

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON COOPERATION
IN THE FIELD OF CINEMATOGRAPHY AND AUDIO-VISUAL ACTIVITIES
IN WESTERN BALKANS**

We, the participants from the Western Balkans, referred to as “the Contracting Parties” and individually as “the Contracting Party”,

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding on Cultural Cooperation in the Western Balkans signed on June 8, 2022 in Ohrid by and between the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Serbia, Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Albania and Ministry of Culture of the Republic of North Macedonia,

In order to strengthen and expand the cooperation and mutual understanding in the field of cinematography and audio-visual activities, with the aim to encourage the cultural sustainable and economic development of the region, in particular through investments in the cinematographic and audio-visual sectors and employment of artists and film professionals in the Western Balkans,

Bearing in mind the importance of cinematographic culture and art and the audio-visual activities, in development of creative industries and mobility of artists and film professionals as well as providing services for the needs of realisation of cinematographic (co)productions within the Western Balkans market.

With intention of promoting the mutual cinematographic heritage,

Underlining that the provisions of this Memorandum shall be without prejudice to the rights and obligations of the Contracting Parties under the existing regional, bilateral and other international treaties in the fields of cinematography and audio-visual activities,

Bearing in mind the need to bring the legal framework for cinematographic cooperation in the Western Balkans up to date and taking account of the regulations of cinematographic industry of the respective Contracting Parties in force;

Desirous of open cooperation with the other Western Balkan participants and their inclusion in this Memorandum with a view to promote productive cooperation in the field of culture within the region.

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide conditions for facilitation, expansion and deepening of cooperation in the field of cinematography and other audio-visual activities, as well as of the cinematographic co-production among the Contracting Parties.

Article 2

The Contracting Parties express their willingness to determine the possibilities for further development of cooperation in the following fields of cinematographic arts and other audio-visual activities through:

1. Exchange of best practices and experiences in the field of audio-visual policy, with the aim to enable development of the film culture in the Western Balkans;
2. Strengthening the cooperation in the fields of production, promotion and public screening of cinematographic and other audio-visual works in the Region;
3. Promoting coproduction cooperation in the field of cinematographic and other audio-visual production among the Contracting Parties;
4. Promoting applications for film incentives, within the coproduction works;
5. Strengthening cooperation among institutions / organisations and other relevant actors in the field of cinematography in Western Balkans;
6. Organisation of joint projects and events in the field of cinematographic production, primarily of the coproduction meetings and professional thematic cinematographic workshops organized by the Contracting Parties;
7. Professional development through different programs and trainings in the areas of film literacy, for artists and film professionals, as well as for the experts in the fields of cinematographic and audio-visual culture of the other Contracting Parties, with the aim of acquiring and improving the skills or capabilities in these fields, exchanging experiences with colleagues and acquiring expertise for doing business on the regional and international levels.

8. Encouraging mutual presentations of cinematographic and audio-visual works on festivals and other events and instances, as part of retrospectives of other Contracting Parties in the Western Balkans;
9. Strengthening reciprocal distribution of cinematographic works between the Contracting Parties;
10. Exchange of information on the development of current activities in the fields of cinematography and other audio-visual activities among the Contracting Parties;
11. Promotion of regional artists and experts in the field of cinematography, as well as networking of artists and film professionals in the Western Balkans;
12. Promotion of joint projects and particularly of the co-production works in the field of cinematographic arts and audio-visual activities from the Western Balkans internationally.

Article 3

The Contracting Parties shall encourage mobility of artists and film professionals with the aim of realising cinematographic (co)productions in the Region, and generating additional (economic) value in the Region.

The Contracting Parties shall advocate mutual cooperation in the field of cinematography, as well as increasing the number of coproduction projects in the field of cinematographic arts and audio-visual activities, which shall promote cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding and respect.

Priority shall be given to the projects presenting the Region in a modern and innovative manner and those connecting the potential production houses from the Contracting Parties.

The Contracting Parties shall support linking of projects, in the frameworks of the platforms and networks for cooperation among them and the third parties in the field of cinematographic arts and audio-visual activities.

Article 4

The Contracting Parties shall form a **Mixed Commission** that will be dedicated to the application of the Memorandum and will be comprised of equal number of representatives of the competent bodies and experts nominated by individual Contracting Parties, for a term of two years, with the possibility of an extension of that term.

The financial arrangements aimed at covering the expenses for cooperation projects under this Memorandum of Understanding shall be jointly decided upon in each individual case, depending on availability of financial and other resources.

Article 5

This Memorandum shall enter into force on the date of its signing by the Contracting Parties and shall remain in force for an unlimited period of time. Each Contracting Party may withdraw from the Memorandum by notifying the other Contracting Parties thereof in writing, no later than six months prior to the date of such intended withdrawal.

This Memorandum can be supplemented or amended through negotiations and joint agreement of all the Contracting Parties.

Done in Belgrade, on September 2nd, 2022, in three (3) original copies in English language.

**FOR THE MINISTRY OF
CULTURE AND MEDIA OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**



**FOR THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
OF THE REPUBLIC
OF ALBANIA**



**FOR THE MINISTRY OF
CULTURE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF NORTH
MACEDONIA**

