

## Guidelines

### Key dates

- March 2026: Submission deadline
- April 2026: Notification of selection
- June 2026: Scriptwriting & Development Lab at World festival of Animated Film - Animafest Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia (June 2026)
- October 2026: Online training
- December 2026: Pitching Lab and Competition at Animateka International Animated Film Festival, Ljubljana, Slovenia (December 2026)

### Who can submit a project?

Only producers (or other project rights-holders) can submit projects on behalf of the project team. Producers must hold the rights to the project, including:

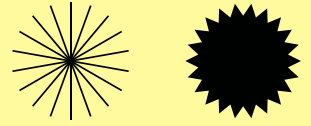
- the right to present the project and any of its parts (including video in any form) to the public,
- the right to publish information on the project and any of its parts in any form (e.g., website or catalogue).

By submitting the project, the producer or the project's rights-holder grants the contest organizers the right to publish – within the scope of Rise & Shine 2026, Animation pitching Lab for young talents – basic information about the project, its headline picture and/or its video presentation, as well as use all these elements and information for the pitching catalogue in both paper and virtual/online versions.

Rise & Shine 2026 is predominantly searching for projects in development by first and second-time filmmakers and students from the Central and Eastern European region, focusing on the following countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia and Italy. However, the Lab is also open to EU participants with an interest in collaboration with the CEE region.

The format we are looking for animated short films (max. length 20 min.). Both members of the project team (director/scriptwriter and producer) must be citizens of the EU or other eligible countries, listed below:

Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Lichtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, North



Macedonia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden. A detailed list of eligible countries for this Call for Proposals is accessible [here](#)

## Project Selection

Projects will be assessed by a committee made up of programme directors of Animafest Zagreb and Animateka, other international experts and organizing staff. The committee will take into consideration creative ideas, the originality of the story, design and visual style, the producer's background and the project's prospects and potential. The lists of projects selected to attend Rise & Shine 2026 will be announced in May.

Project selection guarantees participants with free accreditation to the Animafest Zagreb World festival of animated film (June, Zagreb, HR) and Animateka International Festival of Animated Film (December, Ljubljana, SI).

## Condition of Participation

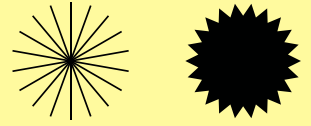
The project teams (director or scriptwriter and producer) have to attend the whole programme. Two members of the participating team will have accommodation costs and one meal per day per person covered. Travel expenses should be covered by the participants. Rise & Shine 2026 will only accept projects that have submitted all documents and information requested by the organizers prior to the event. In the case of the online presence of Rise & Shine 2026, participants will be notified in advance of any possible changes and adjustments to the programme.

## Application

Please note that the following information (in English) will be required to complete the application:

- Logline (max. 200 characters including spaces)
- Synopsis (max. 2 000 characters including spaces)
- Director's statement (max. 1 000 characters including spaces)
- Producer's statement (max. 1 000 characters including spaces)
- Samples of visual style (max. file size is 10MB)
- Link to the trailer/teaser and/or storyboard (optional)
- Information about the budget
- Director's photo, bio and filmography
- Scriptwriter's photo, bio and filmography
- Producer's photo, bio, filmography and company profile

# RISE & SHINE



The entire application form can be accessed [here](#)

## Organizers:



Rise&Shine, Animation pitching Lab for young talents is organised with the support of Creative Europe – MEDIA Programme of the European Union.



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