



FÉDÉRATION
WALLONIE-BRUXELLES
CULTURE.BE



COPRODUCING WITH WALLONIA-BRUSSELS FEDERATION

**BE PART
OF THE VIRTUOUS CIRCLE!**

CENTRE DU CINÉMA ET DE L'AUDIOVISUEL

BE PART OF THE VIRTUOUS CIRCLE!



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 partnerships abroad. And the track record is impressive!

Considering the most recent national statistics available, 44 films were produced in Belgium in 2020: 5 national feature films, 14 majority coproductions and 25 minority coproductions that found local partners and financial support from the region.

Local production companies strongly developed their activities and some of them display 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 talent, 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 part of the country), the Centre du Cinéma et de l'Audiovisuel (CCA – Film and Audiovisual Fund) plays a major role in this film ecosystem. As a privileged partner of Belgian cinema, the CCA manages more than €30 million each year in order to support (co)production, promotion and circulation of films.

As a result, Belgian cinema is doing very well, as demonstrated each year by selections – and awards! – received in major international festivals (Cannes, Berlin, Toronto...). In 2020, French-speaking Belgian cinema was awarded over 146 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 fantastic 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 (11.49 million 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, the Wallonia-Brussels Federation 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 an effervescent and amazingly diverse cultural offer.



Clara sola by Nathalie Alvarez Mesen (Costa Rica, Sweden, Belgium, Germany)

BELGIUM



Population
11.49
million



GDP: **€476.34 billion**
GDP per
inhabitant: **€41,457**



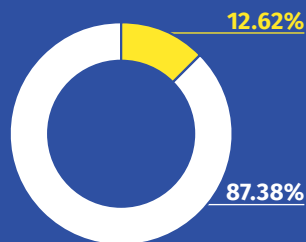
Number of
cinema screens
480



Number of
cinema sites
80

Film market shares

- National films: 12.62%
- Others: 87.38%



Cinema admissions
19.88 million (2019)

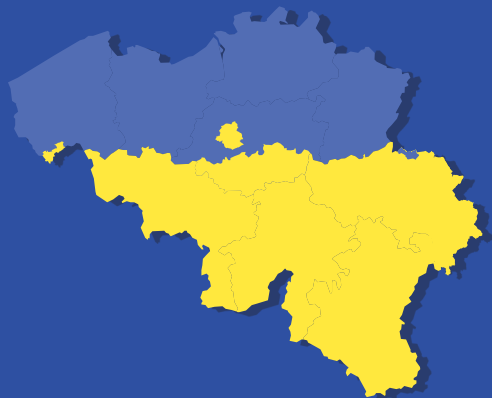


Gross box office
€160.20 million (2019)

Number of national
feature film produced: **19**

Number of feature films
produced: **44**

WALLONIA-BRUSSELS



Population

4.86 million



Global production
budget

€130.90 million

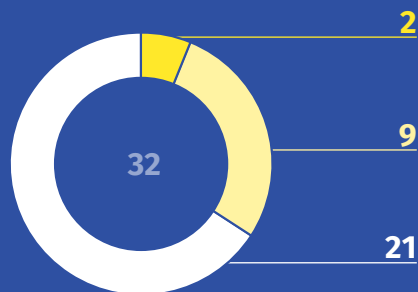


National feature
film average budget

€2.15 million

Number of feature
films labelled
as Belgian (2020)
32

- 100% Belgian: **2**
- Majority co-production: **9**
- Minority co-production: **21**



ABOUT THE CENTRE DU CINÉMA ET DE L'AUDIOVISUEL

(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.

165 film projects were supported in 2020

61

feature
films

(writing, development
and production)

31

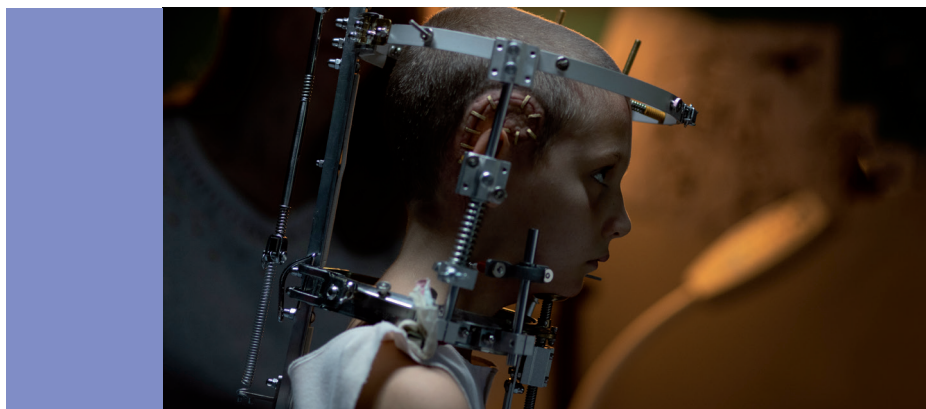
short
films

67

documen-
taries

6

films
Lab



Titane by Julia Ducournau (France, Belgium)

1. SUPPORT FOR CREATION

Selective support for creation of audiovisual works is managed by the Cinema Committee (3 sessions per year).

→ SCRIPTWRITING

- Subsidies for the writing of the script and individual coaching (script doctoring)
- Features (animation, fiction) and documentaries
- Open to the scriptwriter or the producer
- €12,500 (features), €7,500 (documentary), €15,000 (documentary TV series)

→ DEVELOPMENT

- Subsidies covering research activities, search for co-producers, talent and location scouts
- Features (animation, fiction) and documentaries
- Granted to the producer
- Artistic development : €30,000, and production development : €30,000 (fiction and animation features)
- Up to €25,000 (documentary)

→ 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 (documentary) and films Lab
- Feature film initiated in Belgium (fiction, animation): €430,000
- Feature Film initiated abroad (fiction, animation): €100,000
- Documentary initiated in Belgium: €100,000
- Documentary initiated abroad: €50,000
- Documentary TV series: €100,000
- Short fiction: up to €42,500
- Short fiction initiated abroad: up to €15,000
- Short animation: up to €50,000
- Short animation initiated abroad: up to €20,000
- 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, animation) up to €15,000;
 - documentary: up to €15,000.

ABOUT THE CENTRE DU CINÉMA ET DE L'AUDIOVISUEL (CCA - FILM AND AUDIOVISUAL FUND)



2. SUPPORT FOR PROMOTION

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

- Granted to the producer or the distributor
- Subsidy aiming at cofinancing promotion towards the general audience from €10,000 to €40,000

Films initiated abroad produced with a production grant from the CCA: up to €7,500 and the support goes to the distributor.

3. OUR CO-PRODUCTION POLICY

Though we already have a long tradition of co-production in Belgium, for several years now, the CCA has been striving 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 (former and renewed) and an active member of Eurimages, the European cinema support fund of the Council of Europe.

Belgium signed bilateral co-production agreements with:

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

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

- | | | |
|----------|------------|-------------------|
| - Canada | - Italy | - Switzerland |
| - Chile | - Morocco | - The Netherlands |
| - China | - Portugal | - Tunisia |
| - France | - Senegal | - Uruguay |

Other agreements are currently being negotiated with Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Lebanon, Mexico, Peru and Ukraine.

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

In 2020, 16 feature films supported by the Film and Audiovisual Fund have been completed in the French-speaking part of Belgium, of which:

- 7 co-productions with France
- 2 co-productions with Germany
- 1 co-production with The Netherlands
- 1 co-production with Luxembourg

RECENT CO-PRODUCTIONS

- *Should the wind fall* by Nora Martirosyan (France, Belgium, Armenia)
- *Lingui, the Sacred Bonds* by Mahamat Saleh Haroun (France, Germany, Belgium)
- *Clara sola* by Nathalie Alvarez Mesen (Costa Rica, Sweden, Belgium, Germany)
- *Titane* by Julia Ducournau (France, Belgium)
- *Red Soil* by Farid Bentoumi (France, Belgium)
- *Brutalia* by Manolis Mavris (Greece, Belgium)



Should the wind fall by Nora Martirosyan (France, Belgium, Armenia)

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 fulfil:

1. HAVE A BELGIAN CO-PRODUCER

In order to submit your project as a minority coproduction, you must 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 Cinema Committee.

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

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

3. SUBMIT THE PROJECT IN FRENCH

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



Lingui, the Sacred Bonds by Mahamat Saleh Haroun (France, Germany, Belgium)

4. HAVE A PERCENTAGE OF THE FINANCING CONFIRMED

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

- 40% of the financing has to be confirmed (producer's contribution excluded) in the case of a feature film (fiction, animation or documentary)

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



Red Soil by Farid Bentoumi (France, Belgium)

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: these 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 monitoring 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 broadcaster 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

As the audiovisual hub supporting the industry in the Brussels Capital-Region, screen.brussels offers multiple services: coproduction funding to support film/documentary/series projects for any device (screen.brussels fund), welcoming filming in Brussels (screen.brussels film commission), connecting professionals and companies to enhance the sector's visibility and help them grow (screen.brussels cluster), and providing loans or capital investment for SMB's (screen.brussels business).

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. It allows private companies which want to invest in audiovisual production to recover part of their investment in the form of a tax deduction.

www.finances.belgium.be

7. OTHER SOURCES OF SUPPORT

WBIimages is the official agency responsible for promoting the export of the audiovisual sector in Wallonia-Brussels Federation.

www.wbimages.be

The regional film commissions provide assistance in services relating to finding locations, logistics and fostering 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 European cinema by stimulating the production and circulation of works and by promoting cooperation between professionals. Belgium is one of the founding members of Eurimages and plays an active role in it. Since 2017, Canada is associate member of Eurimages.

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/eurimages>

- The Creative Europe (MEDIA) Program of the European Union aims to strengthen 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 and the promotion of these works, especially in the markets and at festivals.

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



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