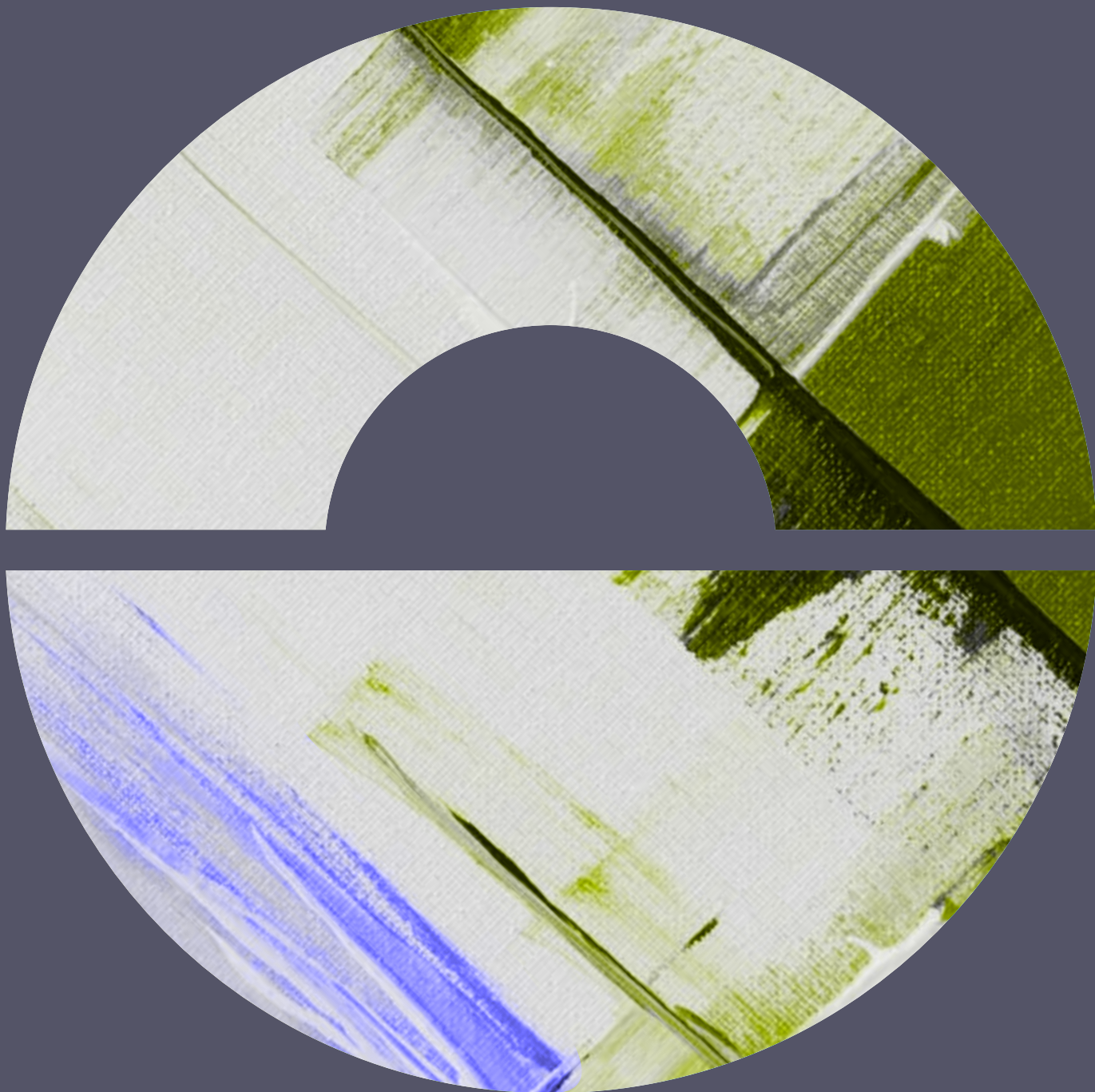




A KIDS Regio Mapping of Regional Support for Children's and Youth Cinema





Are we making space for young audiences?

We often say that young audiences matter. But how often do we translate this into action? Funding schemes for young audiences are cultural commitments, not just financial tools. They ensure that children and young people are not marginalised in film culture, but are instead offered stories that reflect their experiences and broaden their horizons, fostering emotional and critical engagement. Yet this demographic remains under-represented in cultural and film policy across Europe. At Cine Regio, we believe that European cinema should take young audiences seriously, both as viewers today and as the future of our film culture.

This report, initiated and developed by KIDS Regio — the dedicated subgroup within Cine Regio — aims to raise the profile of strategic efforts for young audiences. Building on the discussions held at the [KIDS Regio Forum 2024](#), it explores how to secure more space for children and young people in the European film landscape, with contributions from policymakers, creatives, and industry representatives. One essential step is to map existing initiatives, demonstrate their impact, and encourage others to adopt similar approaches.

Regional film funds play a crucial, though often underestimated, role in this context. As well as funding productions, they help build sustainable infrastructures, including educational and outreach programmes, festivals, and talent initiatives, that enable young people to access and engage with cinema meaningfully. The initiatives featured in this report reflect the creativity and diversity of these approaches and exemplify how regional strategies can respond flexibly and innovatively to the needs of young viewers.

While all Cine Regio members support young audiences to some extent, mainly through general funding, this publication highlights those who have developed specific, notable initiatives. By showcasing these examples, we aim to recognise their efforts and inspire others to follow suit.

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the members of Cine Regio who contributed their insights to this publication. Above all, I would like to thank KIDS Regio for their tireless advocacy and leadership, especially Anna-Lena Pritz and Anne Schultka for initiating and conceptualising this report. Through the initiative's ongoing efforts in areas such as research, networking, and policy engagement, they ensure that children's films have a strong, united voice in Europe.



Charlotte Appelgren
General-Secretary
CineRegio AISBL
Brussels, August 2025

Legend of tags

To improve clarity and ease of navigation, this report uses a tagging system. These serve as quick reference markers, encapsulating the essence of each Fund's efforts and the areas they address. The tags are designed to help you identify the focus of each Fund's report at a glance, providing a seamless reading experience.

Audience Development Programmes that are explicitly aimed at growing, diversifying or engaging young cinema audiences.

Festival Support Funding for or partnerships with festivals and programmes targeting children and young people.

Funding Quota A formal requirement or separate budget line earmarked for children's or young audience content.

Industry Collaboration Partnerships with other funds, broadcasters, distributors, co-production forums, etc.

Infrastructure & Networks Long-term platforms and networks, such as cinema networks, digital platforms and regional hubs.

International Co-Production Schemes or partnerships that specifically address the production of cross-border children's content.

Media Education & Creativity Activities include film literacy, school programmes, teacher training and workshops for youth-led content.

Reporting & Transparency Explicit inclusion of children's film in annual reports, data collection or impact studies.

Strategic Planning Formal policies, future initiatives and strategic frameworks for children's films.

Young Audience Officer Presence of a dedicated role or department specifically for young audience initiatives.

Auvergne Rhône-Alpes Cinéma

Festival Support

Infrastructure & Networks

Media Education & Creativity

Although Auvergne Rhône-Alpes Cinema does not have its own dedicated children's film programme, the region actively supports key partners whose work strengthens young audiences' access to film culture. One such partner is GRAC (Groupement Régional d'Actions Cinématographiques/ Regional Film Action Group), a network of independent cinemas that runs initiatives and screenings specifically for schools and young viewers. This helps to foster a love of cinema from an early age.

ACRIA (Association des Cinémas de Recherche Indépendants en Région Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes/ Association of Independent Research Cinemas in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region), another key partner, complements this by promoting independent and diverse cinema. This includes programming and educational projects that engage schools and young audiences across the region.

Additionally, the internationally renowned Clermont-Ferrand Short Film Festival plays a pivotal role in fostering connections between young audiences and cinema. Its tailored screenings, workshops, and educational programmes for schools are a cornerstone of film literacy in the region.



France

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Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Cinéma is a regional co-production fund that supports feature films, television series and other audiovisual projects with a link to the region. With over 35 years' experience, the fund has co-produced more than 400 films and 40 audiovisual projects, nurturing emerging and established talent alike. The fund provides financial investment, production support, location services and promotion to strengthen film culture and the film industry in the region.

CICLIC – Centre Val de Loire

Infrastructure & Networks

Media Education & Creativity

Strategic Planning

Recognised as one of France's leading institutions in film education, Ciclic is the regional cinema and audiovisual agency for Centre-Val de Loire. Through its dedicated education department and extensive digital platforms, Ciclic plays a pivotal role in introducing children, young people, and educators to cinema as an art form and a critical cultural practice.

Its educational initiatives for schools and general audiences include long-term partnerships with educators, teacher training, classroom resources, and support for cinema screenings with a pedagogical context. Every year, Ciclic engages with over 20,000 young people through workshops, screenings, and programmes led by artists, involving more than 200 cultural professionals and over 600 training and mediation sessions. As one of France's 17 officially recognised Pôles régionaux d'éducation aux images (Regional centres for media education), Ciclic coordinates local and national efforts to develop film literacy from early childhood through to adolescence.

At the heart of Ciclic's outreach work lies a programme called Université Populaire des Images (UPOPI / People's University of Images), a multilingual, open-access platform functioning as both a web magazine and a teaching environment. UPOPI promotes independent and informed engagement with moving images, giving users the freedom to explore film culture at their own pace. It provides an ever-growing catalogue of analytical resources, editorial content, short films, interviews and pedagogical tools designed for educators, pupils, mediators and the general public. One of its most notable features is the online film analysis vocabulary course, comprising over 200 video modules and interactive exercises organised into eleven thematic sessions. The course introduces key concepts in cinematic language, such as image, sound, editing, and shot structure, making film analysis accessible to beginners and educators alike.

In addition to its well-established programmes in film education and cinema literacy, Ciclic is currently developing a broader policy framework to encourage active artistic engagement among young people. This includes raising awareness through workshops, running filmmaking sessions, providing training for educational intermediaries and supplying teaching materials. Ciclic's support for both the reception and the creative production of film helps to encourage greater cultural participation among children and young people, thereby strengthening their role not only as viewers but also as creators.



France

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Ciclic Centre-Val de Loire is the regional public agency responsible for cinema, literature, and the media. Through funding schemes, residencies, workshops and regional programmes, it supports creation, education, heritage and access to culture. With a particular focus on film literacy and rural outreach, Ciclic promotes artistic practice, media education, and the preservation of amateur film archives.

Den Vestdanske Filmpulje

Funding Quota

Young Audience Officer

Reporting & Transparency

The West Danish Film Fund is one of the few regional funding bodies in Europe to have a formal quota for children's and youth content embedded in its funding regulations. Each year, at least 25% of the fund's state-supported budget must be allocated to productions aimed at young audiences, including TV series, documentaries and feature films. In 2024, they spent 46% of state funding on projects for this audience. In Denmark, the national film policy emphasises the cultural importance of children's films and stipulates that at least 25% of public film funding should be allocated to works intended for young audiences. The West Danish Film Fund adheres to this framework, ensuring that children's films remain a priority within its wider support for film culture and regional production.

This structural commitment is supported by a dedicated evaluation process. One of the fund's two artistic consultants specialises in the development and production of children's content and has extensive experience in commissioning and broadcasting for this demographic. This ensures that applications targeting young audiences are assessed with sector-specific knowledge and cultural sensitivity.

The region is also home to The Animation Workshop, an internationally renowned bachelor's programme in animation and computer-generated imagery. Its presence has created fertile ground for successful animation companies to flourish — many of which specialise in children's content for cinema and broadcast. Consequently, the West Danish Film Fund benefits from a robust talent pool and a consistent stream of high-quality, youth-oriented productions.



Den Vestdanske
Filmpulje

Denmark

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The West Danish Film Fund is a regional fund that supports a variety of film and media productions. It awards funding to projects of artistic merit that help to develop the production environment in Western Denmark. The Fund also supports talent, films, festivals and initiatives that strengthen local film culture. The Fund's secretariat is based at Filmby Aarhus, the regional film and media hub.

Filmförderung Niederösterreich

Audience Development

Festival Support

As part of its broader cultural support strategy, Film & Cinema Culture Lower Austria places particular emphasis on introducing young audiences to cinema from an early age. A key part of this commitment is the fund's continued support for the KIKERIKI short film festival, which is aimed at children aged three and over and their families. Film & Cinema Culture Lower Austria has supported KIKERIKI for several years, ensuring continuity, regional outreach, and audience growth.

The festival offers age-appropriate, curated programmes that encourage playful engagement with film from an early age. Designed to be accessible and encourage creative participation, the festival provides a cultural entry point for first-time cinema-goers and supports the development of media literacy in a non-formal context.



Austria

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Filmförderung Niederösterreich supports the production of feature films, documentaries, series, animations and short films that have a thematic or production link to the region. Particular attention is given to projects that highlight Lower Austria's identity, history, or tourism potential, or that support the development of emerging talent. European producers are eligible to apply, and international co-productions must involve an Austrian partner.

In Denmark, public film policy formally emphasises the cultural importance of children's films. National rules and Danish Film Institute (DFI) policy aim to ensure that at least 25% of public film funding is allocated to films for children and young audiences, a principle that is also reflected in national funding programmes. Regional funds such as FilmFyn and the West Danish Film Fund (Den Vestdanske Filmpulje) have therefore aligned their priorities with this national framework. Recent national film agreements have also strengthened regional budgets to support production and outreach activities across Denmark.

FilmFyn has established itself as one of the few European funds with a clear and consistent commitment to children's and youth films. The fund reserves a significant proportion of its support for projects aimed at young audiences. In 2024, for example, FilmFyn reported that approximately 26% of its film support was allocated to productions for children and young people. In 2023, the organisation dedicated about €900.000 (approximately 40% of the year's production investments) to six children's and youth productions. FilmFyn also incorporates children's film and film education into its annual reports, featuring dedicated sections on film pedagogy and youth-oriented projects, such as EDIT24.

This prioritisation extends beyond production funding. FilmFyn runs a comprehensive programme of film pedagogy and talent development, comprising class-based filmmaking activities (EDIT24), teacher training, and the development of a digital learning environment to engage pupils across the region. These measures emphasise the fund's belief that early cinematic experiences and practical film education are essential for building future audiences and fostering a robust local industry. FilmFyn/EDIT24 is also part of a nationwide network called Filmpædagogisk Netværk (Film Education Network) of film and media education initiatives coordinated by the Danish Film Institute. This network brings together projects from across Denmark that focus on educating and developing the talents of children and young people of all ages, from kindergarten to secondary school level.

FilmFyn

Denmark

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FilmFyn is a regional film fund in Denmark that supports the production of feature films, TV dramas, documentaries and short films in order to foster growth, culture and the creative industries on the island of Funen. Established in 2003, FilmFyn is jointly owned by nine municipalities, TV 2 Denmark and Fynsk Erhverv. Having supported over 100 productions to date, FilmFyn has strengthened regional visibility, created film-related jobs, and invested in film education, talent development, and film tourism.

Film i Skåne

Audience Development

Festival Support

Funding Quota

Industry Collaboration

Infrastructure & Networks

Media Education & Creativity

Reporting & Transparency

Young Audience Officer

Film i Skåne has established itself as a leading organisation in the advancement of children's and youth film in Sweden. Recognising the importance of early and inclusive engagement with cinema, the fund has developed a multifaceted approach spanning education, funding, audience development and regional infrastructure.

This work is centred around dedicated staff members. The responsibility for improving children's films is shared by two team members, one of whom works full-time and the other part-time. One member focuses on media literacy, while the other is responsible for screenings, festivals and the School Cinema programme. This division of labour allows for specialised expertise and long-term development.

The fund's annual investments demonstrate a strong commitment to financial support for children's content: an average of 15% of Film i Skåne's total production and development funding is allocated to children's films. Although there are no formal quotas, this proportion has fluctuated between 12% and 25% over the years. Film projects aimed at children and young people receive funding from Film i Skåne's executive producers, as well as overall support and consultancy from staff.

To foster young audiences across the region, Film i Skåne collaborates closely with all 33 municipalities. The fund provides consultation and guidance for local school cinema officers and supports regional initiatives aimed at film literacy. Furthermore, Film i Skåne is an active supporter to BUFF Malmö, the large-scale children's and youth film festival coordinated by the County Council.

At a national level, Film i Skåne is part of the Swedish School Cinema Network, working alongside the Swedish Film Institute and other regional film funds. The organisation also supports the annual School Cinema Day at the BUFF festival and facilitates knowledge exchange between local and national partners.

Infrastructure development plays a key role in Film i Skåne's strategy. Through the Kids Kino Network and its online toolbox, Film i Skåne supports a growing network of cinemas with tailored offers for young audiences. Additionally, the fund is a long-standing partner of m:Brane, an international co-financing platform for content aimed at young audiences, helping to connect regional projects with global markets.

Since 2021, Film i Skåne's annual report has included a dedicated section outlining its work in children's film. This section provides transparency regarding time allocation, resources

FILM /
SKÅNE

Sweden

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Film i Skåne is the regional film fund and resource centre for the Skåne region of Sweden. The organisation supports film production and talent development, as well as promoting film literacy among children and young people, and organising regional festivals. The organisation also runs Ystad Studios and the Southern Sweden Film Commission in order to attract international productions. Its mission is to promote film culture and stimulate regional growth through cinema.

and economic investment, ensuring visibility and accountability within the organisation and to external stakeholders.

Another initiative is the PIXEL Skåne's Short Film Festival, an annual regional festival where children, young people and young adults films are in focus . This hands-on platform nurtures creative skills and fosters peer engagement and confidence. The PIXEL Festival is part of a wider national network of regional festivals competing for the national Novemberfestivalen.

Film i Skåne runs a network of skilled film/media educators who work with diverse audiences from preschools to eldercare institutions. They also support cultural schools offering extra-curricular animation and filmmaking education. Furthermore, Film i Skåne played a pivotal role in establishing the Ystad Studios Visitor Centre, a vital educational and creative resource co-funded by the municipality and frequently utilised by regional media educators.

Film i Skåne

¹ The Kids Kino Toolbox provides practical tools and strategies for creating offers for the young audience. In collaboration between Film i Skåne and KIDS Regio the Toolbox is available in English since the end of 2024.

You can find it here: https://barnbiograferna.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/kidskino_toolbox-1.pdf

Film London

Audience Development

Infrastructure & Networks

Media Education & Creativity

Young Audience Officer

As the designated Young Audience Champion within the UK's BFI Film Audience Network (FAN), Film Hub London plays a leading role in improving cinema access for people aged 25 and under across the UK. This includes children, families, tweens, teens and young adults, with a particular focus on audience development, programming support and national coordination.

Managed by Film London, Film Hub London's work in this area is centred on the role of the Young Audience Champion, who offers advice and guidance to venues and organisations looking to create programmes for young people. This includes guidance on programming, safeguarding and audience engagement, as well as creating bespoke resources to support best practice when working with young audiences.

While there is no dedicated budget line for children's film production, funding is made available through the FAN Hubs for venues running young audience initiatives, including family and children's programmes. These projects are eligible for consultation and follow-up support from Film Hub London. To foster knowledge exchange and stimulate innovation, successful examples will be documented and shared as case studies across the network.

Film Hub London has created and maintains a practical tool in the form of the Family and Children Film List: a curated spreadsheet of diverse titles suitable for young audiences, complete with certification, distributor information, and age guidance. This list addresses one of the main structural challenges facing UK cinemas: the limited distribution of high-quality international children's films. It provides venues with accessible programming suggestions that reflect cultural diversity and audience relevance.

Although there is no formal network of cinemas dedicated to children's films, Film Hub London acts as a central reference point across the FAN network. It actively champions successful models and promotes greater visibility of young audience activity. Regular communication with member organisations, alongside selected case studies of initiatives form part of an ongoing strategy to inspire new programming formats across the UK.



United Kingdom

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Film London is the capital's film and media agency. Funded by the UK Film Council and the London Development Agency, it supports the growth and development of all the screen industries based in the city – film, television, video, commercials and new interactive media. Their aim is to sustain, promote and develop London as a major international film-making and film cultural capital.

Fondazione Apulia Film Commission

Audience Development

Festival Support

Media Education & Creativity

The Apulia Film Commission does not currently have a dedicated funding programme for children's films. However, it increases the visibility and accessibility of youth-oriented content. It does this by supporting several regional festivals and initiatives that engage younger audiences.

One such initiative is Imaginaria, an international animated film festival held in Apulia since 2003. The festival offers a curated selection of animated films for all ages, with a particular focus on programming for children and educational workshops.

The Be Green Film Festival also engages with young audiences as part of its outreach programme, emphasising sustainability and environmental awareness through film.



Italy

The Fondazione Apulia Film Commission was founded in 2007 with the aim of attracting national and international productions to Puglia. In collaboration with the Puglia Region, it has supported hundreds of audiovisual projects, as well as numerous festivals and events. Thanks to its unique locations, skilled workforce, and warm welcome, Puglia has quickly become a popular destination for Italian and international cinema.

Fonds de soutien de la Région Île-de-France / Film Paris Region

Festival Support

Infrastructure & Networks

Although both institutions do not coordinate or fund children's film initiatives themselves, they operate within a cultural landscape where there is strong public investment in youth cinema at regional and departmental levels. They maintain close connections to this broader ecosystem and promote visibility and collaboration wherever possible.

One of the region's flagship events is the annual Ciné-Junior Festival in the Val-de-Marne district. The festival showcases an extensive international programme of films for children and young people, often accompanied by workshops, school screenings and interactive activities. Supported by the Region of Île-de-France, it has become a longstanding fixture in the cultural calendar for young audiences.

Another noteworthy initiative is Cinéma 93, a Seine-Saint-Denis-based organisation that runs a network of youth-focused cinemas. One of its programmes, Jeunes Ambassadeurs du Cinéma, empowers young people to act as cultural mediators and co-curators in local theatres.

Although Film Paris Region and the Paris Region Film Fund do not manage these initiatives, their position within a network of public and civic organisations enables them to promote best practice. They both maintain an ongoing dialogue with counterparts at the Île-de-France Region, which provides direct funding for many of these youth-oriented cultural events.



France

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Created in 2004 as the Paris Region Film Commission, Film Paris Region is now part of Choose Paris Region, the city's international attraction agency. Its mission is threefold: to engage the film industry through professional meetings, to promote Paris Region to national and international production companies in order to attract more projects, and to support production. With in-depth industry knowledge and strong regional connections, the organisation offers access to a variety of financing options, experienced producers, diverse locations, dedicated service providers and world-class technical teams and talent.



France

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The Fonds de soutien de la Région Île-de-France (Paris Region Film Fund) is a key player in the French film industry, with more than a 100 cinematographic and audiovisual works supported every year, thanks to an annual budget of €22 million. It offers support for all phases of the production of a work and Paris Region is home to 400 production companies. In partnership with the Île-de-France Regional Council and Film Paris Region, the Fund is committed to promoting diversity and inclusion within production & artistic creation in the region.

Fundusz Filmowy w Krakowie

Although the Krakow Film Commission does not currently offer direct funding or support for children's film initiatives within its region, it plays an active role in strengthening the children's content sector through strategic national-level partnerships.

For several years, the Commission has been a consistent partner of Young Horizons Industry (formerly Kids Kino Industry), the leading co-production forum for films and series targeting young audiences in Poland. Organised as part of the Young Horizons International Film Festival in Warsaw, this industry platform brings together producers, distributors, and broadcasters who specialise in children's and youth content.

As part of this collaboration, the Krakow Film Commission participates in the Producers' Link programme, a capacity-building and networking initiative that supports the creation of high-quality children's content and fosters pan-European co-productions. Through financial contributions, the Commission ensures that a Polish producer receives a scholarship to participate in the programme each year. In return, the commission gains visibility for its regional support schemes and participates in industry activities, such as one-to-one meetings and professional matchmaking.

Although its efforts are not directly tied to local production or education, the Krakow Film Commission's long-term engagement with Young Horizons Industry and Producers Link demonstrates its commitment to fostering connections between regions and creating professional opportunities for the next generation of children's content creators.



Poland

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Fundusz Filmowy w Krakowie supports film productions in Krakow and the Małopolska region by assisting with permits, location access, and coordination with local authorities and services. It also manages a location database and a registry of local film industry providers. The Krakow Film Fund offers annual production support for projects thematically or geographically linked to the region.

HessenFilm & Medien

Festival Support

Industry Collaboration

Media Education & Creativity

Within its project funding scheme, HessenFilm & Medien supports children's films at all stages and in all funding areas. The organisation is also a partner in the nationwide initiative Der Besondere Kinderfilm (Outstanding Films for Children), which aims to develop and produce original, high-quality films for young audiences.

In the area of festival funding, HessenFilm & Medien sponsors LUCAS – the International Festival for Young Film Lovers. This is Germany's oldest festival for young audiences and presents an international programme of films for children and teenagers. The fund also supports the Jugend Filmjury (Youth Film Jury) of the Deutsche Film- und Medienbewertung FBW (German Film and Media Rating), empowering young people to review and recommend films. It also backs the Akademie für Kindermedien (Academy for Children's Media), a professional training programme for developing original children's content across various formats.

**HESSEN FILM
& MEDIEN**

Germany

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HessenFilm & Medien is the central film funding body in Hesse, supporting filmmakers and productions based in or shooting in the region. Funding is available at all stages, from development to distribution, and there is a particular focus on emerging talent, documentary film, diversity, and sustainability. The fund also supports cinemas and festivals, as well as innovative formats, and offers networking platforms and professional training to strengthen the regional film industry.

Institut Català de les Empreses Culturals

Festival Support

Industry Collaboration

Media Education & Creativity

The Catalan Institute of Cultural Enterprises (ICEC) currently oversees the Filmoteca de Catalunya (Film Library of Catalonia), which is set to become an independent institution. One of its key initiatives is FilmoXica, a dedicated programme that introduces children to quality cinema on the big screen and nurtures their ability to appreciate film as an art form. Every week, two screenings are curated specifically for children and their families, offering a balance of entertainment and cultural enrichment.

While ICEC does not have a dedicated funding line for children's films or related initiatives, several of its funding schemes consistently support this area. Production grants for animation projects (features and series) account for a significant proportion of ICEC's funding portfolio, with around 99% of supported works intended for young audiences. In 2024, this amounted to €4.94 million, rising to €4.98 million in 2025.

ICEC also funds the dissemination of Catalan films, whether original, dubbed or subtitled, and provides subsidies to cover ticket costs for school groups and morning screenings. Grants dedicated to film literacy initiatives extend this impact into classrooms, while funding for festivals and showcases prioritises audience development, particularly educational programmes and film literacy activities for schools and other educational institutions.



Spain

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The Institut Català de les Empreses Culturals (ICEC) supports cultural enterprises and professionals working in the performing and visual arts, audiovisual media, digital culture, publishing, and music. The ICEC offers funding, financing tools, internationalisation services and support for developing audiences. The ICEC also manages the Filmoteca de Catalunya, which is dedicated to preserving, restoring and promoting film heritage with a particular focus on Catalan cinema and culture.

MFG Medien- und Filmgesellschaft Baden-Württemberg

Audience Development

Festival Support

Industry Collaboration

Media Education & Creativity

Although MFG does not have a specific funding scheme for children's films, it is committed to media education, developing young talent and regional outreach in the context of film culture. This includes supporting school-related cinema activities, competitions and educational programmes linked to regional film festivals.

One key area of activity is the fund's involvement in the SchulKinoWoche (School Cinema Week) Baden-Württemberg, where it supports educational initiatives such as lectures, film discussions, and curated supplementary materials. The agency also promotes youth engagement with film through initiatives such as the annual Jugendfilmpreis (Youth Film Award) competition, which forms part of the Filmschau (Film Review) Baden-Württemberg event. This competition includes mentoring elements and awards valuable prizes to young filmmakers.

At the intersection of environmental and youth media, MFG Baden-Württemberg also supports the educational programme of the NaturVision festival in Ludwigsburg. Here, pupils participate in guided school programmes and film discussions with experts focusing on nature, sustainability, and visual storytelling.

Beyond direct initiatives, MFG is a partner of MedienFokus BW (formerly Kindermedienland (Children's Media Land) Baden-Württemberg), a statewide alliance of institutions working to improve the media literacy in society but also for children and young people. While not centred on children's cinema per se, the network occasionally runs initiatives related to animation and youth-produced film. Examples include the Trickfilmnetzwerk (Animation Network) of State Agency for Communication and contributions to the International Trickfilm Festival Stuttgart (ITFS).

Additionally, the annual Schülermedienpreis (Pupil Media Award) Baden-Württemberg, awarded by MedienFokus BW, invites submissions of all media forms from children and adolescents, including short films.



MFG
BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG

Germany

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MFG Medien- und Filmgesellschaft Baden-Württemberg is the state of Baden-Württemberg's public film fund and a key partner for cinema and TV production. It supports exceptional cultural projects, from script development to distribution, with a particular focus on animation, visual effects (VFX) and emerging talent. With an annual film funding budget of around €15 million, MFG fosters regional industry growth, creative collaboration, and innovative storytelling.

Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung

Audience Development

Industry Collaboration

Festival Support

Reporting & Transparency

Strategic Planning

Young Audience Officer

The Central German Media Fund (MDM) has long been a strong supporter of children's and youth film in Germany. Through a combination of funding, institutional partnerships and regional engagement, the MDM consistently supports creative development and audience engagement within this sector.

Britta Marciniak serves as the dedicated Children's Film Commissioner at the organisational level, overseeing the fund's support for content aimed at young audiences. A key pillar of MDM's work in this area is its ongoing involvement in Der Besondere Kinderfilm (Outstanding Films for Children), a national initiative aimed at strengthening the production of original children's films beyond stereotypical adaptations. MDM supports projects at all stages of development within this initiative.

The fund regularly supports leading institutions that promote the creation of high-quality children's media. One such institution is the Akademie für Kindermedien (Academy for Children's Media), a fellowship programme for authors of original ideas for films, series and books for young audiences. The MDM is the main funder of the programme and awards an annual €15,000 prize. The academy plays a leading role in Germany's youth storytelling pipeline.

Another cornerstone of MDM's strategy is its long-standing support of KIDS Regio, the European lobby initiative for children's film launched in 2008 in cooperation with the Free State of Thuringia and Cine Regio under the roof of the German Children's Media Foundation Golden Sparrow. It functions as an agent between policy and society, the film industry and the scientific world in order to form a network and discuss new synergies. The most recent KIDS Regio Forum, held in Erfurt in 2024, brought together over 60 experts from 25 countries to discuss funding, policy frameworks and creative collaboration.

MDM also supports festivals and awards that introduce young people to cinema. The fund provides the Deutsche Kindermedienstiftung Goldener Spatz (German Children's Media Foundation's Golden Sparrow) with annual financial support. The foundation organises the Golden Sparrow Festival, which is one of the most important children's media festivals in Germany. MDM is also a member of the Golden Sparrow Foundation. MDM contributes to the Young Audience Award of the European Film Academy, enabling young viewers across Europe to participate in a transnational jury experience. MDM also supports the Schlingel International Film Festival aimed at children and young people. In terms of audience engagement, MDM funds the SchulKinoWoche (School Cinema Week) initiative

in its region. These events enable thousands of pupils to watch films at the cinema as part of their curriculum, thereby reinforcing the educational value of film.

Children's films are regularly featured in MDM's annual reports and in-house magazine Trailer which publishes interviews, set reports, and retrospectives on children's film projects and policy initiatives. In 2024, for example, Trailer featured an article on the KIDS Regio Forum and provided detailed coverage of recent children's film productions.

Thuringia, one of the three states served by MDM, has also emerged as a national hub for children's media. Thanks to coordinated regional support and MDM's active funding policies, the area has become a key site for production, development and networking in the sector.



Mitteldeutsche
Medienförderung

Germany

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The Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung supports the development, production and presentation of culturally and economically promising films, series, new media productions and games of all genres. International co-productions are an important area of activity. To receive funding, a producer from the region comprising the German federal states of Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia must be involved, and at least the money received must be spent in the region.

MOIN Filmförderung Hamburg Schleswig- Holstein

Festival Support

Industry Collaboration

Media Education & Creativity

MOIN supports a diverse range of children's and youth film initiatives across two federal states, reflecting a dual focus on cultural education and regional audience engagement. Although the fund itself does not run a dedicated children's film programme, it actively enables numerous educational and exhibition-focused initiatives, often in the context of broader cultural policies and in close coordination with the Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs of Schleswig-Holstein and the Hamburg Department of Culture and Media.

In Hamburg, several initiatives stand out. The renowned Mo&Frieze Children's Short Film Festival, for example, offers curated short film programmes for four different age groups, as well as an additional strand for teenagers. Michel, the children's section of Filmfest Hamburg, presents almost all of its movies in original language with live voice-overs, hosted and journalistically accompanied by young people. A children's jury is awarding the Michel Film Prize Maja, worth €10,000, at the end of the festival.

Other Hamburg-based platforms include Abgedreht, a festival presenting films made by children and young people and cinema-based projects such as Kinderfilmring, Bambino at 3001 Kino and the Firaki Kinderfilm Club at FilmRaum. Furthermore, Luftkind Filmverleih and Little Dream Pictures are specialist distributors dedicated to children's films. With Ulysses Films and Telescope Animation, there are moreover two production companies in Hamburg focusing on animated movies for the young audience. Live-action children movies from several other production companies are funded regularly as well.

The region also benefits from SchulKinoWoche (School Cinema Week) Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein, which screens a wide range of films for schools, including children's films, and plays a vital role in linking film culture with formal education.

In addition, Schleswig-Holstein offers a wealth of independent initiatives that promote film culture for young audiences, such as Kinolino in Kiel, Rolle Vorwärts in Flensburg, as part of the Flensburger Kurzfilmtage (Flensburg Short Film Festival) and the Kurzfilmschule (Short Film School) in Ratzeburg encourage the reception and production of youth-oriented films. The Burgtheater (Castle Theatre) Ratzeburg hosts interactive children's cinema events, and the Landesverband Jugend und Film (State Association for Youth and Film) Scheersberg runs workshops, festivals, and screenings.

Of particular note are the Nordische Filmtage Lübeck (Nordic Film Days Lübeck), which feature a comprehensive children's and youth film programme alongside a professional forum, and the Green Screen Festival in Eckernförde, Europe's largest wildlife film festival, which offers dedicated school screenings both during and outside

the festival period. The fund also participates in the national initiative Der Besondere Kinderfilm (Outstanding Films for Children), which has the aim of developing and producing original, high-quality films for young audiences.

MOIN Film Fund
Hamburg
Schleswig-Holstein

Germany

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MOIN Filmförderung Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein supports cinema films, high-end series and innovative audiovisual formats of all genres. With an annual budget of about €15 million MOIN provides financial support for all phases of the production process from script to screen. MOIN Film Fund focuses on developing the regional audio-visual industries in Northern Germany and welcomes filmmakers from around the globe to shoot in its region between the North and Baltic Seas.

Trentino Film Commission

Media Education & Creativity

Festival Support

In the northern Italian region of Trentino, developing young audiences is closely linked to a strong commitment to film literacy and media education. Led by the regional initiative Educa Immagine the Trentino Film Fund supports a wide-ranging educational programme.

The annual three-day Educa Immagine Festival is dedicated to film literacy, and its impact is further extended throughout the year by a series of satellite events under the title Percorsi. These include a diverse range of workshops and training sessions that encourage critical engagement with visual media among pupils and teachers.

A key component is a programme that combines figurative art and cinematic storytelling. Through hands-on creative workshops, pupils are invited to immerse themselves in works of art and reinterpret them by constructing visual narratives. This multidisciplinary approach fosters active viewing and an appreciation of image composition in various media.

The initiative features practical workshops on the language of cinema and media literacy modules addressing urgent contemporary issues, such as social media, fake news and disinformation. In this way, Educa Immagine promotes cinematic literacy and supports the development of a more informed and reflective younger generation.

To ensure the sustainable transfer of knowledge, the initiative offers training courses for teachers. These courses provide educators with the basic tools and conceptual frameworks needed to integrate film into their teaching practice. By strengthening educators' competence in film language, the initiative aims to have a long-term impact on the regional educational landscape.



Italy

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Established in 2011, Trentino Film Commission supports national and international film, TV and documentary productions that promote Trentino's cultural and natural heritage. The commission offers location scouting, logistical support and access to local crews. The Commission also fosters the development of the local industry and runs the Educa Immagine programme, which promotes film literacy and media education.

Viken Film Centre primarily focuses on short films and documentaries, and provides strong support for emerging talent. It covers the counties of Oslo, Akershus, Buskerud and Østfold. Children's films are eligible for funding, although the scheme is not designed for students or self-produced works by children.

A central pillar of Viken's activities for younger generations is the dedicated programme 'Tiltak barn og unge' (Initiatives for Children and Young People), which allocates around €86.000 annually. Through this scheme, external organisations can apply for funding to run workshops, and creative projects. These activities introduce participants to all aspects of filmmaking — from scriptwriting and filming to experimenting with VR — while fostering peer networks and encouraging creative collaboration. The programme provides children and young people with direct, hands-on experience in filmmaking, thereby nurturing media literacy and creative expression.



Norway

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Viken Filmsenter is the regional film centre for the counties of Oslo, Akershus, Buskerud and Østfold. It supports artistic exploration, talent development and robust production environments. Focusing on diversity, sustainability and audience insight, the centre funds short films, documentaries and audiovisual projects. By fostering collaboration and networks, Viken strengthens the regional film industry and ensures equal opportunities within Norway's dynamic sector.

Vlaams Audiovisueel Fonds and Screen Flanders

Audience Development

Festival Support

Funding Quota

Industry Collaboration

In Flanders, the development of children's and youth cinema is supported by two complementary institutions: the Flanders Audiovisual Fund (VAF) and Screen Flanders. Together, they shape the landscape for content aimed at young audiences across production, exhibition and education.

The most visible form of support is the VAF's dedicated budget line aimed specifically at children's feature films. Each year, multiple projects may receive script and/or development support, and one majority project is selected to receive production funding of up to €700,000. A specialised committee of local and international professionals oversees the selection process. While occasional co-productions, particularly with Dutch partners, are supported, the primary focus is on Flemish creative teams. Additionally, one majority animation production and select minority co-productions targeting young and adult audiences may receive VAF support each year.

In parallel, Screen Flanders may support feature films for young audiences within its general economic framework, although it does not have a specific scheme for children's films.

Production volumes in Flanders remain modest, with typically only one publicly funded children's film being released each year. Other projects aimed at young viewers are often linked to existing TV brands or seasonal events, and are primarily financed through the market, broadcasters, and Belgium's federal tax shelter scheme. Consequently, filmmakers in the children's film sector often work across different genres and formats.

In terms of distribution, JEF, a non-profit distributor focusing exclusively on youth cinema, has a notable impact on the children's film landscape. JEF distributes around eight films a year and maintains a wide catalogue of films for school screenings. Its "More than Film" programme combines film with interactive educational activities, such as workshops and installations. Additional contributions come from Dalton Distribution, MOOOV and Filem'on, who support niche or educational programming.

Flanders is home to two major children's film festivals: the JEF Festival in Antwerp during the spring holidays and the Filem'on Festival in Brussels during the autumn holidays. Both festivals have regional editions in other Flemish cities. In addition to these, most regional festivals and cinemas include children's films in their programmes.

The annual Ket & Doc scheme, runs in cooperation with the youth broadcaster Ketnet and the JEF Festival, results in five short youth documentaries that are distributed across TV, at festivals, in schools and in cinemas. Meanwhile, the VAF's Audience Depart-



Belgium

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Vlaams Audiovisueel Fonds supports audiovisual production in, as well as international co-productions with Flanders. The Fund was set up by the Flanders government in 2002 and is headquartered in Brussels. It provides financial support for audiovisual productions, promotes these in Flanders as well as abroad, grants scholarships, finances professional training and supports/organizes workshops as well as carries out surveys.



Belgium

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Screen Flanders is an economic support scheme for feature films and series run by the Flemish government. Belgian producers can apply for refundable advances of up to €400,000 to cover production and post-production expenses incurred in the region. The fund promotes Flanders as a co-production partner and production hub. It is managed by the Flanders Audiovisual Fund (VAF) and funded by the Flanders Agency for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (VLAIO).

ment provides grants for educational projects that foster critical, social, and creative skills in young audiences.

In addition to production and distribution, the VAF supports initiatives that encourage critical thinking and literacy around film. Despite film education being absent from the formal educational curriculum in Flanders, the VAF coordinates a working group of around 15 stakeholders to promote film literacy. Outputs include webinars for teachers, presentations at education conferences and partnerships such as Cinébib, a streaming service offering indie and educational films from libraries, and the Archive for Education, which provides curated classroom resources drawn from VAF-funded content.

Vlaams Audiovisueel Fonds and Screen Flanders

Although Zineuskadi, the Basque Film Fund does not offer specific funding for children's films, it has run a unique and culturally significant dubbing programme for the last twelve years. The programme aims to increase the availability of audiovisual content in the Basque language. While this initiative was not originally intended for children's films, it has significantly improved access to family-friendly content in the region.

The programme involves the monthly dubbing of one film into Basque, with the Basque Film Fund covering all associated costs, including studio work, copies and marketing. An independent board selects the titles, and participating cinemas are required to screen the film during its premiere week. While some films have had modest initial box office results, the initiative's long-term strategy enables these films to circulate throughout the region over time, reaching smaller towns and communities. In many cases, these dubbed versions remain in use for years, significantly extending their cultural footprint.

Although not designed with children in mind, it has become evident over time that animated films for families perform better in this format. These titles consistently attract audiences, ensuring both cultural impact and practical relevance for younger viewers. Consequently, children's films have become a de facto pillar of the programme, supporting linguistic diversity while also reinforcing audiovisual access for young audiences.

By integrating language policy with film dissemination, the Basque Government's Culture Department has created a model that strengthens cultural identity and regional cohesion, while also indirectly promoting children's cinema through audience-driven dynamics.



Spain

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Created by the Basque Government, Zineuskadi has been a strong supporter of the Basque audiovisual sector since 1981. Through initiatives such as interest-free loans and dedicated promotion of Basque language films, it's a cornerstone for the growth of the regional industry. In partnership with MEDIA Antena Euskal Herria, Zineuskadi not only supports the local sector, but also promotes European cinema, especially films in non-hegemonic languages, with a strong focus on cultural diversity and heritage preservation.

The Zürcher Filmstiftung does not have a specific funding scheme for children's films. However, in recent years it has taken important steps to strengthen discourse and visibility around children's films within the Swiss audiovisual landscape.

Since 2021, children's films have been included as a separate category in the foundation's annual report. This inclusion is a significant step towards transparency and institutional awareness, offering an overview of the number of projects, levels of support and thematic focus areas involving young audiences.

Additionally, the foundation has introduced an annual symposium on children's films as part of the Zurich Film Festival's industry programme. First held in 2023 under the title 'How to Kinderfilm', the symposium brings together professionals from Switzerland and abroad to discuss production, audience development, and creative challenges in children's cinema. The event continued in 2024 and is set to return in 2025, signalling the foundation's commitment to fostering sustained dialogue and sector development.



**ZÜRCHER
FILMSTIFTUNG**

Switzerland

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Zürcher Filmstiftung has an annual business volume of about €12.5 million. Their focus lies on assisting script development, production and marketing. There are no restrictions regarding the format (fiction, non-fiction/documentaries, shorts, series, VR, animations etc. excluding games).

Outlook

The first edition of this publication has showcased the wide range of ways in which Cine Regio members support young audiences, whether through dedicated funding schemes, film education strategies, festival partnerships, cinema networks or long-term policy commitments. While these initiatives vary widely in scope and structure, they are all united by a shared belief in the importance of making film accessible to young audiences and recognising children's cinema as an integral part of cultural life.

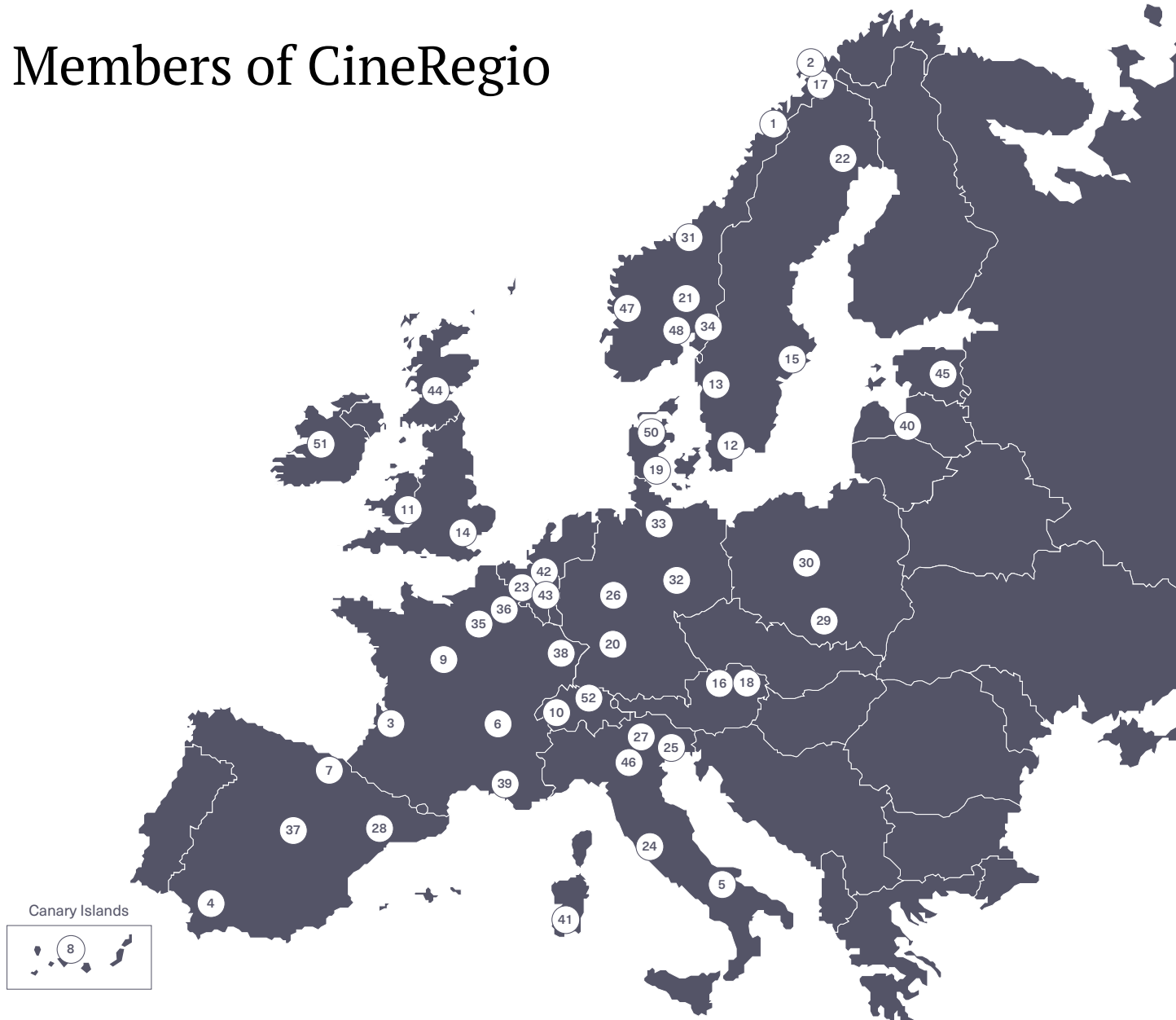
At the same time, this report has also highlighted the significant contributions of regions without formalised or named initiatives for children's film. Several Cine Regio members support animation or youth-focused content within their general funding programmes. Some partner with youth film festivals, while others regularly co-produce content for children without having a defined strategy for doing so. While these efforts may not be evident in policy documents or programme names, they are nonetheless significant and reflect the broader cultural responsibility that many regions take seriously.

A particularly compelling example is Filminvest AS in Norway. Although it does not operate a dedicated scheme for children's films, it demonstrates how a clear institutional attitude and leadership vision can result in significant and ongoing support for young audiences. Filminvest consistently invests in children's and youth content across film, TV and gaming formats, and raises the profile of its creators by participating in international festivals and co-production markets such as m:brane, Cinekid Festival, Annecy International Animation Film Festival and Prix Jeunesse International. The fund's leadership team has decades of experience in producing children's content and maintains international industry relationships that directly benefit local producers. This approach demonstrates that, even in the absence of official initiatives, a focused mindset and sustained commitment to young audiences can have a tangible impact. Sometimes, the intention behind the funding can be just as impactful as its structure.

Other members are rethinking their strategies and exploring ways to explicitly integrate children's films into their guidelines and activities. Planned updates to policies, shifts in organisational priorities and pilot initiatives suggest that change is underway in several regions. Rather than providing a definitive conclusion, this report aims to contribute to an ongoing conversation. Future editions may expand upon this foundation by highlighting new approaches and fresh insights into children's films.

Above all, this mapping highlights the importance of networking, exchange and inspiration within Cine Regio. By showcasing the variety and creativity of children's film support, ranging from informal backing and co-production partnerships to comprehensive strategic programmes, this report aims to promote collaboration and generate new ideas. It is intended to serve as a springboard for dialogue and a catalyst for ever more inclusive, dynamic and sustainable support for cinema's youngest audiences.

Members of CineRegio



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| 2 Arctic Film Norway Invest, Norway | 30 Łódź Film Fund, EC1, Poland |
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