

PRESS RELEASE

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A NEW SLATE OF EUROPEAN ANIMATED SERIES COMES TO LIFE AT CARTOON FORUM 2026

Cartoon Forum, the pitching and co-production forum for European animated series, returns to Toulouse, Occitanie, for its 37th edition. Taking place from September 14 to 17, the event will bring together 65 projects in development, offering a glimpse into the next wave of European animated series while giving them the chance to connect with potential partners. Selected from 111 submissions, the projects span 19 countries, reflecting the international appeal of European animation, as well as the diversity of talent and perspectives across the continent.

Together, the 65 projects represent 326 hours of content and an overall budget of €280 million, averaging €4.3 million per project, with co-productions accounting for 40% of the projects.

France leads the line-up with 31 projects, followed by Ireland with 6, Germany with 5 and Spain with 4. Poland, Belgium, Finland and Denmark are represented by 2 projects each. Austria, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Romania and Sweden each have 1 project. At the regional level, Central and Eastern European and Nordic countries each account for 6 projects.

The pitching sessions are at the heart of Cartoon Forum: each project is presented in a 30-minute session to industry professionals. This format allows producers to connect directly with potential financiers, broadcasters, distributors and other partners, with the aim of securing financing and expanding international distribution.

The selection brings together established and independent production companies, as well as emerging producers entering the industry, reflecting a diverse European production landscape.

Beyond the pitching sessions, the event also offers networking opportunities, including **One-to-One meetings**, alongside industry initiatives such as **Québec-Canada Land in Europe: A Space for Creation, Fill the Gap** and a **Cartoon Talk** panel exploring the role of Public Service Broadcasters in engaging young audiences in the digital era, featuring representatives from Télé-Québec (Quebec-Canada), VRT-Ketnet (Belgium) and France Télévisions (France).

Together, these initiatives aim to foster international cooperation and cross-border partnerships.

A Selection Spanning Multiple Audiences

The selection is predominantly aimed at children, with 34 projects targeting audiences aged 5 to 11. A further 17 projects are aimed at teens, young adults and adults, while 11 target pre-school audiences, and 3 are family oriented.

Across target groups, the selection spans a broad range of genres and themes. Children's projects combine adventure, comedy and fantasy with stories about identity, belonging and emotions. Teen projects explore fantasy, coming-of-age, science, friendship and resilience, while young adult and adult stories combine humour with a critical take on contemporary society, alongside personal journeys and questions of identity. Pre-school projects take a more educational approach, focusing on emotions, curiosity, discovery and imagination.

The 2026 Cartoon Forum line-up also reflects some broader trends, including greater diversity and stronger female representation. The share of projects focusing on inclusion and diversity nearly doubled, rising from 17% in 2025 to 31% this year, while female-led projects reached a record high, accounting for almost half of the selection.

Another notable trend is the presence of adaptations, reflecting a sustained interest in established intellectual properties. Specifically, 31% of the selected projects (20) are adaptations of comics, books or other media.

Most of the projects use 2D animation (37 projects), followed by 3D animation (18) and a combination of 2D and 3D (9), while one project uses other techniques.

Building on the experience gained at [Cartoon Springboard](#), two projects selected for this year's edition – *WAW Resort* by Peekaboo Animation (Spain) and *OUCH!* by Anna Films (France) – continue their development journey across the CARTOON ecosystem. Dedicated to emerging animation talent, Cartoon Springboard's next edition will take place in Madrid from 4 to 6 November.

Animation from the [Occitanie region](#), home to Cartoon Forum since 2012, will be well represented by three projects in the selection: *Plasticland*, produced by Dwarf

Entertainment; *The Banana Complex*, from Toulouse-based Xbo Films; and *The Old Lady and the Dragon*, produced by Les Films d'Ici Méditerranée.

As part of Cartoon Forum's ongoing partnerships, two projects joined the line-up through Germany's Animation Production Days (APD): *Emotsters* by Blaue Pampelmuse and *Reinventing Herman* by Wolkenlenker. Another project, *Tolo&Bolo* by Filmograf (Poland), joined through the CEE Animation Forum.

[Explore the full Cartoon Forum 2026 line-up.](#)

New Frontiers, New Opportunities

With the aim of exploring new frontiers for European animation, Cartoon Forum welcomes [Québec-Canada Land in Europe: A Space for Creation](#), an initiative designed to strengthen connections between Québec and Canadian talent and European creators and industry professionals, opening new opportunities for collaboration and co-production. A dedicated pitching session will feature *Algorythm*, produced by Extérieur Jour (Québec, Canada); *El Kapoutchi, the King of Villains*, produced by Punch! Animation (Québec, Canada); *Miss Tzatziki's Classroom Mysteries*, produced by Happy Camper Média (Québec, Canada); *Alien Book Club*, produced by Big Bad Boo Studios (Canada); *Semanka*, produced by Chrystelle Maechler Productions (Canada); and *The Labradoodles*, produced by Imagine Create Media (Canada).

Supporting projects previously pitched at Cartoon Forum, the [Fill the Gap](#) initiative returns, offering producers still seeking part of their financing the opportunity to secure the remaining funds and move their projects into production. This year, five selected projects will be presented through a trailer screening, followed by a five-minute pitch for each project.

One-to-One Meetings will also offer participants the opportunity to meet potential buyers and financial partners through bilateral meetings.

Beyond the Forum

The [Cartoon Forum Tributes](#) recognise outstanding contributions to European animation, with ten companies from seven countries competing across four categories. The winners will be chosen by vote among Cartoon Forum participants.

The **Producer of the Year** nominees are **Bionaut** (Czech Republic), **Bobby Prod** (France), **Mago Production** (Spain) and **Melusine Studio** (Luxembourg), representing a range of established and independent European producers.

The **Investor/Distributor** category features **Folivari International** and **Mediawan Kids & Family** (France), and **Studio 100 International** (Germany), reflecting the diversity of companies bringing European animation to international audiences.

The **Broadcaster** nominees are public-service broadcasters **BBC** (UK), **Südwestrundfunk** (Germany) and **Sveriges Television** (Sweden), all active in commissioning and supporting animated content.

This year, a new **Ecoprod-Cartoon Tribute** will recognise a company or initiative advancing sustainability in the sector, in line with Cartoon's commitment to making its events more environmentally responsible. The inaugural nominees are **Gao Shan Pictures** and **La Cabane Productions** (France), and **Cartoon Saloon** (Ireland). The winner will be selected by Ecoprod.

Cartoon Forum also strengthens its ties with Toulouse and the Occitanie region through two initiatives connecting the event with the local creative ecosystem. The [Coaching Programme](#) gives students from local animation schools an introduction to the industry, covering the different stages of production, market trends, project development, financing and international partnerships. Around 70 students and teachers take part in the programme each year.

Les Toons D'ici, organised in partnership with the City and Metropolis of Toulouse, introduces children aged 7 to 11 to local animation productions through screenings and opportunities to meet the professionals behind them. More than 2,000 children are expected to take part in eight sessions.

ABOUT CARTOON FORUM

Created in 1990 to boost the co-production and distribution of European animation across television and new media platforms, Cartoon Forum has helped 1,053 animation series obtain financing totalling more than €3.83 billion. Cartoon Forum 2026 is organised by CARTOON – European Association of Animation Film, with the support of Creative Europe – MEDIA, CNC (Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée), Région Occitanie, Mairie de Toulouse, Toulouse Métropole, Casino Barrière and France Télévisions (FTV).

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[Selected Projects Cartoon Forum 2026 - Images for the Press](#)

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