



EXCHANGE PRODUCTION MEETING AND PITCHING FORUM

at AniFEST

International Film Festival of Animated Films

CALL FOR PROJECTS

EPM Invites young filmmakers, artists, students and producers from Eastern and Central Europe to submit their projects of short animated film to Exchange Production Meeting. The opened platform will promote their projects in the festival materials and on the international scene to foreign producers and professionals. Exchange Production Meeting is also offering information about supportive funds and alternative forms of financing.

AniFest will invite ten selected authors with the chosen projects to the 10th edition of the festival AniFest held in Teplice from 26th April to 1st May in order to let them present it in details at pitching forum attended by international producers and professionals from France and other countries.

The goal of the Exchange Production Meeting is gathering young talents and short film animation projects to support the production of new artistic and ambitious films. It plans to guide young professionals from our region through the European audiovisual market.

CONDITION OF A SUBMITTED CARTOON AND ANIMATION PROJECTS

- The Project of animated films must be of short métrage (to 30 minutes) with submitted short synopsis and basic idea about visual form of the film.
- At least 50 percent of the film must be shot in one of the techniques of animation or multimedia forms that uses the principles of animation films
- The film project must have a director and a producer who could represent it at the festival if it is chosen.
- The assured pre-financement is not necessary but the cartoon project should have an estimated, realistic budget.
- We are welcoming especially young authors and filmmakers
- The deadline for the project for AniFest 2011's pitching forum is **1st of March**

SUBMITTING A PROJECT

You are warmly welcome to send your project on michal.prochazka@anifest.cz.

Please enclosed your basic synopsis and graphic materials with contacts on producers and filmmakers as well as with the authorisation of publishing your materials in the database New Animation Projects.



DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

1. INTRODUCTION

The project of Exchange production meeting is proposed with the concern of contemporary difficult situation of artistic animation and especially young filmmakers. **The Central and East European short film animation scene suffers from limited production power, underdeveloped supportive institutional structures and poor distribution prospects.** Local filmmakers can often set up their productions only on stereotypical state funding resources while staying on mercy of local TVs, private random sponsors ect. Usually they work in animation studios on commercial works and once in a while they can afford to shoot a film if an extra money is allocated.

In this culture space it is absolutely essential **for filmmakers and professionals to look for natural connections between professionals from neighbour countries, film markets and different institutions and supportive funds.** The future of local animation depends also on a close cooperation between filmmakers, producers and on their ability to work on global European audiovisual market.

AniFest is introducing a new Exchange production meeting to help especially the young filmmakers and talents from the region to develop their animation and cartoon projects and meet new partners, colleagues and producers at one of the major festivals of animation cinema in Central Europe.

AniFest brought the first trial year of profiforum last year with various workshops, debates over the production situation and meeting with Fabrice Marquat from l'Agence du court metrage and Julien Chollet Namy from La Maison du film court. They introduced different French initiatives and supportive programs.

2. EXPLANATION OF THE IDEA WHY THE EXCHANGE FORUM IS NEEDED

Such an AniFest's initiative is build on several important ideas.

- AniFest is willing to **gather talents and animated film projects from Central and East Europe in order to present them on international scene and facilitate their production and home or international co-production prospects.** The festival is building a database of cartoon projects and support funds offering possibilities of financing films.
- **Festival's Exchange meeting of selected film projects will be attended by producers, TV comission editors, professinals comming to see unknown animation environment, new talents and possible co-production prospects.**
- The principal idea of the Meeting is in the networking of **solitary filmmakers, producers and film profesonals that can facilitate future cooperations and co-productions** between different studios, production companies and countries
- **Exchange Production Meeting will give an example of new alternative forms of developing artistic animation productions.**
- The project is aimed especially **to support the young generation of filmmakers** who struggle to shoot their films after finishing schools.
- Czech republic **is an ideal place** for exchange forum regarding the home tradition of animation and also its geographical location near the East/ West border.



3. FOCUS ON SHORT FILMS

The AniFest's project is focused **on short animation films that do not exceed budgets driven by commercial prospects but preserves the animation as a courageous expression of art.**

- Filmmakers can develop their talents **and can experiment with ambitious films** regardless of the commercial pressure.
- Short films are sustainable **with relatively small scale funding** without being completely dependent on TV formats, theatrical distribution and big marketing.
- This format enables more **co-productions between the highly developed production countries with countries of limited production power.**
- Examples of successful international short films can promote the image of this region and pivot long animation film projects later.

4. CONDITION OF A SUBMITTED CARTOON AND ANIMATION PROJECTS

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5. STRATEGICAL GOALS OF THE EXCHANGE PRODUCTION MEETING IN LONG TERM

General

- **Gathering interesting young projects of short animation films in order to help them beeing shot**
- **Networking with film professionals, animation schools, festivals, institutions and young filmmakers** from the region
- **Exchanging and sharing of information, knowledge, experience and know how** on the animation scene
- Building up a **short film animation market of pitching forum**
- **Promoting of young animation from Central and East Europe** on international scene and **attracting foreign producers, talents seekers and professionals**
- The idea is that it is hard for anybody to impose your project at a big international festival like Annecy. We need to invite people who could be really interested in the animation of our region and present them new projects and talents.



Financing

- **Covering local available funds and financial resources and getting them involved at our Exchange Production Meeting**
- The project could be an example of new form of alternative financing of the animation films
- Building a new relation and self-confidence between filmmakers and the animation scene.

Education

- Exchange Production Meeting will improve the knowledge of local professionals and students of European audiovisual market
- The meeting can be a platform of other activities

Promoting

- Promoting **the central European animation abroad outside of stereotypes held by foreign television and also producers**
- Upgrading image of East European animation
- Having the overview of the contemporary animation production of the region

6. STRATEGICAL GOALS FOR THE FIRST YEAR

- presenting **two short film co-productions of „Czech-French animation films in preparation“** as a model and a study example that could show the possibilities and attract other local partners and projects.
- bring **French producers in the frame of Czech-French meeting**, organised at the festival of 2011 with the support of Uni France
- select **10 projects from Central and East Europe** that will be presented at the festival, in the festival booklet and promoted on the international market. **The participants will follow a training workshop focusing on European AV market strategies and the development of their Pitching abilities. The Best project will be awarded with a price (has to be specified).**
- establish new East/West co-production dialogue
- present **funding possibilities and institutional bodies** from our region
- build up a supportive network of information with the help of **other festivals in the region** (Zagreb, Stuttgart, Budapest, Dresden)
- Create **a feedback book** - gather the experiences of co-producers in our region

7. SENDING PROJECT

You are warmly welcome to send us your project on michal.prochazka@anifest.cz.

Please enclosed your text and graphic materials with contacts on producers and filmmakers as well as with the authorisation for the publishing in European audiovisual market.



8. WHO ARE WE

AniFest (www.anifest.cz) is an annual, international festival and one of the leading animation events in Czech republic and the local region. During the past ten years AniFest has become a leading platform of animation for the filmmakers, scholars and lovers of films from home and also from abroad presenting the various forms of animation as well as supportive, educational and non-commercial distributions projects.

Every year AniFest welcomes a lot of international guests and filmmakers. Our patron is renowned world film historian **Giannalberto Bendazzi**, our honorary president for 2011 is world famous **Michaela Pavlátová**. In 2010 We have hosted several of the best filmmakers in the world like **Koji Yamamura**, **Břetislav Pojar**, **Jurij Norstein**, **Tim Searle**, **Jayne Pilling**, **Gil Alkabetz**, **Bill Plympton**, **Bruno Bozzetto**, **Marv Newland**..ect.



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