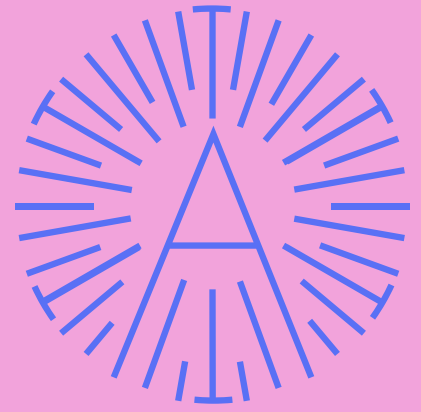


Animation ThinkTank 2026 Report

Held during Animafest Zagreb, the World
Festival of Animated Film, Westin Hotel,
Zagreb – 10–11 June 2026



The **Animation Think Tank 2026** brought together a diverse group of professionals from across Central and Eastern Europe, including representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Czechia, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia and Croatia. Participants included producers, studio representatives, members of animation associations and public broadcasters, reflecting the broad spectrum of organisations involved in animated series development in the region.

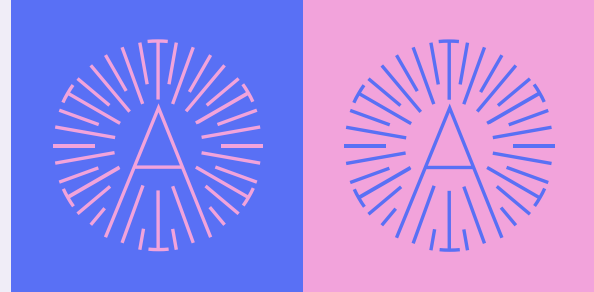
The gathering provided a focused professional setting within the international environment of Animafest Zagreb, enabling participants to examine **the current landscape of animated series production and development**. Over two days, attendees shared national updates, discussed structural challenges and explored opportunities for strengthening cooperation and financing. The Think Tank highlighted the significant differences between countries in terms of available funding, production capacity and policy support, underscoring the need for coordinated regional strategies.

Participants noted that **development financing for animated series** remains limited across much of the region. Many broadcasters rarely invest in early development, preferring to acquire completed content, which restricts producers' ability to secure Letters of Commitment required for European and other programmes. The shortage of experienced scriptwriters and the difficulty small studios face in maintaining long-term production pipelines were also identified as key obstacles to growth.

The meeting examined **successful cooperation models** from Europe, including the Nordisk N12 broadcaster initiative and the Re-act collaboration between Italy, Slovenia and Croatia. These examples demonstrated how structured regional partnerships can unlock additional funding, improve access to European programmes and strengthen production ecosystems. Participants agreed that similar approaches could be adapted for the CEE region to support animated series development.

A shared priority emerging from the discussions was the need to establish a dedicated **CEE Series Development Lab** focused on scriptwriting, co-development and production pipeline management. Participants also emphasised the importance of preparing case studies of recent CEE co-productions, such as *Tales from the Magic Garden* and *Cricket and Antonietta*, to illustrate viable production models and support advocacy efforts. Collecting data on broadcaster programming needs and monitoring European policy developments were identified as essential steps for improving strategic planning.

Animation ThinkTank Industry Report



The Think Tank brought together professionals including **Mladen Đukić** of Aeon Production, **Vullnet Sanaja** of Anibar Studios, **Anika Naglmüller** of Krutart, **Łukasz Kacprowicz** and **Robert Jaszczurowski** of GS Animation, **Wojtek Leszczynski** of the Polish Animation Producers Association, **Jožko Rutar** of SPOK/Stara Gara, **Jure Vizjak** of Invida, **Aleksander Kmet** of Slovak public broadcasters, **Damir Grbanović** of Octopics Animation, **Lado Skorin** of 3D2D Animatori and HRUP, **Matija Šturm** of the Slovene Animated Film Association and CEE Animation, **Saša Bach** of CEE Animation and **Jure Bušić** of Jaka Produkcija. Their combined expertise and perspectives provided a comprehensive overview of the region's animation landscape.

Held during one of the world's leading animation festivals, the Think Tank benefited from the visibility and international context of Animafest Zagreb. The meeting reinforced the role of CEE Animation as a platform for collaboration, knowledge exchange and strategic development, and the insights gathered form a clear roadmap for strengthening animated series production across Central and Eastern Europe.