

CALL FOR PROJECTS



GENRE FILM RESIDENCY Thématique „ “Stories and Legends” of the CinEuro Film Lab“

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Introduction

The Region Grand Est, through the CinEuro Film Lab, in partnership with screen.brussels and Wallimage, in collaboration with La Scénaristerie and with the support of SAFIRE Grand Est, is launching a cross-border genre film residency to be held between 2026 and 2027 in the form of four in-person writing workshops.

This initiative is aimed at writer–producer pairs and supports the development of feature film projects in the genre field (fantasy, science-fiction, crime, thriller, horror, action), both in live-action and animation, around the theme “Stories and Legends.”

The residency takes place in two regions—Grand Est (France) and the Brussels-Capital Region (Belgium)—and is organized alongside three major events in Grand Est. It concludes with the BIF Market (Brussels Genre Film Market) in April 2027. The program offers selected participants a structured framework that fosters their professional development, expands their network, and encourages the creation of international co-productions.

The big chills at the heart of Europe: regional stories and legends as a driving force for bold, boundary-pushing creative works

This call for projects is part of the support policy for genre films led by the Grand Est Region and its partners. Building on a structured ecosystem and established professional events, the Grand Est Region has, since 2022, developed a dedicated program supporting short and feature-length genre film projects at the development, writing, and production stages under the label “Frissons en Grand Est.”

As a partner within the Greater Region, the Brussels-Capital Region also represents a key hub for genre cinema, notably thanks to the BIF Market (Brussels Genre Film Market), held as part of the Brussels International Fantastic Film Festival (BIFFF), which for the past decade has brought together international professionals and projects in development each year.

Stories and Legends:

This strand proposes exploring these territories as a narrative reservoir where reality and imagination intersect, giving rise to distinctive regional storytelling.

It highlights places rich in memory, as well as border areas, forests, lakes, mountain ranges, and historic cities.

These may include regional stories or local legends that are reinterpreted or reimaged, as well as contemporary genre film narratives.

Customized support for the selected projects.

Up to four feature film projects will benefit from tailored support over a ten-month period, from July 2026 to April 2027. This program, developed by La Scénaristerie and based on its expertise in supporting feature film projects, includes both individual and collective script-doctoring sessions, as well as pitch preparation. The workshops will be led by consultants Claudia Bottino and Judith Godinot.

Participants will also have the opportunity to connect with screenwriters and producers from the partner regions and to present their project during a pitching session at the BIF Market 2027.

This initiative pursues several objectives:

- **to strengthen the artistic quality and narrative originality of the projects** in order to reinforce their positioning on international markets;
- **to consolidate the artistic and strategic development of the projects** from an international perspective by enhancing their visual identity and structuring a production strategy tailored to the requirements of co-productions;
- **to integrate the principles of environmentally responsible production** from the development stage onward;
- **to foster networking among genre film professionals** and to stimulate transnational and European cooperation within the framework of major events:
 - Forum Alentours – Meeting point for Rhine co-production,
 - Strasbourg European Fantastic Film Festival (EUROGENRE),
 - Gérardmer International Fantastic Film Festival,
 - Brussels International Fantastic Film Festival (BIF Market).

The working language of the workshops is English.

Provisional schedule

- **Writing workshop 1:** 30 June – 3 July 2026 (4 days) in Strasbourg, as part of the Forum Alentours.
- **Writing workshop 2:** 29 September – 2 October 2026 (4 days) in Strasbourg and Mulhouse, as part of the Eurogenre industry meetings of the Strasbourg European Fantastic Film Festival.
- **Writing workshop 3:** week of 25 January 2027 (4 days) as part of the Internationalen Fantasy Filmfestivals Gérardmer.

- **Writing workshop 4: April 2027** (4 days), as part of the BIF Market of the Brussels International Fantastic Film Festival.

Two individual online interim sessions led by script doctors are planned between sessions 1 and 2, and between sessions 2 and 3. These serve as intermediate milestones and complement the in-person workshops mentioned above.

Who can participate in this genre film residency?

A duo consisting of a screenwriter and a producer holding a valid and current option agreement or rights transfer contract for intellectual property.

- whose production company is based in the cooperation area of the “Upper Rhine” and the “Greater Region”: Brussels-Capital Region, Wallonia, Luxembourg, Saarland, Rhineland-Palatinate, Baden-Württemberg, Grand Est region, as well as the cantons of Basel-Stadt, Basel-Landschaft, and Aargau.
- or, if this is not the case, whose screenwriter is based in France in the Grand Est region, or in Belgium in the Brussels-Capital Region or in Wallonia.
- The program is primarily aimed at professional screenwriters who have written at least one professionally developed fiction project (short film, feature film, or series) that has received institutional support and has had professional exploitation (festival selection, television broadcast).

On what criteria is this based ?

- A fictional feature film project, either live-action or animated;
- A genre film rooted in the above-mentioned territories and connected to the theme “Stories and Legends”;
- Proficiency in English, as all exchange formats and deliverables will be in this language;
- Availability to attend all four writing workshops.

Note: The screenwriter may also intend to direct the film, although this is not mandatory. This should be specified in the letter of intent.

Submission requirements

Applicants must submit the following documents in a single PDF file (artistic materials must be provided in the original language as well as in English translation):

1. the application form;
2. a short synopsis of the film highlighting the project's connection to the theme "Stories and Legends" (maximum 1 page);
3. a detailed synopsis (3 to 6 pages);
4. a letter of intent describing the genesis of the film, the applicants' personal connection to the story, its approach through the lens of genre cinema, as well as its universe and tone, including references where relevant (maximum 2 pages);
5. a motivation letter outlining expectations for the workshop and the current stage of project development (synopsis, treatment, dialogue draft – this document is required in case of pre-selection) (maximum 1 page); where applicable, please indicate any existing links with programs from the Grand Est region, screen.brussels, or Wallimage;
6. a biography and CV of the screenwriter(s) (and, if applicable, co-writer), clearly listing written and/or produced films, their distribution, and festival selections, including valid viewing links (maximum 2 pages);
7. a presentation of the production company;
8. the option agreement or rights transfer contract for intellectual property.

All documents must be formatted as follows:

Arial, font size 12, line spacing 1.15, 2.5 cm margins.

Applications that do not comply with these requirements will be considered ineligible.

Participation fees

Participation in the CinEuro Film Lab is free of charge.

Accommodation and lunch are covered in accordance with the applicable rates of the Grand Est Region.

Dinners are at the participants' expense.

Reimbursement of travel expenses for the tandems may be considered under certain conditions:

- **Writing workshop 1:** Strasbourg (FR): up to €200 round-trip per person;
- **Writing workshop 2:** Strasbourg & Mulhouse (FR): coverage of travel costs between Strasbourg and Mulhouse.

Note: Any coverage of transport costs will be confirmed at a later stage, subject to available budget.

- **Writing workshop 3:** Gérardmer (FR): up to €150 round-trip per person;
- **Writing workshop 4:** Brussels (BE): up to €200 round-trip per person.

Selection of projects

A selection process carried out in two stages:

- **First stage: A pre-selection committee** composed of the two workshop consultants, a representative of SAFIRE Grand Est, and, where applicable, members of the Belgian screenwriters' association, as well as members of La Scénaristerie's educational committee, will review the applications and select the most relevant submissions.
This selection will be made in coordination with representatives from the Grand Est Region and CinEuro.
- **Second stage: Project presentation – an English-language interview** (via videoconference) with the screenwriter–producer duo, including a presentation of the project, an explanation of their motivation, and a Q&A session.

The selected projects will be announced at the beginning of June 2026.

For any questions related to the call for projects, please contact us by email at: lascenaristerie@gmail.com.