

## **EBU strengthens kids' content offering with new animation co-production, supported by nine public broadcasters**

The European Broadcasting Union (EBU), France Télévisions and CARTOON are delighted to announce a new collaborative animation production project, developed for young audiences across Europe.

Following a competitive selection process, French production 'Elle(s)' was chosen from over 70 projects presented at the 2025 edition of Cartoon Forum, a major pitching & co-pro forum for animated TV projects.

Produced by GO-N Productions and aimed primarily at viewers aged 9–12, with broader appeal for teens, 'Elle(s)' is an animated adaptation of the graphic novels by Kid Toussaint and Aveline Stokart, published by Le Lombard.

Across eight serialized episodes in 3D animation, the series explores the life and inner world of Elle, a seemingly ordinary 15-year-old trying to navigate the everyday challenges of high school until her subconscious takes over in dramatic fashion. A high-concept, genre-bending series, 'Elle(s)' examines identity, emotion, and coming of age through a bold visual metaphor.

Under the coordination of EBU Television, and at the initiative of France Télévisions and CARTOON, a group of 9 public-service broadcasters have committed over €60'000 to the development of the series.

'Elle(s)' will be the fourth series developed within the EBU Animation Co-Development initiative following 'Ray & Ruby' (Creative Conspiracy), the tale of adventurous mouse twins, 'Pig & Andersen' (Fleng Entertainment ApS), a quirky comedy inspired by the world of Hans Christian Andersen, and 'My Life is a Manga' (Brain Comet/Blue Spirit), which tells the story of a 13-year old girl who transforms her life into a manga story.

**Matthew Trustram, Head of Television, EBU, said:** "Serving young audiences is a core mission of public service media, and it's a mission we fulfil best when we work together. Our animation co-production initiative brings broadcasters into close collaboration, enabling them to support independent creators and develop standout content - such as 'Elle(s)' - for children across Europe. By joining forces in this way, we are safeguarding a diverse and thriving European animation sector in an increasingly competitive world."

Development materials from 'Elle(s)' will be delivered at Cartoon Forum in 2026, after which EBU Member broadcasters will be able to exercise a first-look option to acquire rights to the series.

**Annick Maes, General Director of CARTOON, said:** "We are delighted that Cartoon Forum has once again hosted this initiative, helping pave the way for stronger European and collective cooperation. As unilateral funding becomes increasingly difficult, this initiative provides an opportunity for both producers and public commissioners to rethink what European distribution can be and to promote cross-border distribution among European public broadcasters. Building on the success of the 2025 edition, we look forward with confidence to those that will follow."

### **Participating Broadcasters**

- France Télévisions (Lead Broadcaster)
- RTBF (Belgium)
- VRT (Belgium)
- ARD/SWR/HR (Germany)
- DR (Denmark)
- YLE (Finland)
- BBC (UK)
- RTE (Ireland)
- RAI (Italy)