

PRESS RELEASE
Madrid, September 24, 2026.



CARTOON SPRINGBOARD MADRID SUPPORTS 22 NEW EUROPEAN ANIMATION PROJECTS

Cartoon Springboard, the pitching event for young European animation talent, has announced the projects selected for its twelfth edition, taking place in Madrid from November 4 to 6. The 22 selected projects come from 10 countries and are mostly in the early stages of development.

Aimed at students and recent graduates of European animation and audiovisual schools, within five years of graduation, Cartoon Springboard gives young creators the opportunity to present their animation projects to international industry professionals and receive guidance on their development. It also offers industry professionals a unique opportunity to discover, first-hand, the emerging talents and projects that could shape the future of animation.

During the three-day event, participants will pitch their projects to industry professionals, receiving feedback and practical advice to further develop them. The programme also includes a range of networking activities, giving participants the opportunity to exchange ideas and connect with other professionals.

Organised by CARTOON, Cartoon Springboard is co-funded by Creative Europe MEDIA with the support of the Community of Madrid. The event returns to Madrid for the fifth consecutive year, further establishing the region as a meeting point for the training and development of new European animation talent. The Community of Madrid is home to more than 30% of Spain's animation and VFX companies and, through its Regional Office for Culture, Tourism and Sport, supports the development and production of animated series, short films and feature films through various initiatives.

Since its first edition in 2015, Cartoon Springboard has received 280 animation projects, of which 21 have been completed and more than 90 are currently in active development.

In addition, 48 Springboard projects have gone on to participate in other CARTOON events, including Cartoon Forum, Cartoon Movie and CartoonNext.

The selection

With a record of 87 submissions, this year's selection is led by France with six projects, followed by Spain with five, Italy with three, and Germany with two. Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Ireland, Lithuania and the Netherlands are each represented by one project.

In terms of target audiences, 10 projects (45%) are aimed at young adults and adults, eight (36%) at children aged 6 to 11, three (14%) at preschoolers, and one (5%) at family audiences. TV series are clearly in the majority, with 17 projects, while the remaining five comprise three feature films and two web series.

The selection includes talent trained at Gobelins, Ecole des Nouvelles Images, Ecole Georges Méliès, La Poudrière and Institut Supérieur Couleur Image Design (France); Universitat Politècnica de València, BAU College of Arts and Design of Barcelona, UDIT - University of Design, Innovation and Technology, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid and ECAM - Escuela de Cinematografía y del Audiovisual de la Comunidad de Madrid (Spain); and Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore and Politecnico di Torino (Italy).

Also represented are students or graduates of Hochschule Furtwangen (Germany), St. Joost School of Arts & Design (the Netherlands), Design and Animation School (Georgia), National Film School of Denmark (Denmark), Ballyfermot College of Further Education and Technological University of the Shannon (Ireland), and Drexel University (USA).

Four projects were selected directly for Cartoon Springboard through various collaborations: ***Carlotta and the Magic Mountains*** (Cartoons on *the Bay*), ***Feet in the Water*** (Magelis), ***Mighty Knighticorn*** (Animation Dingle & JAM Media), and ***Very Dad Trip*** (Festival de Rennes / AFCA), while ***Climate Change, the End of the World, and Noelle*** and ***Very Dad Trip*** are participating with the support of France's SACD - Société des Auteurs et Compositeurs Dramatiques.

Five of the selected projects already have a production company on board for their development or production: Napkin Productions (Denmark), JAM Media (Ireland), Cérémonie (France), H501 Studio (Spain), and TNZPV Productions (France).

Training & Development

Alongside the pitching sessions, Cartoon Springboard offers a [programme](#) featuring a masterclass and three keynotes on animation project development and production.

The director of Martirio Films, Emmy Award winner James A. Castillo, will share his experience producing animation in Spain for the international market and developing his own feature film in the masterclass *Every Act of Creation Has a Price*.

In *How to Produce your Next Animation Project?* **Federico Turani, co-founder of IBRIDO Studio (Italy)**, will share insights into supporting new voices and creative proposals. **Barbara Slade, head of Blue Arrow Productions (UK)**, will address how to turn a good idea into a strong series in *How to Develop a Great Animated Series?* Finally, **Janine Weigold, ex Strategic Media Leader of Netflix and founder of Weigoldmedia (Germany)**, will explore how projects can gain their first recognition and connect with their audiences in *The First Yes: How Projects Find Their Way to an Audience*.

The programme will also include a **Special Screenings** session, offering a preview of eleven projects that took their first steps at Cartoon Springboard and continued their development at different CARTOON and industry events.

A total of 35 [experts and speakers](#) from 14 countries will take part in Cartoon Springboard, with Agnès Bizzaro as Head of Content. They include representatives of broadcasters and platforms such as Sarah Muller (BBC), Joseph Jacquet (France Télévisions), Yago Fandiño (Radio Televisión Española - RTVE), Lama Serhan (ARTE France) and Alice Curie (Warner Bros. Discovery); producers and key creatives such as Cristian Jezdic (beQ entertainment), Juha Fiilin (Fiilin Good Films), Federico Turani (IBRIDO Studio), Zhéva Bloud, Mark Cumberton (JAM Media), Olga Cherepanova (Misty Fox), Daysi Cruz (Morgana Studios), Elena Alexa (Nørlum), Ciaran Murtagh (Black Sheep Comedy), Erika Forzy (Passion Paris Production), Raúl Garcia (director of the Cristal Feature Film “The Violinist”), Judith Nora (Silex Films), Sébastien Onomo (Special Touch Studios), Eliska Soffer Podzimek (OLDRICH), Manuela Schöbel-Lumb (Studio 100 International) and Dominiks Jarmakovics (Studio Locomotive); as well as professionals working in distribution, sales and investment, including Daniel Bays (CAKE Distribution), Carlos Biern (DeAPlaneta Entertainment), Mark Taynton (Marky Sparky Media), Pascale Dillemann (Under The Milky Way) and Janine Weigold (Weigoldmedia).

Finally, Cartoon Springboard will host [Connections Hub](#) at the Ateneo de Madrid. Aimed at connecting participants with the local animation industry, the initiative will feature presentations by five to six companies from the region, which will showcase their work and the professional opportunities they offer, followed by a networking session with the young talent.

The programme will also feature [One-to-One Meetings](#), individual sessions of up to 20 minutes bringing together young talent with producers, broadcasters and other industry professionals.

About CARTOON

CARTOON is an international non-profit association founded in Brussels in 1988 with the support of the European Union’s MEDIA programme. Committed to supporting the European animation industry, CARTOON organises five annual events for industry professionals, divided into two categories: training seminars —Cartoon Springboard (Madrid), Cartoon Business (Brussels), and CartoonNext (Marseille)— and co-production forums for animated series and feature films —Cartoon Forum (Toulouse) and Cartoon Movie (Bordeaux).

CARTOON Director: Annick Maes

Cartoon Springboard Head of Content: Agnès Bizzaro – agnes.bizzaro@cartoon-media.eu

Cartoon Springboard Event Coordinator: Laura Jarka – masters@cartoon-media.eu – +32
23 44 76 18

Press Officer: Gerardo Michelin – gerardo@latindie.com – +34 630 572 268

[Images of the selected projects](#)

[Press Kit](#)

[Press Corner](#)

[Communication Kit](#)