



Festival networks and their representatives present in Izola

European Network for Film Discourse (END)

Coordinator: FilmFest Dresden (Germany)

Partners:

1. FeKK Short Film Festival Ljubljana (Slovenia)
2. VIENNA SHORTS (Austria)
3. Lago Film Fest (Italy)
4. Kortfilmfestival Leuven (Belgium)
5. Vilnius International Short Film Festival (Lithuania)
6. Curtas Vila do Conde (Portugal)
7. Bucharest International Experimental Film Festival (Romania)

THE EUROPEAN NETWORK
FOR FILM DISCOURSE
END

Founded in 2017 and continually evolving, the **European Network for Film Discourse (END)** is a multifaceted, dynamic cross-border collaboration among European film festivals dedicated to strengthening discourse on European cinema. Its core mission is to strengthen the **visibility of European short films, promote critical engagement with film**, particularly among younger audiences, and build sustainable communities through a combination of editorial, educational, and curatorial activities.

At the centre of the network is the **online magazine Talking Shorts**, which publishes film criticism, interviews, and essays, and reaches around 10,000 users monthly. Complementing this editorial work, the network organises European **tandem workshops for film criticism and curating**, connecting emerging writers and curators with multiple festivals across Europe each

year. The **New Critics & New Audiences Award** further strengthens this approach by linking a screening and discussion programme of six short films with an online audience vote, fostering direct engagement among films, critics, and viewers. Through high-quality editorial work, participatory formats, professional training, and capacity building, the END makes European film culture more visible, accessible, and connected, and actively supports the next generation of critics, curators, and audiences.

Website: <https://talkingshorts.com/the-end/>

Representative in Izola:



Niels Putman (network coordinator) is the artistic director and coordinator of [yanco](#), a magazine and streaming library for short-form moving images. He is also a co-founder and co-editor of [Talking Shorts](#), and project coordinator of the European Network for Film Discourse (END). As a freelance film programmer, Niels is affiliated with [De Cinema](#), Antwerp's local repertory cinema embedded in the Museum of Contemporary Art Antwerp's audiovisual strand. He is also a member of the selection committees for Film Fest Gent (BE) and the video-on-demand platform [Avila](#) (BE). Previously, he has served on (pre-)selection committees at film festivals in Dresden (DE), Baden (CH), and Busan (KR), and has contributed as a guest curator to events in Quebec City (CA) and Poznań (PL). His writing has appeared in outlets such as Sabzian, Etcetera, and Fantômas. He is also a member of Vlaams Audiovisueel Fonds's short film commission (2024–2026), the board of European Short Pitch, and the board of oKo, a sector federation for professional arts.

Moving Images – Open Borders (MIOB)

Coordinator: Scanorama Film Festival (Lithuania)

Partners:

1. Les Arcs Film Festival (France)
2. Trieste Film Festival (Italy)
3. Crossing Europe Film Festival (Austria)
4. European Film Festival Palic (Serbia)
5. Film Festival Cottbus (Germany)



Moving Images – Open Borders is a collaborative platform of audience-driven European film festivals that promotes quality innovation, cross-cultural cooperation, and sustainable development within the European film industry. Established in 2017, during the Syrian refugee crisis and initially without external financial support, the network was created through the shared commitment of its members to highlight the **responsibility of film festivals as amplifiers of cultural perspectives and critical consciousness**, raising awareness on key socio-political and

environmental issues through the artistic expression of cinema.

Through jointly developed initiatives in programming, curatorship, training, communication, and audience engagement, MIOB strengthens European collaboration while promoting **democratic values, cultural dialogue, mobility, innovation, and social progress**. Its activities include the MIOB New Vision Award and MIOB in Shorts Award, as well as audience surveys, innovative engagement formats, and journalism labs. The network also contributes to a healthier, greener, and more inclusive European film ecosystem with the **Green Charter platform** and other sustainability initiatives, as well as workshops and internal resources dedicated to **gender equality, inclusion, and professional development**.

Website: <https://www.miob.info/>

Representatives in Izola:



Nicoletta Romeo (Trieste Film Festival, partner) holds a BA in Foreign Languages and Literatures (University of Udine) and an MA in Cinema and Multimedia Translation (University of Bologna). She coordinated the International Film Critics' Week at the Venice Film Festival and worked as an artistic consultant for the Thessaloniki International Film Festival and the Festival des 4 Écrans. She is the artistic director of the Trieste Film Festival. In 2012, she co-founded Mansarda Production Srl, producing, among others, the documentary *L'ultima spiaggia (The Last Resort)*, presented in the Official Selection–Special Screenings at the Cannes Film Festival (2016). She has curated retrospectives, served on international juries, and collaborated as a tutor for training programmes, including Midpoint Feature Launch, First Cut+, and Czech Film Springboard. In 2023, she contributed to the volume *Nuova Storia del Cinema. Dalle origini al futuro (A New History of Cinema: From Origins to the Future)*, published by Hoepli. She is a member of the European Film Academy.



Monica Goti (Trieste Film Festival, partner) graduated in Political Science with a specialisation in International Politics. She is General and Programme Manager of the Trieste Film Festival, with which she began collaborating in 2005. From 2006 to 2016, she worked with the Venice Film Festival, collaborating with its press office and co-organising press conferences. In 2016, she was appointed Head of the Programming Office of the Trieste Film Festival, and since 2018, she has been serving as President of Alpe Adria Cinema, the association that organises the festival. She also works as a freelancer with Italian and international press offices, promoting films selected at major international festivals, and with cultural institutions such as the Venice Biennale in the organisation of the Venice Film Festival. Following a training programme in environmental sustainability and accessibility of cultural events, she was appointed Green Policy Manager of Alpe Adria Cinema.

Network of Festivals in the Adriatic Region (NFAR)

Coordinator: Sarajevo Film Festival (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Partners:

1. Ljubljana International Film Festival (Slovenia)
2. Zagreb Film Festival (Croatia)
3. Auteur Film Festival (Serbia)
4. Montenegro Film Festival (Montenegro)
5. ICFF Manaki Brothers (North Macedonia)



NFAR operates in a region marked by fragmented audiovisual markets, limited circulation of non-national European works, and uneven institutional capacities. In the post-Yugoslav space, film festivals are **essential infrastructures for audience development, professional exchange, and the visibility of European cinema**, often serving as the primary access point for non-national European films and the most consistent advocates for their promotion and contextualisation. NFAR's mission is to strengthen the circulation of European audiovisual works across the region, deepen audience engagement, and reinforce member festivals through shared knowledge, coordinated action, and new tools and practices.

NFAR contributes to sustained cross-border audience development and professional exchange through programmes such as **Cinephile**, which brings together young participants from across the former Yugoslav region, as well as the **54+ Workshop for senior film critics** and the **Young Critics Workshop**. Manaki's Heirs, a film literacy programme for audiences aged 15–18, has been adapted for use in four additional territories. The network strengthens the visibility of European works through initiatives such as the **Adriatic Audience Award** and the **Adriatic Film and TV Awards**, and extends the life cycle of films beyond festival screenings via the **Winter Edition**, which promotes regional co-productions through coordinated online access across all six territories.

Website: <https://www.sff.ba/en/news/11882/network-of-festivals-in-the-adriatic-region-presents-winter-%20edition->

Representative in Izola:



Franka Bihar (Zagreb Film Festival, partner) is Festival Coordinator at the Zagreb Film Festival, where she has worked since March 2024, starting as a Production Assistant. After completing her undergraduate studies in Visual Communications (School of Design Zagreb), she graduated in Media and Communication Studies (University of Malmö), with an emphasis on Culture, Collaborative Media, and Creative Industries. From October 2021 to July 2022, she completed an internship as a Graphic Designer at Degordian and worked as a freelance designer until moving to Brussels in October 2023, where she undertook a production traineeship in the Audiovisual Service of the European Commission. Alongside her work at Zagreb Film Festival, she is also involved in other creative production projects, including contemporary photography and music festivals in Croatia.

Northern Animation Network (NAN)

Coordinator: Viborg Animation Festival (Denmark)

Partners:

1. REX Animation Film Festival (Sweden)
2. BLON Animation C Games Festival (Lithuania)
3. Fredrikstad Animation Festival (Norway)



The Northern Animation Network provides **comprehensive coverage of animation in the Nordic and Baltic countries** through the four festival platforms involved. Animation is not only a film medium; the industry also spans games, visual effects, explainer and communication formats, extended reality, including virtual reality and augmented reality, and emerging technologies, which makes it a particularly distinctive field. Animation also plays a major role in children's content and is often young people's first contact with media culture.

NAN collaborates across **smaller geographical territories** to benefit filmmakers, producers, and audiences through **joint accreditation and short film submissions**, while also developing a shared year-round **digital platform** featuring interviews, animation programmes, and curated content for wider Northern European audiences. A series of **online video interviews** with animation artists will promote Nordic and Baltic artists, their work, and the art form. Internally, the network provides **forums for knowledge-sharing** to make festival organisations more sustainable, organised, and resilient.

Website: <https://weanimate.dk/articles/nan/>

Representative in Izola:



Sandra Brunkow Simonsen (Viborg Animation Festival, coordinator) is currently working as the Head of Film at Viborg Animation Festival, where she is employed by The Animation Workshop. Her career in animation started at the Copenhagen-based VOID International Animation Festival where she curated films and industry events. She holds an MA in Cultural Mediation (University of Copenhagen) and has previously worked in advertising, product merchandising, and building museum exhibitions for art and cultural institutions.

Young Programmers for Young Audiences! European Film Festival Network (Young4Film)

Coordinator: Kino Otok – Isola Cinema (Slovenia)

Partners:

1. Beldocs International Documentary Film Festival (Serbia)
2. Cinehill Film Festival (ex Motovun) (Croatia)



3. Piccolo Grande Cinema (Italy)
4. Vilnius Short Film Festival (Lithuania)
5. Valladolid International Film Festival – Seminci (Spain)

Young Programmers for Young Audiences! European Film Festival Network aims to overturn a common festival practice, where young audience programme curation is done exclusively by grownups. In contrast, their main mission is to actively include young people in the creation of six established international film festivals as **Young Programmers** of festivals' onsite and online programs. The network was created 2023 and it brings together three general and three specialized European film festivals (documentaries, shorts, young audiences).

Young4Film's approach of developing **participatory activities for young audiences** is based on the original **Moving Cinema** methodology for discovering, appreciating, and enjoying European cinema, that has been since 2014 cultivated by a Barcelona-based cultural organization A Bao A Qu in collaboration with several international partners. As an important innovation in the field of young audience development, the network is also focusing on **sustainability and social awareness** by following their own **Sustainability and Social Awareness Charter for Young Film Audiences** and by creating an **action plan** for awareness-raising work across the festivals in the network.

Website: <https://kinootok.org/en/young4film/>

Representative in Izola:



Tanja Hladnik (Kino Otok – Isola Cinema, coordinator) entered the field of visual arts nearly two decades ago and later focused on arthouse AV works, working continuously as writer, editor, curator, and manager. In 2011, she joined Kino Otok – Isola Cinema IFF and Otok Institute team, and in 2016 took up the role of festival director and artistic co-director. She regularly attends national and international arts and culture events as invited speaker, advisor, or jury member. She holds a BA degree in Journalism and Comparative Literature (Slovenia), and a MA degree in Cultural Policy, Management and Education (The Netherlands) with specialization in art curating and cultural education. In 2021 she completed TorinoFilmLab training for Story Editors for fiction feature films as part of ScriptLab workshop and has been since then active as independent script consultant and script development workshop mentor. In 2025 and 2026 she served as independent expert evaluator for EACEA Creative Europe MEDIA calls *Skills and Talent Development* and *Markets and Networking*.

The event is organised by Motovila – Creative Europe Desk Slovenia in collaboration with Creative Europe MEDIA Desks from Belgium (Flanders), Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Croatia, Italy (Turin), Lithuania, and Germany (Berlin–Brandenburg), in collaboration with the Kino Otok – Isola Cinema festival.