

Regulations

01 The Festival

The 23rd Animateka International Animated Film Festival will take place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, from 30 November to 6 December 2026. The festival consists of competition programmes, special presentations, a programme for industry professionals, and a wide range of accompanying events. The festival is organised by the Two Reels Association for the Reanimation of Storytelling.

02 Competition

Main Competition Programme (short animated films from Central, South, and Eastern Europe)

The competition is open to short animated films (the duration of which must not exceed 30 minutes of total running time per film) produced or co-produced in the following countries: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Cyprus, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey, and the Ukraine.

The Elephant in Competition (international programme of short animated films for children)

The competition is open to short animated films (the duration of which must not exceed 30 minutes of total running time per film) for children, regardless of the production country.

European Young Talents Competition Programme (short animated films made by European students)

The competition is open to short animated films (the duration of which must not exceed 30 minutes of total running time per film) made by students within educational institutions in the EU or the following countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, the Ukraine, and UK.

VR@ANIMATEKA Competition Programme (international programme of animated VR works)

The competition is open to short animated projects made for VR, specifically to VR works in the VR (6DOF), VR (3DOF), Interactive 360°, and 360° Video format (the duration of which must not exceed 30 minutes of total running time per project).

All films must be completed in 2025 or 2026. Only films that have not previously been screened at the Animateka festival may be selected.

03 Applications

Applications must be submitted through the official festival homepage:

<https://animateka.filmchief.com/submit-film/animateka-2026>

A submitted application will be considered valid after the submission of the associated film file.

Applications may only be submitted online. The applicant may provide a link for viewing the film online in the application form, or submit the film files through an online transfer provider, such as:

<https://www.wetransfer.com/> (free up to 2 GB)

<https://www.myairbridge.com/> (free up to 20 GB)

A submitted application will be considered invalid until a preview copy of the film and all the required information are received.

A complete application with all the required materials must be submitted by **15 July 2026**.

04 Selection

The selection will be completed by **15 September 2026**.

Applicants will be informed about the selection by e-mail.

Copies of all submitted films, even those not selected into the competition, will be kept in the festival archive. They will be available for internal viewing, and will not be returned to the applicants.

05 Format and deadline for the selected films

The selected films will be screened in the DCP and HD digital formats. Copies of the selected films must be submitted by **1 October 2026** at the latest.

06 Submission and final copies

DCP copies of the selected films must be submitted online. Applicants may submit the files through online transfer providers, such as:

<https://www.wetransfer.com/> (free up to 2 GB)

<https://www.myairbridge.com/> (free up to 20 GB)

Applicants may also submit their final film copies through other services, such as: FTP, film download links, etc. Applicants without DCP copies may also submit their films as HD files.

07 Accommodation

Selected applicants will be informed about the availability of festival accommodation in the notification about the film selection. The festival covers the costs of the accommodation and meals offered to the directors of the selected films.

08 Jury and Awards

The International Jury, nominated by the festival organisers, will present the *Jury Grand Prix* for the best short animated film from the **Main Competition Programme**, as well as five Special Mentions.

A special jury comprised of students will present the award for the best European student animated film in the **European Young Talents Competition Programme** (*Young talent: Student Jury Award*). This jury may also present a special mention.

A special jury comprised of children will present the award for the best film in the **Elephant in Competition programme** (*The Elephant Children Jury Award*).

An Audience Award will also be presented to a film shown in the **Main Competition Programme** (*DSAF Audience Award*) as well as to a film from the **Elephant in Competition programme** (*The Elephant Audience Award*).

A special jury will also present the award for the best VR project from **VR@ANIMATEKA Competition Programme** (*VR@Animateka Award*).

Monetary awards are paid by the festival directly to the directors of the winning films.

09 Application to the partner festival

If your application states that you agree with the submission of your film to the **19th edition of Piccolo festival dell'animazione**, the screener will be forwarded to the organisers of the above partner festival. The organisers of Piccolo festival will notify all applicants about the film selection directly.

10 Closure of cinemas in the event of force majeure

If cinemas are closed, the Animateka festival will be held online. The organisers will use a film streaming platform with all the required safety mechanisms against potential misuse (DRM encryption, an invisible forensic watermark embedded in films). In this case, the selected films will be accessible for the duration of the festival. Online audiences will be able to view them with a festival pass or tickets purchased for individual programmes, subject to a limited viewing period. The selected films will not be screened without the applicants' prior consent.