



**COPRODUCING
WITH
WALLONIA-BRUSSELS
FEDERATION**

—
**BE PART
OF THE VIRTUOUS CIRCLE !**

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Over the past decade, Belgian cinema has been boosted considerably thanks to a virtuous circle generated by the synergy between available film funding schemes at the cultural and economic levels, in either side of the country, and its very attractive tax shelter system. The move came as a new impulse for a production model which, due to the small internal market, relies much on coproduction and partnership abroad. And the track record is impressive!

Considering the most recent national statistics available, 67 films have been produced in Belgium in 2014: 15 national feature films, 21 majority coproductions and 31 minority coproductions that found local partners and financial support on the territory.

Local production companies strongly developed their activities and some of them show innovative and creative strategies and partnerships on the international market.

Being at the heart of Europe, Belgium also offers an easy access to a very dense network of talents, facilities and service providers who can contribute to film projects at all stages of pre-production, production and post-production.

As a public body under the auspices of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation (the authority for the French-speaking side of the country), the Centre du Cinéma et de l'Audiovisuel (CCA – Film and Audiovisual Fund) plays a major role in this film ecosystem. Recognised as the first partner of Belgian cinema, the CCA manages more than €29 millions each year in order to support (co)production, promotion and circulation of films.

As a result, more than ever Belgian cinema is doing well, as demonstrated each year by selections – and awards ! – gathered in major international festivals (Cannes, Berlin, Toronto...). In 2015, French-speaking Belgian cinema got over 200 prizes in film festivals abroad, confirming a positive trend year-on-year.

Do you (and your project) want to be part of this virtuous circle? If, like us, you believe that cinema is a splendid vehicle for identity, openness and diversity, this brochure has some interesting creative and funding opportunities to offer.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Belgium is a small, highly developed and densely populated country (11.250 million of inhabitants) at the cross-roads of Western Europe. Belgium is one of the founding members of the European Community, and its capital, Brussels, is also the capital of the European Union.

Belgium is a federal state, with 3 relatively autonomous regions with economic competences: Flanders in the north, where the language is Dutch («Flemish»), Wallonia in the south, where the language is French, and the centrally located Brussels, which is bilingual. Belgium also has 3 relatively autonomous communities with cultural competences, la Fédération Wallonie Bruxelles for the French Speaking part of the country, the Vlaamse Gemeenschap for the Flemish speaking part of the country and the Deutschsprachige Gemeinschaft for the German speaking part.

In the field of cinema, the Wallonia-Brussels Federation supports the film industry on the basis of cultural aspects (cultural identity and cooperation). The Flemish Community has a similar approach with its Flemish Audiovisual Fund. The regions (Wallonia, Brussels and Flanders) developed funding mechanisms in line with their competency on the economic ground (development of companies, creation of jobs). The federal state deals with fiscal incentives and legislation.

Belgium has a very high standard of life with a very good level of education, health care and infrastructure. In the last 20 years, it has developed considerably as a multicultural environment (due to the existence of many supranational bodies such as the EU, Nato...) with a boiling and amazingly diverse cultural offer.



The Brand New Testament
by Jaco Van Dormael
(BE/LU/FR)

BELGIUM



Population :
11,250
million



GDP : **\$444,9 billion**

GDP per inhabitant : **\$31,488**



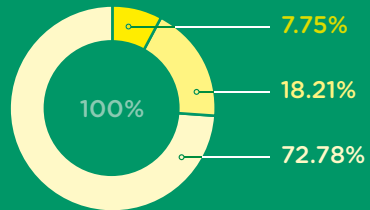
Number of
cinema screens :
473



Number of
cinema sites :
89

Film market shares

- National films : 7.75%
- Non-national European films : 18.21%
- US films : 72.78%



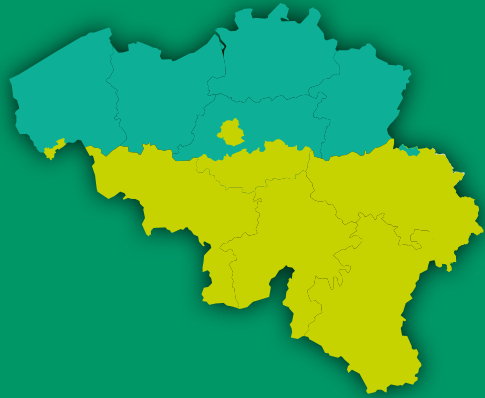
Cinema admissions :
€21,1 million



Gross box office :
€166 million

Number of national
feature film produced : **36**

Number of feature films
produced : **67**



Population :

4,77 million

Global production budget :

€178,91 million



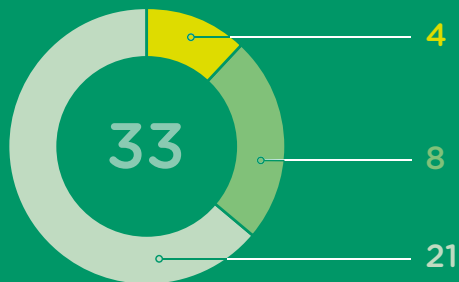
National feature film average budget :

€2,05 million



Number of feature films labelled as Belgian (2015) : **33**

- 100% Belgian : **4**
- Majority co-production : **8**
- Minority co-production : **21**



ABOUT THE CCA

(FILM AND AUDIOVISUAL FUND)

The Film and Audiovisual Fund is the official film institute responsible for supporting local film production, distribution and promotion in the French-speaking part of Belgium. It allocates funds in line with cultural objectives that are mainly the artistic and cultural expression of its audiovisual artists and talents and the fostering of a French speaking Belgian cinema identity.

In this respect, it looks after supporting a wide and diverse range of works in all genres (short films, feature films, animation, and TV series with a specific committee), reflecting all kinds of sensibilities, aimed at the domestic and international markets.

In 2015 **139 film projects** have been granted a support:

51

feature
films
(writing,
development and
production)

31

short
films

47

documen-
taries

8

film
labs

2

TV
animation

The White Knights
by Joachim Lafosse
(BE/FR)



1. SUPPORT FOR CREATION

A selective support for creation of audiovisual works is managed by the Film Selection Committee (3 sessions per year).

▶ SCRIPTWRITING

- Subsidies for the writing of the script and individual coaching (script doctoring)
- Animation and fiction features
- Open to the scriptwriter or the producer
- €12,500 (features)

▶ DEVELOPMENT

- Subsidies covering research activities, search for co-producers, scout for talents and location...
- Features (animation, fiction) and documentaries
- Granted to the producer
- €37,500 (fiction and animation features)
- Up to €7,500 (documentary features and TV)

▶ PRODUCTION

- Advances on receipts granted to the producer of a film initiated in Belgium (with Belgian director) or abroad (with foreign director)
- Feature films, short films, documentaries, TV series (animation) and film labs
- Feature film initiated in Belgium (fiction, animation) : €425,000
- Feature film initiated abroad (fiction, animation) : €100,000
- Feature documentary initiated in Belgium : €175,000
- Feature documentary initiated abroad : €70,000
- TV documentary : up to €65,000
- Short fiction : up to €42,500
- Short documentary : up to €33,750
- Short animation : up to €50,000
- Film lab : up to €20,000 (subsidies)

▶ PRODUCTION AFTER SHOOTING

- Subsidies granted to the producer of a film initiated in Belgium after first photography:
 - feature (fiction) up to €75,000;
 - short (fiction) up to €42,500;
 - documentary: up to €15,000
- Short fiction initiated abroad: up to €15,000
- Short animation initiated abroad: up to €20,000

ABOUT THE CCA

(FILM AND AUDIOVISUAL FUND)

2. SUPPORT FOR PROMOTION

Promotion support is granted to art house films initiated in Belgium:

- ▶ Granted to the producer
- ▶ Subsidy aiming at cofinancing promotion towards the general audience
From €20,000 to €40,000

Films initiated abroad produced with a production grant from the CCA: up to €7,500

3. OUR CO-PRODUCTION POLICY

Even if we have a long tradition of co-production in Belgium, for several years now, the CCA endeavoured to diversify its co-production partners and to forge strong relations with film funds abroad in order to facilitate the setting up of valuable co-productions and networks.

The Wallonia-Brussels Federation is part of the multilateral European Convention on Cinematographic Co-production and an active member of Eurimages, the European cinema support fund of the Council of Europe.

Belgium signed bilateral co-production agreements with:

- France
- Germany
- Italy
- Israel
- Tunisia
- Canada
- Switzerland

Following the Belgian institutional reforms, the Wallonia-Brussels Federation also concluded bilateral agreements with several countries:

- Portugal
- Tunisia
- Morocco
- Italy
- France
- Switzerland
- China
- The Netherlands

Other agreements are currently being negotiated with Chile, Brazil, Mexico and Uruguay.

Due to our cultural and linguistic links, our privileged co-production partners are of course France, Luxembourg and Switzerland.

In 2015, 30 feature films supported by the Film and Audiovisual Fund have been completed in the French speaking part of Belgium, of which:

- 15 co-productions with France
- 4 co-productions with Luxembourg
- 3 co-productions with The Netherlands
- 3 co-productions with Switzerland.

RECENT CO-PRODUCTIONS

- *The Brand New Testament* by Jaco Van Dormael (BE/LU/FR)
- *The White Knights* by Joachim Lafosse (BE/FR)
- *Prejudice* by Antoine Cuypers (BE/LU/NL)
- *The Wakhan Front* by Clément Cogitore (FR/BE)
- *Dirty Wolves* by Simón Casal de Miguel (ES/BE)
- *Eng Nein Zäit* by Christophe Wagner (LU/BE)
- *Face Down* by Kamen Kalev (FR/BE/Bulgaria)
- *Free to Run* by Pierre Morath (CH/FR/BE)



Dirty Wolves
by Simón Casal de Miguel
(ES/BE)

HOW CAN I APPLY AS A FOREIGN PRODUCER ?

Are you a producer preparing a new film project? Do you think it would be relevant to introduce it as co-production with French-speaking Belgium? Here are several conditions to comply with:

1. TO HAVE A BELGIAN CO-PRODUCER

In order to submit your project as a minority coproduction, you have to have a co-producer in Wallonia-Brussels; it must be an independent production company registered in Belgium. Your Belgian co-producer will therefore submit the project to the Film Selection Committee of the CCA.

2. TO WORK IN THE FRAMEWORK OF A CO-PRODUCTION AGREEMENT (BILATERAL OR MULTILATERAL)

Projects initiated in a foreign country must be proposed into the framework of an official international co-production agreement.

3. TO SUBMIT THE PROJECT IN FRENCH

The script has to be submitted in French even if the film is shot in another language.

4. TO HAVE A PERCENTAGE OF THE FINANCING CONFIRMED

A minimum financing threshold must be in place at the submission stage of the project:

- 30% of the financing has to be confirmed (producer's contribution excluded) in the case of a feature film (fiction, animation or documentary)
- 15% of the financing has to be confirmed by at least one broadcaster in the case of a Tv documentary



5. TO MEET THE EVALUATION CRITERIA (CULTURAL TEST)

Keep in mind that your project will be evaluated according to a cultural test :

- the cultural content and the artistic and technical details of the project;
- the cultural value of the project for the Wallonia-Brussels Federation;
- the adequacy between the amount required and the artistic project;
- the relevance of the submission file, including the budget and the financing plan of the film.

6. TO SPEND THE GRANT IN BELGIUM

The amount granted to the project has to be spent in Belgium and mostly in the area of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation.

7. TO PROVIDE A SUBTITLED COPY OF THE FILM IF IT IS NOT SHOT IN FRENCH



OTHER SOURCES OF FINANCING

1. OTHER CCA FUNDS

- **The special fund** is a credit managed by the CCA on which the RTBF (public TV broadcaster) exercises drawing rights depending on the projects that RTBF wants to co-produce with the independent producers of the Wallonia Brussels Federation.
- **Reinvestment subsidies:** they are calculated according to the operating results in theatres, TV and festivals of feature and short films recognised as being of cultural interest to the Wallonia Brussels Federation.
- **Broadcasters investment:** the CCA is in charge of the monitoring of the investments requested from the broadcasters (public and private) to the benefit of the independent production sector. It is directly linked to the turnover of the televisions and represents an important amount for production.

2. WALLIMAGE

Wallimage is the regional (economic) investment fund supporting film production (Wallimage Co-production) and audiovisual services facilities (Wallimage Enterprises) in Wallonia.

www.wallimage.be

3. SCREEN.BRUSSELS

Screen.Brussels is the regional (economic) investment fund supporting audiovisual industry in Brussels. The fund offers also a wide range of services to their members (networking, information & workshops, internationalization).

www.screenbrussels.be

4. VAF - VLAAMSE AUDIOVISUEEL FONDS

The Flanders Audiovisual Fund (VAF) supports audiovisual production in Flanders, as well as international co-productions with Flanders. The aims of the VAF are threefold: to develop a sustainable audiovisual industry, to encourage and support upcoming audiovisual talent and to promote a vibrant audiovisual culture in Flanders.

www.vaf.be

5. SCREEN FLANDERS

Screen Flanders was launched in April 2012 by the government of Flanders as a new economic support measure for audiovisual works. Besides this, Screen Flanders is also the central film commission for the Flanders Region.

www.screenflanders.be

6. TAX SHELTER

The tax shelter is a federal fiscal incentive intended to support and promote the production of Belgian audiovisual works, that allows private companies which want to invest in audiovisual production to recover a part of investment in the form of tax deduction.

www.finances.belgium.be

7. OTHER SOURCES OF SUPPORT

WB Images is the official agency for the promotion of the export of the audiovisual sector in Wallonia Brussels Federation

www.wbimages.be

The regional film commissions: they provide assistance in services as regards finding locations, logistics and creating relations with local authorities.

8. ON THE EUROPEAN SIDE

- **Eurimages** is the fund of the Council of Europe to support co-production, distribution and exploitation of European film works. Its objective is to promote the European cinema by stimulating the production and circulation of works and by promoting co-operation between professionals. Belgium is one of the founding members of Eurimages and takes an active part in it.

www.coe.int/t/dg4/eurimages/default_en.asp

- **The Creative Europe (MEDIA) Program** of the European Union aims at strengthening the competitiveness of the European audiovisual industry through a number of incentive actions concerning the training of professionals, the development of production projects, the distribution of cinematographic and audiovisual works, the promotion of these works especially in the markets and at festivals.

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe>



FÉDÉRATION
WALLONIE-BRUXELLES
CULTURE.BE

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