects

Year	Support (EUR)
2014	625 982
2015	361 082
2016	423 979
2017	580 479
2018	645 555
2019	664 457
2020	812 016
2021	933 128
2022	1 087 970
2023	1 609 532
Total:	7 744 180

Source: CED MEDIA – Bulgaria

EURIMAGES

Eurimages is a cultural support fund established in 1989 within the framework of the Council of Europe with 38 member states, plus Canada.

Eurimages promotes the European audiovisual industry by providing financial support to European cinematographic works. In doing so, it encourages cooperation between professionals established in different European countries. Eurimages has three support schemes: coproduction, theatrical distribution and exhibition.

Since its establishment, EURIMAGES has supported **2344 international co-productions** for a total amount of approximately **668 million Euros**.

As globalization and digital era necessitate changes, the course of future development of Eurimages is going towards opening to edgier movies and expanding beyond European borders.

Following an external evaluation, the Fund has embarked on an in-depth reform of its governance and decision-making process, as well as a review of its working procedures. This reform affects in particular the co-production support programme, the modalities of which changed on **1 January 2022**.

The governance and decision-making arrangements of the Fund are structured as follows:

The **Board of Management**, composed of representatives from each of the Member States, defines the Fund's policy and strategic orientations, decides on the conditions for granting financial support, and adopts and monitors the Fund's budget.

The **Executive Committee**, composed of one third of the national representatives on a rotating basis, is mandated to take decisions on any matter, including the adoption of recommendations for financial support developed by the working groups on the different support programmes.

Independent external experts – from the film, audiovisual and cultural industries – are responsible for assessing applications for support and making recommendations for the allocation of financial assistance in accordance with the selection criteria and guidelines defined by the Board of Management.

EURIMAGES AND BULGARIA

Bulgaria has been a member of Eurimages since 1993. The state has signed the European Convention of Cinematographic Coproduction in 2003 and the revised Council of Europe Convention on Cinematographic Co-production in 2021.

Supported by the Fund in the last three years for a total amount round 2,8 M euros:

LUKA by Jessica Woodworth, HELLO by Stefan Komandarev, WINDLESS by Pavel Vesnakov, STRANDZA by Pepa Hristova, IRENA by Giedre Zickyte, THE HERD by Milko Lazarov, ARCADIA by Yorgos Zois, LUST by Ralitza Petrova, TRIUMPH by Krystina Grozeva and Petar Valchanov, ANIMAL by Sophia Exarchou, ONE MORE DROP by Stefan Toltz, THE SWEET BITTERNESS OF RIPE POMGRENATES by Andrey Volkashin, SILENT OBSERVERS by Eliza Petkova, GURIA by Levan Koguashvili, SEA OF GLASS by Alexis Alexiou, YUGO FLORIDA by Vladimir Tagic, MUM by Nikola Lezaic, THE MOON IS A FATHER OF MINE by George Ovashvili.

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V. FILM DISTRIBUTION

2023 was the first full year since the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, which triggered a series of transformations in all areas of the film industry. More and more alternative ways of watching movies are replacing going to the cinema. Alongside this, the new fiction formats being developed by television and streaming platforms threaten the hitherto single dominance of cinema. An additional challenge has been the strikes in the North American film industry, which have changed the schedules of the world's leading distributors and affected the marketing of their films.

Admissions and revenues in Bulgarian cinemas 2015–2023 (BGN1 = €0.511; BGN to USD: floating exchange rate)

Year	Admissions	Total revenue (EUR)	Revenues in US dollars	Admission for BG films	Revenue from Bulgarian films (EUR)
2023	4 464 478	27 160 916	27,671,432	410 785	2,233,710
2022	3 957 349	21,373,641	27,105,385	644 238	3,039,503
2021	2 553 845	12,589,295	12,212,641	410 883	1,792,343
2020	1 337 951	6,472,036	4,127,248	136 974	595,370
2019	5 016 079	25,004,857	22,752,281	448 777	1,902,385
2018	4 900 408	23,487,772	22,647,127	388 006	1,563,931
2017	5 573 812	25,867,552	28,349,216	512 889	2,052,899
2016	5 532 490	24,706,209	24,442,875	177 647	608,776
2015	5 335 073	23,407,592	21,128,677	94 804	301,809

Against this backdrop, Bulgarian distribution and cinema exhibition continued their recovery in sync with processes across the European Union. The European Audiovisual Observatory, in its preliminary report for 2023, notes a near 82% recovery in cinema attendance in the 27 Member States compared to the average figures in the last three years before the pandemic (2017–2019). For Bulgaria this indicator is 86.5%, one of the highest in Europe, together with France, the Netherlands and Poland. However, it must be acknowledged that

the nearly 4.5 million viewers achieved in 2023 is one million fewer than the average annual attendance in the 2015–2017 period, when the highest number of viewers on an annual basis in the entire post–2000 period was achieved. At the same time, due to increased inflation and overall price growth, cinema revenues reached 27 160 916 EUR, the highest level in three decades. In fact, it remains very high and aligned with the dollar exchange rate, being surpassed by the annual total only in 2017.

Against this backdrop, in 2022 the attendance of Bulgarian films reached 644 thousand spectators, which was the highest level of revenue and number of tickets sold for national films in the entire period since 1990. In 2023, domestic film viewership has dropped substantially by over 30% due to the unwinding of some pandemic effects on film distribution that favored nationally produced films. For long periods in 2020–2022, the number of foreign productions in Bulgarian cinemas was heavily reduced and audiences shifted to domestic films. Still, these over 410,000 admissions in 2023 are a robust enough achievement to ensure over 9% market share for Bulgarian films in cinemas.

Top 25 cinematic releases in Bulgaria (31.12.2021 – 01.01.2023)

Bulgarian films are emphasised in bold.

Film	Distributor	Studio	Released	Admissions	Box Office (EUR)
FAST X	FORUM FILM	UIP	19.05.23	203 562	1 431 629
AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER	FORUM FILM	Disney	16.12.22	195 466	1 320 127
OPPENHEIMER	FORUM FILM	UIP	21.07.23	202 492	1 287 660
BARBIE	ALEXANDRA	Warner Bros.	27.07.23	212 758	1 204 311
THE SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE	FORUM FILM	UIP	07.04.23	130 036	781 446
INDIANA JONES AND THE DIAL OF DESTINY	FORUM FILM	Disney	30.06.23	102 225	646 396
CHALGA	WOLFSBANE FILMS	Wolfsbane Films	10.03.23	112 782	644 250
PUSS IN BOOTS: THE LAST WISH	FORUM FILM	UIP	23.12.22	103 280	609 147

JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 4	BTV STUDIOS	Dentsu BG	31.03.23	81 909	552 937
NAPOLEON AND THE	FORUM FILM	Sony	24.11.23	76 616	532 561
THE HUNGER GAMES: THE BALLAD OF SONGBIRDS & SNAKES	FORUM FILM	Vertical Entertainment	17.11.23	71 269	496 385
PAW PATROL: THE MIGHTY MOVIE	FORUM FILM	UIP	29.09.23	88 231	495 769
THE NUN 2	ALEXANDRA	WB	08.09.23	81 306	457 431
ELEMENTAL	FORUM FILM	Disney	16.06.23	77 550	443 295
THE LITTLE MERMAID	FORUM FILM	Disney	26.05.23	72 457	441 320
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 3	FORUM FILM	Disney	05.05.23	58 595	427 660
AQUAMAN AND THE LOST KINGDOM	ALEXANDRA	Warner Bros.	22.12.2023	56 760	423 541
FIVE NIGHTS AT FREDDY'S	FORUM FILM BULGARIA	UIP	27.10.23	65 383	378 078
CREED 3	ALEXANDRA	Warner Bros.	03.03.23	61 625	377 536
SPIDER-MAN: ACROSS THE SPIDER-VERSE	ALEXANDRA	Sony Pictures	02.06.23	62 127	364 568
OPERATION FORTUNE: RUSE DE GUERRE	FORUM FILM	Vertical Entertainment	13.01.23	57 069	345 489
DYAD	GLE DAM.BG	no blink film	10.11.23	55 048	331 683
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: MUTANT MAYHEM	FORUM FILM	UIP	11.08.23	60 841	313 492
TROLLS BAND TOGETHER	FORUM FILM BULGARIA	UIP	27.10.23	46 058	283 286
WISH	FORUM FILM	Disney	24. 11. 23	44 392	278 950

In total, the films in the Top 25 for 2023 had a cumulative total of 2,379,837 admissions, accounting for 53% of all attendance during the year. It saw 154 new titles commercially released in cinemas, which still represents significantly fewer than the number of first-run films averaged annually before the pandemic. The average price, which is accounted for by the revenue of these 25 most successful titles screened during the year, is around 6.62 euros, which means an increase of around 10% compared to the price in 2022.

The data shows that following the pandemic, the trend of concentrating viewers around a minimum number of most-watched titles continues – 16% of films attract 53% of all moviegoers. This disparity does not encourage distributors to import a larger number of titles, as very few of the non-Hollywood films in theaters (mainly family entertainment) could recover their distribution costs on ticket sales alone. At the same time, audiences continue to increasingly shift to other forms of film content consumption: most notably streaming platforms and various types of television. Movies that don't have blockbuster potential and don't have a chance to become cinema events suffer the most from the migration of audiences to watch movies outside of theaters. It is their box office scores that have declined most noticeably because viewers prefer to consume such films at home or on various mobile devices.

Bulgarian first-run films in cinemas in 2023.

Films in bold are made without state funding.

English Title	Distributor	Release Date	Admissions	Box office (EUR)
CHALGA	WOLFSBANE FILMS	10.03.2023	112 782	644 250
DYAD	GLE DAM.BG	10.11.2023	55 048	331 683
GAME OF TRUST	PRODUCTION HOUSE SPIRIT	17.02.2023	37 355	216 025
MOTHER	MQ PICTURES	13.01.2023	23 636	105 354
THE TESLA CASE	ALEXANDRA FILMS	31.03.2023	20 473	104 536
THE PRICE OF POWER	STORY STATION PICTURES	01.12.2023	17 851	113 030
MURDA BOYZ: THE MOVIE	ALEXANDRA FILMS	21.04.2023	16 937	98 191
BLAGA'S LESSONS	A PLUS FILMS	15.12.2023	16 531	101 659

THE PICASSO AFFAIR	WILD PICTURES	13.10.2023	13 017	80 762
VASIL	ACTIVIST 38	27.01.2023	12 926	71 500
SHAKESPEARE LIKE A STREET DOG	A PLUS FILMS	03.02.2023	9 489	49 343
MEMOIR OF A BETRAYAL	GLE DAM.BG	29.09.2023	8 787	41 707
VAKLUSH	CREATIVE SNAB	19.03.2023	7 216	14 231
THE ART OF FALLING	A PLUS FILMS	21.04.2023	5 210	26 537
THE GOOD DRIVER	KINO KOSMOS	03.11.2023	4 941	29 278
JANUARY	GLE DAM.BG	20.01.2023	3 730	17 480
BULGARIAN SHIP SINKS IN STORMY SEA	GALA FILM	03.03.2023	3 033	16 455
THE BLOCK	A PLUS FILMS	31.03.2023	2 902	16 237
ANNA	A PLUS FILMS	10.02.2023	2 866	14 200
VOEV	MATCH POINT PRODUCTIONS	05.05.2023	2 580	9 614
HUMBLE	GLE DAM.BG	10.02.2023	2 162	9 959
OUT OF SEASON	KORUND-X	29.09.2023	1 868	9 267
WEIMAR EXPRESS	CINELIBRI	27.10.2023	1 067	2 706
LA BELLE DAME SANS MERCI	ERGANA FILMS PRODUCTION	08.12.2023	957	5 227
BLESSED ARE THE MEEK	SCREENING EMOTIONS	19.05.2023	842	2 321
A PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL	AGITPROP	07.04.2023	710	1 186
GOODBYE, JOHNNY	DOLI MEDIA STUDIO	05.05.2023	291	1 889

In 2023, Bulgarian cinemas screened a total of 48 Bulgarian films, of which 27 were first-run films – 5 documentaries and 22 fiction films. This is a new highest number of national films distributed in one year. Previously in 2019, 26 new Bulgarian feature films were screened in cinemas, and in 2022 they are 25. These figures represent a return to the largest number of films distributed in theatres in the 1980s. Despite the decline in the total number of admissions for Bulgarian films in 2023, the increased number of new titles in cinemas is a sign not only of increased production, but also of the potential of national films to attract audiences to cinemas. This fact is confirmed by the high number of distributed films made without state support: they are 10 in 2023, of which 7 feature films and 3 documentaries.

Top 40 most successful Bulgarian feature films in cinemas post-1990

Films in bold are made without state funding.

English Title	Distributor	Release Date	Admissions	Box office (EUR)
MISSION LONDON	A PLUS FILMS	16.04.10	376 809	1,339,875
BAI IVAN: THE MOVIE	ALEXANDRA	03.12.21	175 246	778,880
THE NAKED TRUTH ABOUT THE ZHIGULI BAND	CONCEPT STUDIO	16.04.21	155 687	722,090
LOVE.NET	ALEXANDRA	01.04.11	207 122	702,243
IN THE HEART OF THE MACHINE	SILVER NOISE FRAME	18.03.22	121 010	635,727
OPERATION SHMENTI CAPELLI	GOLD CHAIN	07.10.11	181 461	616,686
WILDLINGS	BS FILMS	29.11.19	123 090	584,882
HEIGHTS	A PLUS FILMS	10.11.17	130 470	545,037
TILT	A PLUS FILMS	11.02.11	142 799	476,335
CHALGA	WOLFSBANE FILMS	10.03.23	112 782	644 250
BAI IVAN 2	ALEXANDRA	09.09.22	93 908	458,132
ATTRACTION	BS FILMS	23.02.18	112 934	443,382
REUNION 2	SILVER LIGHT PICTURES	14.02.20	88 503	442,534
REUNION	BTV STUDIOS	18.10.19	96 571	426,319
DOSE OF HAPPINESS	BTV STUDIOS	08.11.19	99 830	416,832

GASOLINE	BS FILMS / LENTA	19.05.17	98 862	405,583
11 'A'	BTV STUDIOS	29.01.16	97 905	366,875
COZINESS	BTV STUDIOS	22.03.19	74 995	350,697
VOEVODA	BS FILMS / LENTA	13.01.17	87 604	346,555
LIVING LEGENDS	BTV STUDIOS	14.02.14	91 447	337,603
DYAD	GLEDAM.BG	10.11.23	55 048	331 683
UNCLE CLAUS	URBAN MEDIA	22.11.21	51 884	236,753
REVOLUTION X	BTV STUDIOS	11.05.18	54 575	229,945
12A	A PLUS FILMS	15.09.17	57 593	226,205
GAME OF TRUST	SPIRIT	17.02.23	37 355	216 025
LAST CALL	URBAN MEDIA	04.06.21	62 890	202,914
THE FOREIGNER	A PLUS FILMS	16.03.12	56 651	196,133
OMNIPRESENT	BS FILMS / LENTA	13.10.17	45 782	202,911
BUBBLEGUM	BS FILMS / LENTA	08.12.17	44 773	190,548
ALL SHE WROTE	BTV STUDIOS	05.01.18	41 836	177,937
BAD GIRL	A PLUS FILMS	12.04.19	40 378	175,830
YELLOW OLEANDER	SAMSARA	01.04.22	32 210	173,631
FOOTSTEPS IN THE SAND	PRO FILMS	28.01.11	54 674	174,491
PISTOL, BRIEFCASE AND THREE STINKING BARRELS	ALEXANDRA	14.09.12	45 898	166,813
DIRECTIONS	PURPLE RAIN	26.01.18	37 623	160,342
RAPID RESPONSE CORPS	PRO FILMS	02.03.12	44 200	158,236
YATAGHAN	A PLUS FILMS	21.02.20	37 883	164,003
SMART CHRISTMAS	BS FILMS	30.11.18	37 846	153,342
DEACON LEVSKI	ART ETERNAL	20.02.15	39 783	151,193
LILLY THE LITTLE FISH	A PLUS FILMS	09.02.18	35,095	138,530

VI. CINEMAS

It is gratifying to observe that a continued increase in the number of cinemas in all towns across Bulgaria persisted throughout the last decade. The opening of one-two screen cinemas is on the rise and the number of cinema theatres (excluding multiplexes) in Bulgaria in early 2024 has increased, reaching 62 cinemas with 18,544 seats in 44 towns. In early 2024, out of a grand total of 76 cinemas, there are now 48 single-screen cinemas (with 10,597 seats), or more than the half of the total number of cinemas across the country. It should be noted, though, that between 2008 and 2024, the number of multiplexes has almost tripled to 14, and the number of seats in them totaled 21 576.

Significantly, the recent increase in the number of cinemas is due to some of the latest amendments to the Film Industry Act (FIA) in 2018, under which cinema screens in Bulgaria are subject to registration and data regulations. Revised rules and conditions were introduced concerning the application of Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 (GBER) – for financing the production and distribution of film – and Regulation (EU) No. 1407/2013 on the financing of promotion and screening of films, expiring on 31.12.2020. In August that year, Regulation (EU) No. 2020/972 was adopted, regarding an extension of the expiry date of the existing state aid schemes Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 and Regulation (EU) No. 1407/2013, to 31.12.2023. State aid for screening can be obtained by cinemas that have held no fewer than 150 indoor commercial screenings or 30 outdoor screenings in the previous 6 months.

In addition, cinemas are entitled to state aid for the screening of Bulgarian or European productions, and exhibitors may apply for funding of projects that include up to 10 films. In 2023, a total of 54 projects applying for financial support for showing Bulgarian and European films in 32 cinemas in the country were reviewed, approved, and supported. That is why a curious trend has become discernible in the last couple of years: interest in outdoor cinemas has made a comeback, through drive-ins and open-air cinemas operating at the seaside in summer. The first in this endeavor are the Varna Drive-in Cinema and Summer Cinema in the resort St. Konstantin and Elena with 850 seats, which opened its doors 10 years ago. In 2023, three outdoor cinemas have been registered in the capital Sofia alone – Mall Serdika drive-in cinema with 400 seats, summer cinema Collodrum Arena Sofia with 260 seats and the open-air festival space Sofia Summer Fest with 750 seats, which apart from concerts and theater productions, screens the best of world cinema. For several years, the mission of the Sofia International Film Festival

has been to travel with the best films from its program in the country – these are initiatives SFF for students, SFF on the road. In the country since last year these initiatives have been joined by Traveling Cinema Phanagoria, Traveling Cinema Harlequin and Traveling Cinema FPS Films. These are meant to provide easier access to Bulgarian and European productions in places that lack established theatres, or to offer free showings of innovative features and documentaries unavailable at multiplexes.

Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic and the measures to bring it under control on the territory of Bulgaria severely affected the film screening sector, and primarily the large exhibitors. Twenty years ago, the first multiplex opened its doors in Sofia and over the years the Arena Cinemas chain, part of the Alexandra Group, evolved into the biggest exhibitor in Bulgaria. For economic reasons, due to an outflow of audiences in 2020, two of the Arena Cinemas multiplexes in Sofia closed. Some seventeen years ago, the first IMAX screen made its appearance as part of the Israeli Cinema City International chain. Nowadays, Cinema City maintains its position as the leading innovative exhibitor in this country, with 7 multiplexes and 13,376 seats. The third largest exhibitor on the Bulgarian market, where the Alexandra Group and Cinema City are the main competitors, is the Cine Grand chain.

Founded in France around two decades ago, Europa Cinemas was the first network to focus on European cinema productions. It contributes operational and financial support to cinemas that commit to screening a substantial number of European, non-national films, and to offering events and initiatives as well as organizing promotional activities targeted at young audiences. In Bulgaria, there are now 14 members of Europa Cinemas in six cities, providing a total of 6,644 seats.

World film screen goes digital. The digital technology made a great deal of difference in exhibition and distribution too. In fact, over the last decade and a half, all cinemas in Bulgaria have gone digital, while in 2003 all of them had old 35 mm projectors; in 2008, there were 12 digital screens, while now they total 215 or almost the total number 220 of cinemas across the country.

Overall, cinema theatres in Bulgaria in early 2024 totaled 76, with 220 screens and seating for 40,120 cinemagoers.

Cinema City, Mall Paradise Center, Sofia, was the best performer in 2023 among multiplexes, with 463,861 admissions; while Cinemax Blagoevgrad returned the best results (74,754 admissions) in the single-screen cinema category.

CINEMAS IN BULGARIA 2024

CINEMAS, 2024			
Cinemas	Number of cinemas	Number of screens	Seats
1 screen	48	48	10 597
2 screens	8	16	6195
3–5 screens	6	22	1752
	62	86	18 544
6–7 screens	3	19	3494
8–11 screens	8	76	11 149
12–15 screens	3	39	6 933
	14	134	21 576
	76	220	40 120

SCREENS, 2003–2023			
Year	Number of screens	Number of digital screens	Seats
2003	194	0	74 393
2004	56	0	19 076
2005	104	2	21 350
2006	112	2	24 923
2007	114	2	25 301
2008	95	12	21 425
2009	104	22	22 657
2010	122	40	25 345
2011	141	52	29 021
2012	131	74	26 065
2013	161	107	31 056
2014	164	160	31 764
2015	187	170	33 761
2016	196	193	34 485
2017	209	205	37 587
2018	215	215	37 705

2019	218	217	38 257
2020–2021	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
2022	207	201	40 365
2023	220	215	40 120

MULTIPLEXES, 2008–2023

Year	Number of multiplexes	Number of screens	Seats
2008	6	63	12 356
2009	7	74	14 042
2010	9	92	16 730
2011	11	109	19 907
2012	10	103	18 540
2013	13	134	23 424
2014	14	141	24 737
2015	15	149	25 740
2016	15	152	25 595
2017	16	158	26 326
2018	16	158	26 366
2019	16	157	26 352
2020–2021	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
2022	14	134	21 576
2023	14	134	21 576

MULTIPLEXES, 2023

Town	Multiplex Chanes	Number of screens	Seats
Sofia, Paradise Mall	Cinema City	14	2166
Sofia, Mall of Sofia	Cinema City	13	2855
Varna, Delta Planet	Cinema City	12	1912
Plovdiv, Mall of Plovdiv	Cinema City	11	1585
Ruse, Mall of Ruse	Cinema City	10	1886
Burgas, Mall Galleria	Cinema City	10	1665
Stara Zagora, Mall Galleria	Cinema City	7	1307

	7	77	13 376
Sofia, The Mall	Cinema Arena	10	1819
Varna, Grand Mall	Cinema Arena	9	1468
Varna, Mall of Varna	Cinema Arena	8	1113
Sofia, Bulgaria Mall	Cinema Arena Deluxe	8	998
Plovdiv, Markovo tepe Mall	Cinema Arena	6	887
	5	41	6285
Sofia, Ring Mall	Cine Grand	10	615
Sofia, Park Center Mall	Cine Grand	6	1300
	2	16	1915
6	14	134	21 576

CINEMAS, 2023			
Town	Cinemas	Screens	Seats
Sofia	11	15	6461
Veliko Tarnovo	3	8	1894
Varna	3	4	2350
Plovdiv	2	6	652
Pleven	2	5	537
Razgrad	2	3	139
Kardzhali	2	2	274
Pernik	1	4	330
Targovishte	1	2	277
Botevgrad	1	2	107
Gabrovo	1	2	100
Kiten	1	1	1150
Kozloduy	1	1	471
Isperih	1	1	317
Tsarevo	1	1	300
Pazardzhik	1	1	264
Lovech	1	1	262
Svishtov	1	1	247
Blagoevgrad	1	1	234

Sliven	1	1	180
Vratza	1	1	165
Ahtopol	1	1	155
Haskovo	1	1	150
Vidin	1	1	139
Petrich	1	1	120
Kavarna	1	1	100
Silistra	1	1	99
Shumen	1	1	99
Popovo	1	1	80
Dobrich	1	1	79
Montana	1	1	77
Mezdra	1	1	76
Smolyan	1	1	74
Yambol	1	1	72
Karlovo	1	1	70
Gorna Oriachovitsa	1	1	70
Dupnitsa	1	1	61
Sevlievo	1	1	49
Kyustendil	1	1	49
Kazanlak	1	1	49
Dimitrovgrad	1	1	49
Byala (Ruse region)	1	1	46
Sandanski	1	1	40
Tervel	1	1	30
44	62	86	18 544

EUROPA CINEMAS NETWORK, 2023

Town	Cinemas	Screens	Seats
Sofia, Ring Mall	Cine Grand	10	615
Varna, Mall of Varna	Cinema Arena	8	1113
Sofia, Park Center	Cine Grand	6	1300
Veliko Tarnovo	Palace	3	250
Sofia	G8 Cinema	3	150

Varna	Festival&Congress Center	2	1250
Plovdiv	Lucky Cinema House	2	275
Sofia	Euro Cinema	2	104
Varna	AutoCinema	1	400
Sofia	Cinema Lumiere	1	370
Sofia	Cinema House	1	284
Targovishte	Cinemagic	1	277
Sofia	Odeon Theatre	1	156
Kavarna	Cinema Petar Slabakov	1	100
6	14	42	6644

5 MOST SUCCESSFUL MULTIPLEXES ACCORDING TO ATTENDANCE IN 2023

Town	Multiplex Chaness	Seats	Admissions
Sofia, Paradise Mall	Cinema City	2166	463 861
Sofia, Mall of Sofia	Cinema City	2855	414 732
Sofia, Ring Mall	Cine Grand	615	343 628
Plovdiv, Mall of Plovdiv	Cinema City	1585	305 588
Burgas, Mall Galleria	Cinema City	1665	276 021
		ADM	1 803 830
		GBO (in BGN)	23 529 203

5 MOST SUCCESSFUL CINEMAS ACCORDING TO ATTENDANCE IN 2023

Town	Cinemas	Seats	Admissions
Blagoevgrad	Cinemax	234	74 754
Veliko Tarnovo	Cineland Iskra	175	60 678
Veliko Tarnovo	Palace	250	48 676
Pazardzhik	3D Cinema	264	36 018
Plovdiv	Lucky Cinema House	275	34 918
		ADM	255 044
		GBO (in BGN)	2 280 137

(In BGN; 1 BGN = €0.511)

SOURCE – Bulgarian National Film Center, up to april 2024

VII. TELEVISION*

Bulgarian National Television

The Radio and Television Act (Art. 71(3) stipulates that Bulgarian National Television (BNT) should allocate for Bulgarian film television production not less than 10 per cent of the state budget subsidy it receives, in addition to obtaining finance from the Radio and Television Fund. Unfortunately, this fund is non-operational in Bulgaria.

According to BNT, the amount of the subsidy voted and approved under **Article 71(3)** at the beginning of each year for the period 2019–2022 was:

- 2019 – EUR 3,152,429
- 2020 – EUR 3,314,936
- 2021 – EUR 3,833,657
- 2022 – EUR 3,808,388

Expenditure on film production, including co-production with the National Film Center for the period 2019–2022 was as follows:

2019 – EUR 1,231,474, including

- External film production – EUR 969,876
- Internal film production – EUR 124,556
- Other expenditure – EUR 137,041

The BNT report for the period shows that the balance remaining amounted to EUR 1,920,954. Owing to the lack of active formats, these funds were used to cover the cost of ceded broadcasting rights for programmes.

2020 – EUR 986,789, including

- External film production – EUR 857,548
- Internal film production – EUR 101,951
- Other expenditure – EUR 27,288

2021 – EUR 1,176,560, including

- External film production – EUR 985,890
- Internal film production – EUR 103,891
- Other expenditure – EUR 23,548

* Info and data – by the end of 2022.

Given the pandemic situation of Covid-19 in the period 2019–2021 and the bans imposed by the Ministry of Health on activities involving groups of people, numerous film projects in various stages of production were postponed. As a result, the funds allocated for the period 2019–2021 were not fully spent.

2022 – EUR 3,337,798, including

- External film production – EUR 3,162,371
- Internal film production – EUR 145,957
- Other expenditure – EUR 29,470

BNT’s report for the period 2019–2022 shows **“films produced under co-production conditions, including “pre-sale” (pre-emption of broadcasting rights) between BNT and independent producers, with state financial support of the National Film Centre.”** It is worth noting that, in the list of films (made in coproduction or presale) by BNT as presented below, individual works are at various stages of production.

BNT is also an effective **distribution channel for Bulgarian films**. For the period 2018–2022, almost half a billion (484,446,346) viewers watched Bulgarian films broadcast on BNT—features, documentaries, and animations.

Viewers of Bulgarian films on BNT, 2018–2022

Year	Feature films	Documentaries	Animated films
2018	19,985,903	53,035,566	92,793
2019	16,471,624	77,918,622	2,091,583
2020	21,359,290	93,498,609	2,888,455
2021	24,115,192	78,088,486	3,744,168
2022	19,422,688	71,263,567	1,469,800
Total	101,354,697	372,804,850	10,286,799

Source: Audiovisual Media Services Directive, Directive 93/83, Directive 2019/789 (in audiovisual industry): implementation and problems

In connection with the application of Articles 13, 16 and 17 of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive and Articles 19 and 19a of the Radio and Television Act, the Council for Electronic Media (CEM) shall draw up annual reports on the share of European works in television programmes of national scope and in audiovisual non-linear media services. According to the data of the providers¹ of linear media services, the 50 per cent quota for the share of European works in annual programming time is met by most of them—for 2022, it is an average of 68.88 per cent. The quota for independent producers (fixed in the RTA at a minimum of 12 per cent) is also met on average, with 30.22 per cent in 2022.

The information for 2022 supplied by some of the non-linear media service providers also shows a relatively high percentage of European production in the catalogue content and compliance with the 30 per cent requirement. The average percentage of European production for 2022 is 68.71.

The table shows the implementation of Article 19 and Article 19a of the Radio and Television Act for the period 2019–2022. The data are derived from the annual report on CEM's activities in 2022.

Implementation of Article 19 and Article 19a of the Broadcasting Act, 2019–2022

Year	Share of European works, cf. Art. 19a, 1 of the RTA%	Share of works by independent producers, according to Article 19a, 2 of the RTA%	Share of European works in the catalogues of on-demand services%
2022	68.88	30.22	68.71
2021	65.17	29.35	67.28
2020	60.00	29.00	54.00

According to the CRC, the number of companies providing retail broadcasting services (and respectively distributing creative content included in them) in 2021 increased by 1.7 per cent compared to the previous year and reached 246 companies. Pay-TV subscribers also grew by 2.3 per cent to reach 2.07 million subscribers. As a result, the reported volume of total pay-TV revenues

¹ According to the information (supplied only by the providers of linear and non-linear media services who responded to CEM letters), it is possible to derive average indicators that show the fulfilment of the quotas under the Radio and Television Act.

(including revenues from bundled services) grew significantly compared to 2020, and amounted to EUR 213,366 in 2021, an increase of 6.5 per cent. Among the companies with the largest market share are Bulgatcom with 31.3 per cent of subscribers, BTC with 30.2 per cent, and A1 with 25.3 per cent of subscribers. The data cited are according to the CRC Annual Report 2021.

Meanwhile, Bulgarian cable and satellite operators that carry audiovisual works as part of their television packages do **not pay royalties to the authors and producers of these works**. The compulsory collective management of retransmission rights stipulated in Directive 93/83 and confirmed by Directive 2019/789 in the audiovisual field **is not operational** in Bulgaria.

The film industry and TV business in a convergent environment – new distribution channels and financing opportunities

Over the past few decades, the audiovisual content market has been evolving in a convergent media environment, where we see the emergence of new distribution channels—pay-TV, video on demand, OTT (over the top) services.²

Global streaming platforms have established themselves as an additional distribution channel for the European film industries. Bulgaria is no exception—in addition to the national distribution and exhibition platforms, Netflix (200,000 subscribers), HBO Max (150,000), Disney+(75,000), Amazon Prime (40,000) are present in this country. HBO Max (36 films) and Netflix (16 films) also have a section offering Bulgarian film content—feature films and documentaries. Only HBO Max has Bulgarian localisation (menu, navigation, subtitles in Bulgarian). This streaming platform is available with most telecom plans. HBO Max also participates in the financing of national film production through the pre-sale of broadcasting rights³.

² Delivery of content (voice, picture, data) over the internet, but without a system operator, using the internet only as the delivery medium with content produced by a third party. Skype, Viber, Spotify and Netflix are the first such options for Bulgarian users, which includes all other media services we can receive through Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

³ Anecdotal evidence suggests that the funds vary widely, depending on the type and genre of the film, the reputation of the production company, the director, and anticipated commercial success.

VIII. FESTIVALS

SOFIA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Sofia International Film Festival is the leading event of its kind in Bulgaria and one of the key film events in Central and Eastern Europe. It aims to promote significant and innovative works of modern world cinema to local audiences, and regional Bulgarian and Balkan cinema to international guests, as well as to encourage cooperation between local and international filmmakers. Described by Variety as one of the world's top 50 unmissable film events, it is accredited by FIAPF as a competitive, specialized, feature film festival. Since 2004, the Sofia Meetings co-production market (pitching for debut, sophomore and third-feature film projects while showcasing Bulgarian and regional films) has contributed significantly to its activities.

Venue and dates: Sofia, 13–23 March 2025

Sofia Meetings: Sofia, 19–23 March 2025

Sofia IFF early film submission deadline: 1 October 2024;
regular: 30 November 2024.

Sofia Meetings project application deadline: 1 December 2024.

LOVE IS FOLLY International Film Festival is a competitive international film festival. It is held on a yearly basis in the coastal city of Varna. In terms of its genre, the Festival is oriented towards dramas and comedies, melodramas and romances.

Venue and dates: Varna, Festival and Congress Centre,
23 August – 1 September 2024

Submission deadline: 31 May 2024

WORLD FESTIVAL OF ANIMATED FILM VARNA

For the twentieth time, in 2024 Varna will be not only the maritime capital of Bulgaria, but also the capital of the art of animation. WFAF Varna welcomes familiar and new names in the face of the international jury members, lecturers, directors and artists. Along the seashore, we enjoy not only breathtaking views, but also exciting screenings, master classes, animation workshops and exhibitions with worldwide talents. Professionals invite us into the world of their creative ideas and secrets, and amateurs create memories and meet

new like-minded people and friends. Between the 11th and 15th of September, we will welcome anyone ready to peer with curiosity into the vast world of animation, both on screen and behind the camera in the spaces of the Varna Festival and Congress Center and Graffit Gallery.

Entry forms for 6 competitive categories are available at Filmfreeway

Submission deadline for 2024: May 31st

Venue and dates: FCC Varna, 11–15 September

Contact: varnafest@gmail.com

IN THE PALACE INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

Founded in 2003, the IN THE PALACE International Short Film Festival is dedicated to short films, new media and digital arts. IN THE PALACE has been recognised since 2017 as an Academy Awards/Oscar® qualifying festival in the categories of Best Animation, Best Fiction and Best National Film, and as a Student Academy Awards® qualifying festival. IN THE PALACE ISFF is also a GOYA Awards qualifying festival. The festival is a member of the international network of festivals and institutions serving the short film sector—the Short Film Conference.

Traditionally, the festival takes place over one week and offers a wide range of events, activities, and programmes for both local and international short film industry and audience. IN THE PALACE is a cultural meeting place for the film industry, artists, students, educational institutions, and the general public, providing access to the latest trends, developments and learning in the arts and culture through screenings, training and interdisciplinary exchange.

Venue and dates: Pernik, The Palace of Culture, 29 June – 6 July 2024.

Submission deadline for 2025: 1 October 2024.

GOLDEN LINDEN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

The aim of the Golden Linden is to promote European cinema in Bulgaria and to show the latest and most interesting films from other European countries. The festival organises two programmes: competitive, and additional. Films selected for the competitive programme are evaluated by an international jury.

The intention is that, each year, the additional programme showcases films from different parts of Europe. There is a dedicated section that features new Bulgarian movies, presented by their producers and actors. The festival takes place in Stara Zagora with the support of the local municipality.

Venue and dates: Stara Zagora, State Opera, 1–5 June 2024.

Material (screeners and info-packs) to be sent to office@thegoldenlinden.com Submission deadline for the 12th edition, 2025: end of February 2025.

CINEMANIA FILM FEST

CINEMANIA is the oldest and most popular Bulgarian film event. It has started back in 1987, named "World Film Panorama". From its very beginning until today the festival is a non-competitive event.

The ambition of the organizers is to present the best of world cinema from the current year, and the place of the festival in the calendar – always in the last 2 weeks of November – allows in the program to be included brand new films not only from the selections of the September festivals in Venice and Toronto, but even from the October festival in Rome.

Along the years we have had different program sections, but the most popular among the audience are "Festival of Festivals", "Music Films" and "Classic Pleasures".

Venue and dates: Sofia: National Palace of Culture, Cinema House, Cinema Odeon, Cinema Vlaykova, G8 Cultural Center, Euro Cinema, French Institute; Plovdiv: Lucky Cinema House; Varna: Festival and Congress Centre.

14 November – 1 December 2024

GOLDEN KUKER INTERNATIONAL ANIMATION FILM FESTIVAL – SOFIA (IAFF Golden Kuker – Sofia)

The Golden Kuker International Animation Film Festival was first held in Sofia in October 2010. It is the first twenty-first century animation festival, awarding the Golden Kuker top prize and a Special Mention named after the iconic Bulgarian cartoonist Proyko Proykov. Its mission is to contribute to the development of Bulgarian art, to help Bulgarian and foreign animators make contact, and to support young professionals and students. The festival has succeeded in delivering a high-level, professional performance, has made a large number of international appearances, and produced a variety of great animations. Throughout the year, the public has the opportunity to attend master classes conducted by world known directors and animators, to visit contemporary art seminars and exhibitions, and to join interactive lectures. The festival itself is competitive in design, with 10 categories of films.

The festival received the award – Plaque – "Beauty and the Beast" by William Bill Dennis – https://2012.animationfest-bg.eu/images/Bill_Dennis_CV_ENG.pdf. The festival is a member of the European Festival Association (EFA) and the (BFA). It is on the cultural calendar of many large cities in Bulgaria, as the traveling festival has already visited over 41 cities between 2019 and 2023

and will hold a 7-day festival in the city of Ruse from April 1 to 7, 2024 – according to a project to restore Regional Libraries “Lyuben Karavelov”.

Places and dates: Sofia NATFA, 8–12 May 2024
<https://2024.animationfest-bg.eu>; <http://natfiz.bg/en>
Submission deadline: 15 March 2024.

CINELIBRI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

CineLibri is an extraordinary international festival inspired by the fruitful intersection of two major arts—cinema and literature. Held on an annual basis in the capital city of Sofia and other Bulgarian towns, CineLibri brings the best and most recent film adaptations, based on literary works, to diverse and wide audiences. Featuring acclaimed filmmakers and renowned creators from all over the world, CineLibri’s line-up includes exclusive live meetings; official selection of full-length, short and documentary films through competition; a parallel roster of curated screenings; and a vast number of industry meetings, discussion panels, educational events, including but not limited to lectures, workshops, and masterclasses.

Highlighting a particular focal theme every year, CineLibri’s parallel programme includes classics and retrospectives; contemporary film productions and co-productions; biopics of significant writers, poets, and playwrights; anniversaries of and tributes to prominent directors and screenwriters; milestone documentaries, short movies and other relevant film works.

Venues and dates: Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna, Burgas, Veliko Tarnovo, Gabrovo, Stara Zagora, 10 October – 3 November 2024.

Submission deadline: 22 August 2024.

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND HEALTH FILMS FESTIVAL

Created in 1965, the IRCFF is the oldest international film festival in Bulgaria. Recognised as a traditional meeting place, showcasing high-quality cinema from around the world, the mission of the festival is to engage people’s attention through cinema towards humanity, health and life preservation, environment, charity, human rights, volunteering, and education. Since inception its motto is “Through Humanism Towards Peace and Friendship”, with recent themes focusing on “Humanism and Solidarity in Crisis,” now more relevant than ever. Recently, “Silver Screen” program was added to the programme showcasing films with positive portrayals of active and healthy aging, inspiring new perspectives and promoting dialogue between generations, guiding a new approach to well-being. The use of cultural as a tool for health and well being is a new interdisciplinary concept of IRCFF.

The festival is biennial with four competitive categories, and the program includes also non-competitive film screenings, discussion forum, and special events.

Venue and dates: Varna, 19–27 June 2025

Submission deadline: 20 February 2025.

A Festival Academy takes place in between the years of competitive editions. Dedicated to some of society's most pressing issues, the program includes a series of trainings, workshops, and exchanges of creative experiences among film professionals, students, activists, volunteers, journalists, and public figures. The 2024 IRCFF Academy is dedicated to contemporary challenges such as "aggression – humanity – cinema – mutual aid" and the interrelation between them.

Venue and dates: Varna, 20–24 June 2024

MASTER OF ART FILM FESTIVAL (MofA) is the first and only international film festival in Eastern Europe for Art Documentaries.

Presenting the best documentaries in Music and Dance, Theatre and Cinema, Fine Art and Photography, Architecture and Design, Literature, Video Art and Advertising, MofA seeks to introduce contemporary trends to the Bulgarian audience.

Our mission is to provide an alternative that defies pop culture content by presenting documentaries – independent films and television productions – to create a venue for professionals and to establish itself as a forum that provides an opportunity for young talents to further stimulate and develop their creative performance.

Main venues: Sofia – Lumiere, Odeon, Euro Cinema, G8, Cinema House; Lucky Cinema, Plovdiv; Festival and Congress Centre, Varna.

Dates: 7–28 February 2025

Submission deadline: 17 December 2024

RHODOPE INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FILM FEST (RIFE)

The Rhodope International Documentary Film Festival (11–14 July 2024) is an annual event, which came as an answer to the need of documentary filmmakers to exhibit their films and to have a place where they can improve their abilities, learn more in their areas of interest, and hear the opinion of high-profile international film professionals. The fourth edition of the festival will include several competition programs that will feature short, medium and feature-length documentaries from around the world.

Venue and dates: Smolyan, 10–13 July 2025

Submission deadline: earlybird: 15 January 2025; regular: 1 March 2025.

GOLDEN ROSE FESTIVAL OF BULGARIAN FEATURE FILMS

The Golden Rose is held in the Festival and Congress Center in the coastal city of Varna. Founded in 1961, it is the oldest film festival in Bulgaria. The event is organized by the Bulgarian National Film Center, and its competitive format caters specifically for Bulgarian fictional films.

Venue and dates: Varna, Festival and Congress Center,
19–26 September 2024

Submission deadline: 28 June 2024

GOLDEN RHYTON NATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

The Golden Rhyton is hosted in December by Lucky House of Cinema in the city of Plovdiv. It is a competitive Bulgarian documentary and animated film festival, organized by the Bulgarian National Film Center.

Venue and dates: Plovdiv, Lucky House of Cinema, 13–20 December 2024.

Submission deadline: 30 August 2024.

IX. FILM EDUCATION

Higher film education began as early as 1973, with the establishment of the Department of Cinema at the Higher Institute of Theatrical Arts (now the National Academy of Theatre and Film Arts). Since then, there have been a few schools specialising in photography. Today, the opportunity to study the theory and practice of cinema is much more accessible, with one private and two state universities offering similar Bachelor's or Master's curricula.

KRASTYO SARAFOV NATIONAL ACADEMY FOR THEATRE AND FILM ARTS, SOFIA

- Department of Film and TV Direction and Animation;
- Department of Film and TV Cinematography and Photography;
- Department of Film Studies and Dramaturgy.

The listed departments are part of NATFA's Faculty of Screen Arts and offer the following Bachelor's degree programmes: Film and TV Direction, Film and TV Cinematography, Film and TV Editing, Film and TV Sound, Film and TV Production, Film and TV Design, Film and TV Journalism, Dramaturgy, Photography, and Animation. The academy also includes five Master's degree programmes: Management of Screen Arts, Screen Direction, Screen Dramaturgy, Photographic Art, and Animation Direction. Moreover, a new programme focusing on the theory of cinema, titled Contemporary Cinema in World Culture, is currently under development.

Admission to the academy is by selection. Participants must demonstrate theoretical knowledge and a solid understanding of the field in which they wish to develop. After passing practical exams and attending a colloquy at the end of the first year, (a process applicable to all students), they are then grouped according to their chosen speciality.

The faculty is a member of CILECT, with its own representative and executive board. The teaching staff comprises prominent Bulgarian directors, screenwriters, cameramen, editors, designers, photographers and film critics with proven high achievements both in the country and abroad.

NEOFIT RILSKI SOUTHWEST UNIVERSITY, BLAGOEVGRAD

- Department of Television, Theatre and Film Arts

The department was established in 1991 and offers the specialities of Film and TV Direction, Film and TV Cinematography, and Film and TV Editing.

The department boasts modern television, film and editing equipment. In 2019, its Film and TV studio was launched, with state-of-the-art facilities, an auditorium with 180 seats, a chamber hall and a rehearsal room. The complex gives students the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for their future creative career. Throughout the students' training, there is a significant emphasis on enhanced practical application.

NEW BULGARIAN UNIVERSITY, SOFIA

- Department of Cinema, Advertising and Show Business

The Department of Cinema, Advertising and Show Business brings together professors, artists and scholars from the fields of dramaturgy, film direction and production, film and TV cinematography, fine arts, graphic design, advertising, animation, and photography. The department is the initiator, organiser and participant in scholarly fora, conferences and seminars in its field of study.

At present, the Department of Cinema, Advertising and Show Business offers five Bachelor's degree programmes: Animation, Graphic Design, Cinema and Television, Advertising, and Photography; five Master's programmes: Animation Direction, Graphic and Spatial Design, Advertising Management and Visual Branding, Film and Television Art, and Photographic Art; and a postgraduate programme in Film Studies, Film Art and Television.

ST KLIMENT OHRIDSKI SOFIA UNIVERSITY, SOFIA

At the oldest institution of higher education in Bulgaria, a single programme relating to film is offered as an extension to a Master's degree—Literature, Cinema and Visual Culture. As the second optional Master's programme at the Faculty of Slavic Studies, it is oriented towards students with an interest in literary studies, film studies, theatrical studies, visual arts and media, introducing them to current issues in contemporary culture, namely, the interactions between word and image.

The transformation of a literary text into the visual arts, especially the cinema, is scrutinised in theoretical and historical terms. The programme offers courses introducing students to the theory of film art and film language, as well as others dedicated to individual genres in cinema and the visual arts. Particular attention is paid to the specifics of literary adaptation and film translation.

CINEMA CLASSES, SOFIA

The cinema classes are divided into three categories (for the youngest, for beginners, and the advanced), and target a specific group of viewers—pupils. Classes are based on a new educational approach: a person-centred method where the passive listener becomes an active participant and is placed at the centre of the educative interaction. Innovative methods of learning and perceiving the art of cinema are applied—through teamwork, project-oriented teaching and learning, and conducting in-depth discussions, including critical reflection and analysis. The curriculum, developed and implemented over the past two years by established film and cinema professionals, aims to attract and introduce children and young people to the unknown domain of world, European and Bulgarian cinema.

X. CONTACTS

INSTITUTIONS

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Activities 2022–2024: documentary

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Activities 2022–2024: feature

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Activities 2022–2024: feature, documentary

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Activities 2022–2024: feature

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Activities 2022–2024: feature

CINEASTE MAUDIT

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documentary

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Activities 2022–2024: feature

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documentary

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FOUR HANDS

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Activities 2022–2024: feature,
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Activities 2022–2024: feature,
documentary

MAGIC SHOP

Mr. Georgi Nikolov
cell: +359 888 217 340
e-mail: action.nikolov@gmail.com
Activities 2022–2024: documentary

METAMORPHOZA N

Mrs. Neli Gesharova
cell: +359 885 691 710
e-mail: animiter@gmail.com
Activities 2022–2024: animation

MIRAMAR FILM

Mr. Ilian Djevelevkov, Mr. Matey
Konstantinov
cell: +359 888 619 578
e-mail: office@miramarfilm.com
website: www.miramarfilm.com
Activities 2022–2024: feature

MONOCOLLECTIVE

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cell: +359 898 472 844
e-mail: info@monoco.eu
Activities 2022–2024: documentary

MOVIMENTO

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cell: +359 888 336 784
e-mail: orlin.ruevski@gmail.com
Activities 2022–2024: feature,
documentary

MQ PICTURES

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cell: +359 897 334 505
e-mail: zornitsa.sophia@gmail.com
Activities 2022–2024: feature

NAGUAL

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cell: +359 878 925 233
e-mail: nagualn@gmail.com
Activities 2022–2024: animation

N FILMS PRODUCTIONS

Mr. Plamen Nikolov
cell: +359 889 438 616
e-mail: nfilms@abv.bg
Activities 2022–2024: animation

NIKE I

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cell: +359 888 815 148
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Activities 2022–2024: feature,
documentary

NUANCE FILM

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website: <http://www.nuancefilm.com>
Activities: 2022–2024: feature

NU BOYANA FILM STUDIOS

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tel.: +359 2 933 25 00
e-mail: info@nuboyana.com
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Activities 2022–2024: feature production
and post-production

PORTOKAL

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Activities 2022–2024: feature

PROVENTUS FILM HOUSE

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Activities 2022–2024: feature

PREMIERSTUDIO PLUS

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Activities 2022–2024: feature

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Activities 2022–2024: documentary

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Activities 2022–2024: documentary

RED CARPET

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Activities 2022–2024: feature

RFF INTERNATIONAL

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Activities 2022–2024: feature

SCREENING EMOTIONS

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Activities 2022–2024: feature,
documentary

SILVER LIGHT PICTURES

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Activities 2022–2024: feature

SMARTY PANTS SHOOTER

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Activities 2022–2024: documentary

SOFIA FILM PRODUCTIONS

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Activities 2022–2024: feature

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Activities 2022–2024: documentary

TRIVIUM FILMS

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website: www.trivium-films.com
Activities 2022–2024: feature,
documentary

URBAN MEDIA

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e-mail: office@urbanmedia.bg
Activities 2022–2024: feature

VAIK

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Activities 2022–2024: documentary,
animation

VICTORIA FILMS

Mrs. Maya Vitkova-Kosev
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Activities 2022–2024: feature

VIP MEDIA FILM

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Activities 2022–2024: documentary

VIZAR PRODUCTION

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Activities 2022–2024: animation

WATERFRONT FILM

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Activities 2022–2024: feature

ZOGRAPHIC FILM

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website: www.zographic.com
Activities 2022–2024: animation

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+359 888 436 145
office@arsdigital.org
i_tonev@arsdigital.org
www.arsdigital.org
Activities: Audio & Video production,
post production.

AUDIOVIDEO CONSULT

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Manager
251, Okolovrasten Pat Blvd., Delta Center,
1000 Sofia
+359 2 988 95 55
+359 888 561 269
office@avc.bg
www.avc.bg
Activities: Technical equipment
distribution.

AUDIOVIDEO ORPHEUS

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60, Samokov Blvd., 1113 Sofia
+359 2 866 00 48
+359 877 849 222
rental@audiovisual-bg.com
www.audiovisual-bg.com
Activities: Soundstages, equipment
rental, post production, feature and TV
films, documentaries, animation, DVD
distribution.

BUFO

Mr. Philip Roth, Managing Director
Bulgarian Unified Film Organization/UFO
Film and Television Studios
247, Botevgradsko Shosse Blvd., 1517
Sofia
+359 2 942 46 92
+359 887 791 613
phil@ufo-bg.com

www.ufofilmstudios.com

Activities: Feature films facilities, visual
effects.

CEE TV / TV BIZZ

Mr. Iliyan Stoychev, Marketing Manager
P.O.Box 239, 2700 Blagoevgrad
office@ceetv.net; Iliyan.stoychev@tvbizz.
net
www.ceetv.net; www.tvbizz.net
Activities: TV market intelligence in the
CEE region.

CHOUCHKOV BROTHERS STUDIO

Mr. Borislav Chouchkov, CEO
+359 884 842 365
filmproduction@ch-bros.com
www.ch-bros.com
Activities: Service production for
films, TV and commercials, shooting
equipment rental, post production studio.

CINEMA Q

Mr. Stoyan Stoyanov, General Manager
51–55, Krum Popov Str., 1421 Sofia
+359 2 963 30 31
studio@cinemaq.bg
www.cinemaq.bg
Activities: Cinema and video
productions. Post production services
like video editing, computer animation,
special effects.

DOLI MEDIA STUDIO

Mr. Dobromir Chochov
47 Levski-G, Sofia 1836
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Activities: Cinema and video
productions. Post production services
like video editing, computer animation,
special effects.

GALA FILM

Mrs. Galina Toneva, CEO/Producer
1 b, Strumitza Str., Ap.11, 1000 Sofia
+359 2 981 42 09
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galafilm95@gmail.com
Activities: Production, co-production
and full range of services for the film
production process.

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16, Kapitan Andreev Str., 1421 Sofia
+359 2 963 06 61
+359 888 605 350
geopoly@gmail.com
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of all kind of shootings formats on the
territory of Bulgaria.

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hello@graffitistudio.bg
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Activities 2022–2024: Dubbing &
subtitling in CEE languages, ADR
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services

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Producer
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Activities: Full production service
coverage for TV commercials and
feature films.

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Activities: Flexible production services
for films, music videos, TV adverts and
photo shoots.

NU BOYANA FILM STUDIOS

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84, Kumata Str., Kinocenter, 1616 Sofia
+359 2 933 25 00
+359 886 600 041
production@nuboyana.com
www.nuboyana.com
Activities: Fully integrated turnkey
services to Film &TV producers for
feature film productions, commercials,
documentaries, music videos, etc.
Rental of sound stages, standing sets
and studio facilities and professional
equipment.

REVIVE VISION FILM STUDIO

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85, Tsar Boris III Blvd., 1612 Sofia
+359 888 736 822
office@revivevision.com
www.revivevision.com
Activities: Realization of TV & Viral
commercials, music videos and
films. HD and 4K production and post
production. Cinema equipment rental.

SIF 309 FILM AND MUSIC PRODUCTIONS

Mr. Vladimir Dimitrov
51, Ekzarh Yosif Str.
1000 Sofia, Bulgaria
+359 888 996021
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www.sif309.com
Activities: Music production service for
films and commercials.

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1517, Sofia, street "Milen Tsvetkov" 28
manager@tv1-bg.com
+359 888 627 313
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Activities: National coverage tv channel,
high level live events, concerts, TV
shows, sport events, DSNG services, high
grade streaming services

WORLDWIDE FX

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Activities: Production, post production,
editing, animation, VFX, rendering,
compositing.

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animation, VFX.

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SCREENING EMOTIONS

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NATIONAL ACADEMY FOR THEATRE & FILM ARTS, SOFIA

Screen Arts Faculty
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+359 2 923 12 91
rector.office@natfiz.bg
www.natfiz.bg

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Blagoevgrad 2700, Bulgaria
+359 73 88 78 44
cinema_tv@swu.bg
www.swu.bg

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Sofia 1618, Bulgaria
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lchristov@nbu.bg, www.nbu.bg

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+359 2 945 41 79
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www.artcollege-bg.com

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SOFIA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Director: Mr Stefan Kitanov
20, Serdika Str.,
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+359 800 18 110
programme@siff.bg
www.siff.bg

LOVE IS FOLLY INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Director: Prof. Alexander Grozev
2-6, Slivniza blvd., Varna 9000, Bulgaria
Festival and congress centre
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agrozev@techno-link.com
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www.loveisfolly.org

GOLDEN LINDEN IFF (Stara Zagora)

International film festival
of new European cinema
10, Bogatitsa str. Yuzhen Park,
Sofia 1421, Bulgaria
+359 882 502 277
office@thegoldenlinden.com
www.thegoldenlinden.com

**WORLD FESTIVAL OF ANIMATED FILM,
VARNA 2024**

Festival Office
varnafest@gmail.com
Alabin 31, Sofia, Bulgaria

**IN THE PALACE INTERNATIONAL
SHORT FILM FESTIVAL**

Festival Director: Mr Tsanko Vasilev
11, Gerlovo str., 1504 Sofia, Bulgaria
+359 888 533 454
mail@inthepalace.com
www.inthepalace.com

CINEMANIA

Is organized by National Palace of
Culture in partnership with "I Have an
Idea" Foundation
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1 Bulgaria Sq., Sofia 1463;
Hristo Hristozov hnhristozov@gmail.com

**GOLDEN KUKER SOFIA INTERNATIONAL
ANIMATION FILM FESTIVAL**

Director: Ms Nadezhda Slavova
Zone B-5, Bl. 8, Entr. A, Apt. 46
1303 Sofia, Bulgaria
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info@animationfest-bg.eu
www.animationfest-bg.eu
<https://filmfreeway.com/GoldenKukerSofia>

**CINELIBRI INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL**

Director: Ms Jacqueline Wagenstein
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+359 887 726 952
jwagenstein@colibri.bg
www.cinelibri.com

**INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND
HEALTH FILMS FESTIVAL**

Director: Iliya Raev
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ircfilmfest@redcross.bg
redcrossfilmfest.org

MASTER OF ART FILM FESTIVAL

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masterofartfilmfestival.com
www.masterofartfilmfestival.com

**RHODOPE INTERNATIONAL
DOCUMENTARY FILM FEST (RIFE)**

Director: Christo Bakalski
45 Graf Ignatiev Str.,
Sofia 1142, Bulgaria
Tel. +359 2 980 70 90
sifesti@gmail.com
www.rife.bg

GOLDEN ROSE

Bulgarian Feature Film Festival
c/o National Film Center
Director: Mr. Petar Todorov
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+359 (2) 9150 811
nfc@nfc.bg
www.nfc.bg
www.zlatnarosa.bg

GOLDEN RHYTON

Bulgarian Documentary and
Animated Film Festival
c/o National Film Center
Director: Mr. Peter Todorov
2-A, Dondukov blvd., floor 7
1000, Sofia, Bulgaria
+359 (2) 9150 811
nfc@nfc.bg
www.nfc.bg
www.zlatenriton.bg

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Chairman: Hristo Hristov
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BULGARIAN ASSOCIATION OF FILM DIRECTORS

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pavelgvesnakov@gmail.com

ASSOCIATION OF CINEMATOGRAPHERS

Chairman: Mr. Ivan Tonev
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1505 Sofia, Bulgaria
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i_tonev@arsdigital.org, www.bac.hit.bg

ASSOCIATION OF FILM, TV AND RADIO SCRIPT-WRITERS

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BULGARIAN FILM SOUND COMPANY

Chairman: Mr. Boris Trayanov
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ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT ANIMATORS

Chairman: Mrs. Nadejda Slavova
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www.baicaa.org

BALKAN DOCUMENTARY CENTER

Director: Mrs. Martichka Bojilova
72, Rakovski Str
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+359 2 983 14 11
email@bdcwebsite.com
www.bdcwebsite.com

**ASSOCIATION OF FILM AND
TELEVISION PRODUCERS**

Chairman: Krasi Vankov
"Episkop Protogen" bl. 53
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+359 887551818
office@atp.bg
www.aftp.bg

**ASSOCIATION OF BULGARIAN
ANIMATION PRODUCERS**

Chairman: Lachezar Velinov
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НАЦИОНАЛЕН ФИЛМОВ ЦЕНТЪР
BULGARIAN NATIONAL FILM CENTER



Creative
Europe
MEDIA
Bulgaria

With the participation of

Observatory of Cultural Economics

ТВОРЧЕСКА ЕВРОПА МЕДИА

От 1991 подкрепяме
европейско кино



Диада
режисьор
Яна Титова
2023 г.



Завръщане
режисьор
Педро Алмодовар
2006 г.

„Творческа Европа“ е програмата на Европейския съюз с решаващо значение за насърчаването на културното многообразие в Европа, както и на конкурентоспособността на секторите на културата и творчеството.

Тя укрепва устойчивостта на аудио-визуалния сектор, неговата цифровизация и достъпност в целия ЕС.

Офисите МЕДИА и Култура на програма „Творческа Европа“ в България са на разположение за информация и консултация.

The Creative Europe Programme of the European Union is of great importance for the promotion of Europe's cultural diversity, as well as the competitiveness of the cultural and creative sectors.

It strengthens the sustainability of the audiovisual sector, its digitization and accessibility throughout the EU.

The MEDIA and Culture offices of the Creative Europe Programme in Bulgaria are available for further information and consultations.



Още едно
режисьор
Томас Винтерберг
2020 г.

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