

## COUNTRY REPORT 2015

It was a record year in terms of the number of new domestic productions and the support for the industry. Annual state support for film industry was 6.5 m EUR in 2015. The [Macedonian Film Agency](#) financed 45 films: 14 feature films, 10 documentaries, 16 short films and five animated films, the highest number since its launch as a film fund in 2008.

In July 2015 the Republic of Macedonia officially joined the [Creative Europe MEDIA programme](#) and Macedonian audiovisual professionals became eligible to take part.

Macedonia and Italy signed a development agreement during the 72nd Venice Film Festival and The Macedonia Film Agency became a member of the [European Film Commission Network](#).

[The City of Bitola](#) was acknowledged as a Creative City of Film entering [The UNESCO Creative Cities Network \(UCCN\)](#). In December 2015 a new Regional Film Fund called Balkan Cinema Cities was established during a conference of directors of the [Bulgarian National Film Center](#), the [Albanian National Film Center](#), the [Macedonian Film Agency](#) and representatives of different cities from these countries. The initiative is supported by [Municipality of Bitola](#) and Macedonian Film Agency.

In November 2015 a new General Director of the Macedonian Film Agency, Mimi Gjorgoska-Ilievska, was appointed, replacing Darko Basheski.

Macedonian films were screened at 49 film festivals and received 15 awards. In March 2015, the Macedonian Film Agency presented its new logo, which was selected from submissions to a public call. In 2015 Macedonia also hosted new editions of the International Cinematographers Film Festival [Manaki Brothers](#), [Cinedays Festival of European Film](#), [Makedox](#) and a number of other festivals.

Ivo Trajkov`'s *Honey Night / Medena nok* was selected as Macedonia's candidate for the Foreign Language Academy Award in 2015.

## PRODUCTION

A total of 23 films were produced with the support from the Macedonian Film Agency in 2015. Four majority Macedonian coproductions were completed: Svetozar Ristovski`'s Macedonian/Croatian/Bulgarian/French coproduction *Lazar* (produced by Small Moves Ltd), Ivo Trajkov`'s Macedonian/Czech/ Slovenian coproduction *Honey Night / Medena nok* (produced by [Kaval Film](#)), Darijan Pejovski`'s Macedonian/Kosovo

coproduction *Three Days in September / Tri dena vo septemvri* (produced by [Skopje Film Studio](#)) and Slobodan Despotovski's *Be Loyal / Zbor* (produced by SD production).

Another three feature films and minority coproductions were shot, and also nine documentaries, five short films and two short animated films. International coproductions increased and new partners emerged, such as Italy and Romania.

The list of feature films shot in Macedonia in 2015 includes the Italian/Macedonian/Romanian/Bulgarian coproduction *Banat* by Adriano Valerio, coproduced by [KT Film & Media](#), Goran Trenčovski's *The Golden Five / Zlatnata petorka*, produced by [Revolution Production](#) in coproduction with the [Macedonian Radio Television](#) and [Art & Popcorn](#) from Belgrade, Vardan Tozija's debut feature *Amok* produced by [Dream Factory](#) in coproduction with Albania's Red Helicopter Films, and Gjorce Stavreski's debut feature *The secret ingredient / Tajnata sastojka*, produced by [Fragment film](#).

In September 2015, Nicolas Benamou's *A Fond* started shooting in Macedonia. The film produced by the French production company Chic Films in coproduction with Macedonia's [Manufaktura](#) is the largest ever foreign film investment in Macedonia, with potential benefits estimated at 2 m EUR.

According to the Macedonian Film Agency, a total of 202 titles including 66 feature films, 59 documentaries, 58 short films and 19 animated films were supported by the Macedonian Film Fund since it was established in 2008, through August 2015. In 2014, the Macedonian Film Fund became the Macedonian Film Agency.

## DISTRIBUTION

The main distributors in Macedonia are [MCF MK](#), Premium Film, [Kt Film & Media](#), [Cutaway](#), [Uzengija](#). There is one multiplex, [Cineplexx](#), and two art house cinemas, which are part of the [Europa Cinemas](#) network : [Millenium](#), Art Cinema Frosina and [Centar za kultura](#) in Bitola.

Apart from Skopje, Bitola, Ohrid and Kavadarci, the other towns do not have cinemas with a regular repertoire. Films are occasionally screened in 14 cultural centers equipped with film projectors and screens by the Macedonian Film Agency in cooperation with the [Ministry of Culture](#).

A total of seven domestic films premiered in 2015.

According to [Cineplexx](#), the list of the films with most admissions in 2015 includes: *Fifty Shades of Grey*, *Furious 7*, *Spectre* and *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, while there was little box office interest in domestic and regional films.

## EXHIBITION AND BOX OFFICE

There were 5 cinemas operating in Macedonia in 2015, two commercial, 1 multiplex and two art house cinemas. The number of screens was 27.

Admissions were 529,616 in 2015. Admissions for domestic films were 23,678, for foreign films 502,988 and for coproductions 2,950.

[FX3X](#), a visual effects and CGI animation company founded in 1997, worked on 17 films in 2015, out of which 11 were box office hits and were shortlisted for an Oscar nomination: *Ant Man*, *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, *Furious Seven*, *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 2*, *Jupiter Ascending*, *The Martian*, *Mission Impossible: Rogue Nation*, *The Revenant*, *Spectre*, *Terminator Genisys* and *Tomorrowland*.

The first multiplex cinema in the country, [Cineplexx](#) celebrated their one millionth visitor in 2015. The cinema witnessed an increase in admissions since its opening in November 2012. Cineplexx recorded 362,039 visitors, representing an increase of 14 percent compared to 2014, and screened 200 titles in 2015.

## GRANTS AND NEW LEGISLATION

Film Incentive programme was introduced as part of the new Film Law in 2014. The programme is available to international and local filmmakers in the form of a cash rebate of 20% on qualifying Macedonian spend. The programme works on a first-come, first-served basis. The cash rebate is calculated on the total qualifying expenditure including value added tax and paid directly to the applicant's Macedonian bank account. The minimum local spend per project is 100,000 EUR.

The Macedonian law is new, and Macedonia managed to collect for its financial incentive programme a budget of approximately 7 m EUR annually, which has already attracted many producers.

Macedonia started using the cash rebate scheme for film and TV projects in 2015. One such project is the French road comedy *A Fond* by Nicolas Benamou, which spent about 2 m EUR in Macedonia.

According to the new film law, several sources will add to the budget, such as levies from the TV (0.9% of the annual turnover), cable operators, internet providers and telecoms (1%), distributors (3%), exhibitors (5%) and the gambling industry (3% of gross income).

There were two calls for funding organised by the [Macedonian Film Agency](#) in 2015. Forty-five projects were financed: 14 feature films, 10 documentaries, 16 short films and five animated films, the highest number since its launch as a film fund in 2008. Until 2015, the Agency usually finances up to 30 films per year.

## TV

According to the [State Statistical Office](#), 115 companies involved in broadcasting activities in 2015, of which 61 were transmitting radio programmes and 54 TV programmes.

There is one public broadcaster, [Macedonian Radio Television](#), and 53 commercial broadcasters. The public channel broadcasted a total of 20,712 hours in 2015, of which 13% was fiction. The commercial channels broadcasted a total of 399,454 hours, of which 25.3% was fiction.

[Macedonian Agency for Audio and Audiovisual Media Services](#) reported that all commercial and public broadcasters generated total revenues of approximately 50 m EUR/ 3,102,260,000 MKD in 2015, which is a drop of 2.3% compared to 2014. The TV advertising revenues were 27,466,970 EUR.

Almost all channels which broadcast via satellite ended 2015 with a loss, according to a market analysis released in October 2016. Only five of the country's 63 TV broadcasters generated a positive financial result in 2015, mainly from advertising. In terms of revenue growth, the leader was [TV Alfa](#), whose revenues soared 21.14%, reaching 3,204,878 EUR, followed by [Alsat TV](#) (an increase of 1.1%, up to 2,700,162 EUR). [TV Sitel](#) had the highest overall revenues with 8,809,756 EUR, an increase of 0.65% compared to 2014.

The public broadcaster [Macedonian Radio Television](#), generated 20,881,138 EUR in revenue in 2015, of which 25.56% came from advertisements. This is a drop of 3.2% compared to 2014 level. The cable TV operators and regional and local TV stations recorded a serious drop in 2015, according to the report.

Television remains the most influential media in Macedonia. TV Sitel was the most watched domestic TV station, while Discovery was the most watched foreign TV station in Macedonia in 2015.

In the last ten years only three series were shot as Macedonian productions. In 2015 [TV Alfa](#) produced TV series *Roommates* with 40 episodes. The series was directed by Tihomir Bacovski and was part of the legal obligation for the national televisions to produce, shoot and broadcast a programme with elements of public interest every year, according to the Law on Audio and Audiovisual Media Services adopted in 2014.