

Animation ThinkTank Industry Report

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Subject: International Co-Development
Awards for Animated Films



This proposal outlines the creation of an international co-development award mechanism aimed at supporting animated film projects in the early stages of development. Designed to address structural funding gaps it seeks to strengthen cross-border collaboration, support independent producers, and promote cultural and creative diversity. Through a membership-based model and streamlined administration, the mechanism offers a practical and inclusive solution to enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of the European animation sector.

The development of animated films involves long timelines and high resource requirements. Early-stage development and research, visual design, scripting—often lacks adequate support, especially for international co-productions and producers in countries with limited funding infrastructures. National support schemes frequently fall short in enabling cross-border co-development collaboration, resulting in constrained industry growth and reduced international competitiveness.

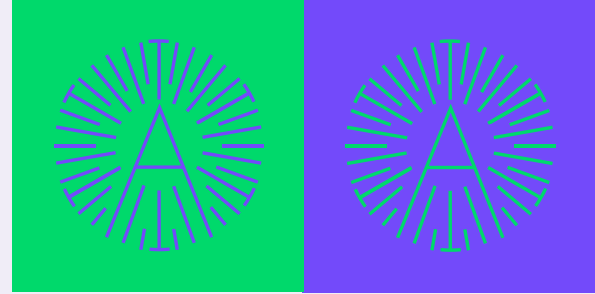
Existing cooperative funding initiatives (e.g., Italian-Baltic Development Award, RE-ACT, Eurimages, MEDIA Development) show clear benefits of shared resources and transnational partnerships. However, these remain inaccessible to many independent producers. A new mechanism is needed to address structural funding gaps and create fair access to development support across regions in Europe.

Proposed Solution: Co-Development Animation Awards (CODA)

A dedicated supranational funding mechanism focused on co-development for animated film projects. Key objectives include:

- Supporting early-stage development activities
- Facilitating international collaboration
- Enhancing creative and cultural diversity
- Strengthening the competitiveness of the European animation sector

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Core Features

- Eligibility: Projects must include at least two co-producing companies from two member countries, with at least one having secured national support
- Scope: Legal entities from member countries; any development stage
- Activities Supported: Research, scriptwriting, visual development, planning, and IP/legal work
- Reporting: Based on deliverables rather than detailed cost breakdowns, ensuring administrative efficiency

Award Categories

- Feature Film Co-Development: €20,000
- TV/Web Series Co-Development: €20,000
- Short Film Co-Development: €5,000

Funding and Administration

- Governance: A membership board (one vote per country), confirmed jury of independent experts
- Structure: Hosted by CEE Animation under the European Economic Interest Grouping (EEIG), based in Prague
- Financing: Annual membership fees from national film funds (3-year commitment)
- Budget Example (10 members x 10.000 EUR/year): €90,000 for awards / €10,000 for administration and promotion

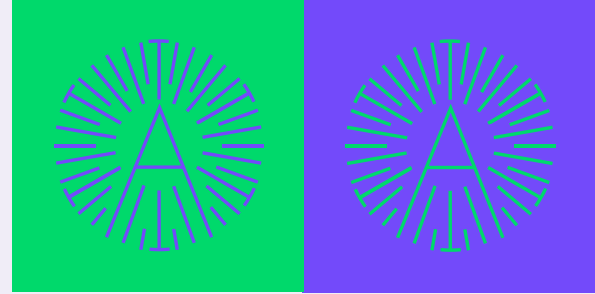
Selection Process

An external professional jury evaluates projects against defined criteria: creative quality, co-development rationale, production feasibility, and cultural diversity. The membership board confirms jury recommendations, ensuring transparent and balanced representation.

Timeline & Implementation

- June–August 2025: Feedback and legal framework development
- September 2025: Membership invitations issued
- Late 2025: Confirmation of participants
- January 2026: Mechanism launch and first award cycle

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Policy Implications

This initiative offers a structured, cost-efficient solution to support the animation sector's international development. It strengthens cultural cooperation, supports independent production capacity, and promotes a more equitable and competitive European audiovisual landscape.

Contact and Further Involvement

National film agencies, public broadcasters, and cultural policy institutions are encouraged to explore membership opportunities and contribute to the development of a sustainable, inclusive animation ecosystem.

List of attendees

[Lado Skopin](#)

[Denis Alenti](#)

[Martin Vandas](#)

[Mladen Djukić](#)

[Saša Bach](#)

[Viva Videnović](#)

[Tina Smrekar](#)

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Animation Think Tank is organized by CEE Animation Workshop and Animafest Zagreb.

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