

PRESS RELEASE – FACE (Federation of Film Academies Europe) 10/07/2025

European Film Academies Convene in Mantua for FACE General Assembly and announce “Best of Europe” Initiative.

Académie des César and Flemish Film Academy (The Ensors) join FACE.

On July 10th, 2025, representatives of film academies from across Europe gathered in Mantua, Italy, for the second General Assembly of FACE (Federation of Film Academies Europe). Hosted by the Italian Film Academy Foundation – David di Donatello Awards, and held under the patronage and with the support of the Municipality of Mantua, the assembly took place in the historic setting of the former church of Madonna della Vittoria.

The General Assembly was pleased to formally welcome two new members: **The Ensor Academy** (Flemish Film and Television Awards) and **the Académie des César** (France), bringing FACE’s total membership to 23 academies. (Full membership list below.)

The day opened with a keynote speech by renowned journalist, film critic, essayist, and veteran festival programmer **Giorgio Gosetti**, who called for a unifying cultural project to restore hope and cohesion in Europe. He underlined the role of cinema—and of European Film Academies in particular—as powerful agents in shaping this collective vision.

During the assembly, FACE adopted its official mission statement (attached) and launched a new initiative, “**Best of Europe**”, which showcases award-winning films from its member academies.

The first edition of “Best of Europe” will take place during the **16th Odesa International Film Festival**, held in Kyiv from September 24 to October 4, 2025. A curated selection of five feature films—each a recent winner of the top prize from its national academy—will be presented in a dedicated “Best of Europe” spotlight. With this initiative, FACE not only celebrates excellence in European cinema but also expresses its solidarity with the people of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Film Academy, a member of FACE. *“In these challenging times, the support and solidarity of our European colleagues means more than words can express. Hosting the first edition of Best of Europe in Kyiv is not only a celebration of cinematic excellence — it is a powerful gesture of unity and resilience. We are honoured to welcome these outstanding films to Ukraine and to share in the cultural dialogue that FACE represents.”* (Anna Machukh: Co-founder and Executive Director of the Ukrainian Film Academy, General Director of the Odesa International Film Festival)

“Best of Europe” is envisioned as a flexible, evolving program that can be adapted and implemented in a variety of formats and contexts. As part of its broader mission, FACE also plans to launch a **streaming platform** connected to its newsletter, offering members limited-time access to recently awarded films from across Europe.

“FACE was created to foster exchange, cooperation, and visibility among Europe’s film academies — and Best of Europe brings that vision to life. By showcasing award-winning films

from across the continent, we not only celebrate artistic excellence but also affirm the shared values that connect us. Launching this initiative in Kyiv is a meaningful expression of cultural solidarity, and a reminder that cinema has the power to transcend borders.” (Yann Tonnar, chairperson FACE)

MEMBERS OF FACE

- Austria : Akademie des Österreichischen Films (Austrian Film Academy)
- Belarus : Белорусская киноакадемия (Belarusian Independent Film Academy)
- Belgium (Wallonia) : Académie André Delvaux (André Delvaux Academy)
- Belgium (Flanders) : De Ensors (The Ensor Academy)
- Catalonia : Acadèmia del Cinema Català (Catalan Film Academy)
- Czech Republic : Česká filmová a televizní akademie (Czech Film and Television Academy)
- Denmark : Danmarks Film Akademi (Danish Film Academy)
- European Film Academy
- France : Académie des César
- Germany : Deutsche Filmakademie (German Film Academy)
- Greece : Ελληνική Ακαδημία Κινηματογράφου (Hellenic Film Academy)
- Iceland : Íslenska kvikmynda- og sjónvarpsakademían (Icelandic Film and Television Academy)
- Israel : האקדמיה הישראלית לקולנוע וטלוויזיה (Israel Academy of Film and Television)
- Italy : Accademia del Cinema Italiano (Italian Academy of Cinema)
- Luxembourg : d'Filmakademie (Luxembourg Film Academy)
- Netherlands : DAFF (Dutch Academy for Film)
- Norway : Det norske Filmakademiet (Norwegian Film Academy)
- Poland : Polska Akademia Filmowa (Polish Film Academy)
- Portugal : Academia Portuguesa de Cinema (Portuguese Academy of Cinema)
- Slovakia : Slovenská filmová a televízna akadémia (Slovak Film and Television Academy)
- Spain : Academia de las Artes y las Ciencias Cinematográficas de España (Spanish Academy of Cinematic Arts and Sciences)
- Switzerland : Schweizer Filmakademie / Académie du Cinéma Suisse / Accademia del Cinema Svizzero (Swiss Film Academy)
- Ukraine : Українська Кіноакадемія (Ukrainian Film Academy)

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FACE | Mission statement

adopted at the GA in Mantua, on July 10th 2025

The Federation of European Film Academies (FACE) unites Europe's film academies as an independent and collaborative voice, dedicated to the growth and visibility of European cinema. FACE is committed to:

Supporting European cinema

Celebrating and promoting the art and industry of film across Europe, FACE champions diverse voices, cultures, and storytelling traditions within European cinema. It fosters an environment where audiences across Europe can discover and appreciate films from fellow countries. FACE strongly upholds the principles of freedom of speech and freedom of art, essential foundations for creative expression and the vitality of European cinema.

Uniting member academies

Providing a platform for all film academies to connect, share insights, and advance common goals. FACE respects each academy's unique identity and stands as a neutral, inclusive space for collaboration.

Facilitating knowledge exchange

Encouraging the sharing of best practices and successful initiatives among academies, FACE empowers each member to benefit from others' experiences, applying proven strategies to enrich their national contexts.

Advocating for a stronger European film presence

Representing European cinema's collective voice on the global stage, FACE addresses shared industry challenges without engaging in political stances, upholding neutrality for all members.

Championing diversity, equity, and inclusion

FACE is dedicated to fostering inclusivity and equity across the European film industry.

Promoting film education and media literacy

FACE promotes media literacy and appreciation of cinema as an art form.

Expanding outreach and collaboration

FACE serves as a key interlocutor to European cinema organizations and institutions, fostering partnerships across the continent. FACE is dedicated to building relationships with film academies not yet connected to the network, strengthening ties and broadening representation.

ABOUT FACE

On 11 July 2024, Film Academies of 20 countries gathered in Luxembourg to found the **Federation of Film Academies Europe (FACE)**, a pan-European film body, officially registered in Luxembourg.

The Federation emerged from a desire to formalize the relationships between these academies, which have been collaborating since 2006 through the Film Academy Network Europe, organised by the European Film Academy. Members of this network, all of whom are bodies presenting their respective national or regional film awards and the European Film Awards – have been meeting regularly in order to share insights and developments, and to develop ideas for joint activities to promote European cinema, join efforts to integrate diversity, inclusion and sustainability into their work, and to strengthen collaboration on film education and audience development within Europe.

Under the umbrella of the new Federation, the European film academies are joining forces to represent their shared interests together, and where possible synergise the range of work they do for the various parts of the industry. The future of European film needs to be jointly defended and supported by film academies all over the continent. This includes film education, membership engagement and film heritage projects, all in which sustainability, diversity and inclusion are key elements. The new structure will allow the academies joint and more concerted actions on the European and international stage.

BOARD COMPOSITION

Yann Tonnar, chairperson

D'Filmakademie (Luxembourg Film Academy)

Katharina Albrecht, vice-chair

Geschäftsführung, Akademie des Österreichischen Films (Austrian Film Academy)

Laia Aubia, secretary

Direcció, Acadèmia del Cinema Català (Catalan Film Academy)

Jacob Neiiendam, treasurer

Danmarks Film Akademi (Danish Film Academy)

Diogo Camões

Diretor geral, Academia Portuguesa de Cinema (Portuguese Academy of Cinema)

Francine Hofstee

General Director, Dutch Academy for Film

Matthijs Wouter Knol

CEO and Director, European Film Academy