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EUROPEAN WOMEN'S  
AUDIOVISUAL NETWORK

**EWA NETWORK**

**2021**

*Annual Report*

# **EWA Network Annual Report 2021**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION - p. 3

ACTIVITIES IN THE INDUSTRY - p. 5

*EWA Network's Annual Event at Berlinale*

*Mentoring for emerging producers*

*Online Hang-Outs*

*EWA Talks Change*

*Member Meet-Ups with Executive Director*

EWA Network Development Awards p. 8

Communication - p. 10

EWA Network's Presence and Activities in the Industry p. 13

Follow-up of Projects supported by EWA Network p. 21

EWA Network's Fundraising and Partners p. 23

EWA Network - Team and Board p. 24

## Introduction

BY Director of Programmes Alexia Muiños Ruiz and Executive Director Jenni Koski

On the thorough task of providing a recap about last year, we realized once again how incredibly packed it was for EWA Network despite another year of covid-19 restrictions and lockdowns. In many ways EWA Network has been more vibrant than ever as there were many opportunities for renewal and growth as the increase of our member numbers and activities reveal.

EWA Network has had a stable number of members throughout the recent years and we have been adding to our online programming exclusive to members. This year the content was delivered through online member meet-ups and special training. In addition EWA Network had a presence, both online and onsite, at international festivals and events to tackle gender inequality and boost a more inclusive industry. Among others, we were present at Trieste, Berlin, Barcelona, Brussels, Cannes, Lille, Strasbourg, Helsinki, Lissabon, Leipzig, Thessaloniki, and Amsterdam. EWA Network continues to support and showcase outstanding projects by women creators and encourages festivals to work more for gender balance and diversity in their market and festival selections. Our partnerships with WEMW, Series Mania, Thessaloniki and DOK Leipzig Co-pro Market continued to successfully acknowledge and celebrate female talent and diverse storytelling with several awards presented to women directors and diverse storytelling.

In 2021 we continued the Mentoring Programme for Emerging Women Producers, during the most complicated times amidst the pandemic. Fifteen participants from all over Europe and beyond joined our programme, which in this year's edition, aimed and advocated for a more diverse group, inviting mentees from different cultures which undoubtedly enriched the experience for all. However, not only did the participants learn a lot from this full online experience, EWA Network also learned and prepared a contingency plan for next editions, which will be supported by Creative Europe. As we are writing this, we are hoping that the 2022 mentoring edition will take place as planned, bigger, better and packed with more content and benefit to our members, offering them lots of insight on how to transform their businesses and projects into more sustainable and diverse ones.

As a professional network, EWA Network is devoted to its members and therefore we had another successful year with Online Hang-Outs, a widely acclaimed initiative fostering networking for EWA members. The online format was particularly interesting for those who could not travel or attend any film events outside of their own region.

Online Hang-Outs are a valuable way to connect, re-connect and share expertise in an information manner which is important to our members. And we wrapped the year with a popular masterclass by the General Manager of HBO MAX EMEA, Christina Sulebakk, who delivered a powerful testimony of her own career, gave a useful outlook on the future of the VOD and other streaming services and guided our members to approach the gatekeepers with their projects.

EWA Network's long-term and widely respected Executive Director Alessia Sonaglioni decided to leave EWA Network and she is still very much missed in EWA activities. The new director Jenni Koski started in September 2021 and is leading the EWA strategy work together with the board of directors towards a more solid and sustainable approach for EWA Network's future and to the benefit of the network members. More information about the strategy will be released in early 2022.

Year 2021 was also very fruitful for the consolidation of our relations with other women's networks such as Swan, PFDM, Wscripted, the online marketplace for female writers, and so was with festivals such as Series Mania, DOK Leipzig, TIFF and IDFA. We are proud to announce that at the end of 2021, our network counted more than 600 members from 52 different countries worldwide.

## ACTIVITIES IN THE INDUSTRY

One of EWA Network's strategic objectives has always been to offer quality programming for its members. This objective has been monitored by frequent surveys and contacts to the members by using different channels and platforms. In addition to our usual programming, we have provided several different training programs, meetings/talks and awards for the progress of gender equality in the film industry. A lot of the content was delivered online due to the pandemic.

Apart from the specific actions outlined below, EWA NETWORK continued demonstrating a strong presence in Brussels and engaged in networking with various European stakeholders sharing the same objectives. 2021 was a complex year for specialized networking in any industry as almost all activities were converted to online and most of the actions were focused on COVID recovery plans of various institutions. This said, EWA Network kept in regular exchange with European stakeholders such as EFAD and UNIMEI. Special grant application was developed with the latter one titled **Equal pay and equal career opportunities for women professionals in European audiovisual productions - Reinforcing the role of trade unions** (Decision on funding due in February 2022).

EWA Network was in active exchange with Society of Audiovisual Authors (SAA) and got invited to exchange with its Board members about the topic of **Diversity & Inclusion**. The meeting was of a preparatory character and attended by Alessia Sognalioni, director of EWA Network. Decision has been made to engage in more joint actions from 2022 onwards. EWA Network also continued its fundraising activities and approached a couple of additional public film funds. Among them Film Fund Montenegro and Kosovo Film Center were genuinely interested in developing programming with EWA Network but it did not happen due to local administrative reshuffle of the key decision makers and political changes. EWA Network was constantly engaged with various project managers representing the Creative Europe MEDIA programme in the purpose of soft lobby and actions for fostering gender equality criteria in their decision making process.

### **EWA Network's Annual Event at Berlinale: EWA Network opens the talk: Raising diversity in stories is crucial for Human Rights and bringing people together**

EWA Network's annual event, usually celebrated during Berlinale, was held for the first time in a digital form due to the covid-19 pandemic. *Gender Equality & Diversity – the*

*Role of Creativity & Activism* was the main focus of the event, and EWA Network's director Alessia Sonaglioni started her welcome speech emphasizing that the lack of diversity in front of and behind the camera is the result of a systemic bias embedded in how the industry operates.

After the welcome speech, community and human rights campaigner and artist Zita Holbourne gave an inspiring keynote, who highlighted the generations-long gender and race discrimination and advocated increasing tools and methods for diversity in order to bring human beings together. Ms Holbourne underlined why organisations like EWA Network are so important, since they create a lifeline, giving people a safe space to support each other.

The keynote was followed by a public panel moderated by journalist and producer Paula Vaccaro. The panel included Ms Holbourne who was accompanied by a film commissioner Liisa Holmberg from the International Sámi Film Institute, managing director Helge Albers from Filmförderung Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein; and director, playwright, actress and Roma activist, Alina Serban.

After the morning conference and lunch break, the event went on with the programme exclusively for EWA members. One of the member events offered an informal conversation with the Founder of Documentary Association of Europe Brigid O'Shea who reflected on the topic of *One Year of online festivals and markets: Lessons learnt*. The talk was led by the Strategy Manager Tamara Tatishvili and allowed for thorough discussions and exchange between Brigid and attending EWA members.

### **Mentoring for emerging producers**

The 2020 programme consisted of two cycles running in parallel, with fifteen mentor-mentee pairs. Participants come from all over Europe (Norway, Armenia, France, Italy, Switzerland, Croatia, Hungary) and beyond, since, for the first time, we included an Iranian filmmaker in the selection. The programme was severely hit by the pandemic and none of the meetings could take place on the co-production markets, both kick-off and closing meetings were forced to be held online. However, we were able to celebrate our mentors and mentees in more

However, the programme went on with the envisaged group meetings and the 15 pairs of mentor-mentee meeting regularly.

From this full online experience we have learnt and thus, we managed to prepare a contingency plan for next editions, which we included in our successful application to

Creative Europe.

## **Online Hang-Outs**

The EWA Online Hang-Outs continued to the year 2021 due to the pandemic forcing EWA Network to create more online content for its members and stakeholders. The Hang-Outs are online (bi-)monthly meetings, started in 2019. In 2021 ten sessions were organised. The meetings lasted 90 minutes including a round of introduction of the members attending the talk and the final Q&A.

The talks were recorded and are available on EWA Network's website for members only.

## **EWA Talks Change**

To continue the support to the EWA community in the pandemic and show solidarity with our members, we continued the initiative, EWA Talks CHANGE, which are screen-to-screen conversations with different guests who have had to reinvent their own lives and careers to adapt to unavoidable circumstances and embrace new realities.

## **Member Meet-Ups with Executive Director Jenni Koski**

After the change of director of EWA Network, it was important to engage with the members in an informal setting to find out more closely what is topical and crucial for our members in their careers and what their relationship to EWA Network is. These meet-ups also fed into the new strategy work by the EWA management. The new director Jenni Koski feels strongly that to build and strengthen EWA programming we need to closely communicate with the members. Two online meet-ups were organised in the fall of 2022 and these events turned out to be very open and filled with sharing of knowledge and ideas, not to mention networking with active members. The Member Meet-Ups will continue to 2022 especially during the most severe restrictions.

## **EWA Network Development Awards in 2021**

### *EWA Female Talent Award at WEMW*

EWA Network Strategy Manager Tamara Tatishvili was in the Jury for the 5th EWA Female Talent Award alongside Pierre-Alexis Chevit (Head of Cannes Docs). The award was presented to **Zhannat Alshanova**, the director of the Kazakh project “*A Winner is seen at the Start*”.

The Award selection was based on a strong, determined artistic vision which the director conveyed through her project and her pitch. The director appeared as a very promising up-and-coming author and filmmaker, carrying a formally intriguing story of a young woman searching for her place of belonging. The story follows a 19-year-old Mila, who joins an experimental swimming school, but after the death of a teammate, a series of revelations come to light.

<https://www.ewawomen.com/ewa-network/a-winner-is-seen-at-the-start-by-zhannat-alshanova-wins-the-5th-ewa-female-talent-award-at-wemw/>

### *Woman in Series Award at Series Mania*

Initiated in 2021, the Woman in Series Award was a collaboration between EWA Network, Series Mania and Pour Les Femmes Dans Les Médias (PFDM). EWA Network’s members had the opportunity to choose the winner from 15 candidates selected by Series Mania. HBO Maxx Executive Manager **Christina Sulebakk** was the winner of the first ever Woman in Series Award at Series Mania in August 2021. EWA Network’s Director of Programmes Alexia Muinoz Ruiz presented the prize to Ms. Sulebakk and celebrated the winner with the industry representatives in Lille.

[www.ewawomen.com/events/woman-of-the-year-award-in-seriesmania/](http://www.ewawomen.com/events/woman-of-the-year-award-in-seriesmania/)

### *EWA Diverse Voices Award at DOK Leipzig*

EWA Network in close collaboration with DOK Leipzig Co-Production market developed a new award titled **EWA Diverse Voices Award**. This award was developed to further highlight the need for equality and diversity in the audiovisual industry. Compared to the selection criteria from previous years, the award was expanded for inclusiveness by adding diverse criteria for the selection of the project awarded at DOK Co-Pro Market.

The new award honours a documentary project by a female director, helming a film which tells its story from a point of view of marginalised and underrepresented groups in the world of film and which treats its protagonists as equals.

Altogether 8 projects were shortlisted for the EWA Diverse Voices Award. Executive Director Jenni Koski presented the award to the documentary film *The Woman who Poked the Leopard* by director **Patience Nitumwesiga**. The film is produced by **Rosie Motene** from Waka Agency. The documentary tells the story of Ugandan medical anthropologist, queer rights activist and feminist Stella Nyanzi, providing an authentic voice to the film's protagonist.

[www.ewawomen.com/film-industry-articles/15065/](http://www.ewawomen.com/film-industry-articles/15065/)

## Communication

Since its inauguration, EWA Network has had a steady presence on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) and there also exist more exclusive groups for EWA members on several social media channels. These are platforms on which EWA Network has directly communicated with its members.

17 mailshots were sent to members and subscribers in 2021, including 6 newsletters. In addition, 35 articles were written for our website, which were also shared on our social media channels. EWA Network also conducted several Youtube interviews with its constituents and members and they can be viewed on the network's Youtube channel.

## EWA Network's Global Media Visibility

EWA Network was very visible in the global media in 2021. Below is a sample collection of the wide media coverage from 2021.

"The European Women's Audiovisual Network to host its Annual Members' Meeting virtually on 25 February":

<https://cineuropa.org/en/newsdetail/397603/>

"A Winner Is Seen at the Start wins the 11th WEMW":

<https://cineuropa.org/en/newsdetail/396963/>

"EWA Network's (European Women's Audiovisual Network) Mentoring Programme at WEMW":

[https://www.kinometro.ru/news/show/name/when\\_east\\_meets\\_west2021\\_apply\\_4056](https://www.kinometro.ru/news/show/name/when_east_meets_west2021_apply_4056)

"EWA Network's mentoring program and Industry Talk 'Stop being a conformist. Discussing methods and tools on how to secure a safer workplace for everyone' at Thessaloniki International Film Festival":

<https://www.cineuropa.org/fr/newsdetail/412178/>

"How Europe's female filmmakers are joining forces to raise their voice":

<https://www.screendaily.com/features/how-europes-female-filmmakers-are-joining-forces-to-raise-their-voice/5164573.article>

"Series Mania to honour HBO Max exec Christina Sulebakk in new women's initiative":

<https://www.screendaily.com/news/series-mania-to-honour-hbo-max-exec-christina-sulebakk-in-new-womens-initiative/5162666.article>

“The global film community calls for the release of Tatsiana Hatsura-Yavorska”  
<https://cineuropa.org/en/newsdetail/401783/>

“‘A Winner Is Seen As The Start’ wins top prize at When East Meets West co-pro forum”  
<https://www.screendaily.com/news/a-winner-is-seen-as-the-start-wins-top-prize-at-when-east-meets-west-co-pro-forum/5156622.article>

“European, U.K. Film Bodies Team For Anti-Racism Task Force”  
<https://variety.com/2021/film/global/anti-racism-task-force-europe-1235009683/>

“European Women’s Audiovisual Network (EWA), one of the leading industry bodies on the continent, which returns to Thessaloniki this year with a mentoring session”  
<https://variety.com/2021/film/global/thessaloniki-film-festival-agera-1235105631/>

“Zeynep Atakan, the vice president of the European Women’s Audiovisual Network, in the jury of Sundance”  
<https://www.indiewire.com/2021/01/sundance-film-festival-2021-juries-1234610955/>

“First Woman in Series Award in Series Mania presented in partnership with the European Women's Audiovisual Network (EWA Network) and Pour Les Femmes Dans Les Médias (PFDM)”  
<https://global.techradar.com/sv-se/news/hbo-max-ersatter-hbo-nordic-i-host>

“‘Cinema made by women in 2020 and 2021: our turn has come’; a virtual discussion forum presented together with EWA (European Women's Audiovisual Network)”  
<https://www.escribiendocine.com/noticias/2021/10/27/13808-toda-la-programacion-del-xviii-encuentro-de-cine-europeo>

“A brand new award given to an outstanding woman in the audiovisual industry to honor her vision and leadership, presented in association with European Women's Audiovisual Network (EWA Network)”  
<https://mediakwest.com/series-mania-forum-femmes/>

“Women Filmmakers in the Modern World”  
[https://m.polit.ru/article/2021/12/13/ps\\_artjuh/](https://m.polit.ru/article/2021/12/13/ps_artjuh/)

“EWA (European Women's Audiovisual Network) reflecting on the role of women in the industry”  
<https://www.otroscines.com/nota?idnota=17320>

“The desire to see the world of cinema and audiovisual increasingly populated by female voices has led to establish 2 film awards: the awards sponsored by EWA (European Women's Audiovisual Network)”

<https://www.milanopost.info/2021/11/22/al-femminile-premi-cinematografici-societa-umanitaria/>

“Isabel Coixet, Honorary President of EWA Network, present at FEST 2021”

<https://www.centralcomics.com/fest-2021-as-primeiras-novidades/>

“Mentoring programme of EWA Network (European Women's Audiovisual Network) at Thessaloniki Film Festival”

<https://parallaximag.gr/epikairofita/fotis-sergoulopoulos-ambassador-tis-agoras-tou-62oy-fkth>

“Isabel Coixet has been one of the founders and honorary president of the EWA - European Women's Audiovisual Network”

<https://mag.sapo.pt/cinema/atualidade-cinema/artigos/fest-sera-em-outubro-em-espinho-lisboa-e-porto-com-foco-na-cineasta-catala-isabel-coixet>

“Cinema made by women in 2020 and 2021: a virtual debate forum presented together with EWA (European Women's Audiovisual Network)”

[https://www.cba24n.com.ar/argentina/comienzo-la-edicion-online-del-encuentro-de-cine-europeo-2021\\_a61804036bbd8881c2360d80c](https://www.cba24n.com.ar/argentina/comienzo-la-edicion-online-del-encuentro-de-cine-europeo-2021_a61804036bbd8881c2360d80c)

“The EWA Diverse Voices Award to "The Woman Who Poked the Leopard" by Patience Nitumwesiga (Uganda)”

<https://www.leipziginfo.de/aktuelles/artikel/father-erhaelt-goldene-taube-im-international-en-wettbewerb-bei-dok-leipzig/>

## **A detailed list of EWA Network's Presence and Activities in the Industry 2021**

### January

#### **24-28 January - 5th EWA Female Talent Award at WEMW**

Zhannat Alshanova, director of the Kazakh project *"A Winner is seen at the Start"* was presented the annual EWA Female Talent award at When East Meets West co-production forum of Trieste Film Festival.

### February

#### **18 February - EWA Talk Change/Hangout with Intimacy Coordinator Pia Rickman: Increased creativity through safety**

25 attendees

Intimacy Coordinator Pia Rickman spoke about the work of an intimacy coordinator in the audiovisual industry. The talk revolved around who intimacy coordinators are and what they do on set; common challenges around intimacy and what collaboration between departments look like. The talk presented international intimacy guidelines and when and how to find an intimacy coordinator for a film production.

<https://www.ewawomen.com/events/hang-out-with-pia-rickman/>

#### **25 February - EWA Annual Event at Berlinale: Raising diversity in stories is crucial for Human Rights and bringing people together**

The Berlinale annual event included a public seminar on the lack of diversity in front of and behind the camera. 220 attendees signed up for the event.

<https://www.ewawomen.com/events/ewas-annual-members-meeting/>

<https://www.ewawomen.com/ewa-network/meet-the-speakers-of-the-ewa-network-annual-event/>

April

**March 26th - April 4th**

**EWA Network partnership with DOCUDAYS UA (Ukraine)**

EWA Network partnered up with UKRAINIAN DOC PREVIEW which is a showcase of Ukrainian feature-length documentaries at the stage of production/post-production. The partnership was liaised with the Strategy Manager Tamara Tatishvili. The idea behind this partnership was to bring more knowledge to the Ukrainian professionals and increase their awareness about the issue of gender equality agenda. It was also important to share knowledge and support existing female talent in Ukraine, which is a country with low production capacity and almost no tailor made support for female professionals.

EWA Network reps attended industry meetings online, consulting talent in one to one meetings. Alexia Muiños Ruiz, presented one-year memberships of the EWA Network Membership Award to two participants of the projects.

“EWA Network is proud to grant one year of membership to Alisa Kovalenko, director of Expedition 49 and Lyuba Knorozok, producer of Florian’s Witnesses, for their courage and instinct on developing their unique projects, which hopefully can benefit from networking and fellowship.”

**14 April - EWA Talk Change/Hangout with Producer Nadya Gorshkova:  
International Co-Productions**

30 attendees

EWA Network hosted a keynote from producer Nadezhda Gorshkova, who developed a successful career as an actress, and subsequently evolved into setting up her production company to complete successful international co-productions.

This Hang-out went on to examine the process involved in developing and producing Inhale-Exhale and The Antique, which both received Eurimages support. The case study was situated within the wider context of international co-production, reflecting on the artistic and commercial approach for international co-productions.

<https://www.ewawomen.com/events/hang-out-with-nadya-g-a-case-study-on-international-co-productions/>

## June

### **29 June - EWA Talk Change/Hangout with Author Iris Brey: The Female Gaze**

45 attendees

Author Iris Brey theorized the female gaze, a way of filming women without making objects of them, of sharing the singularity of female experiences with all spectators, whatever their gender, and renewing our way of desiring by looking without voyeurism.

<https://www.ewawomen.com/ewa-network/ewa-talks-change-with-iris-brey-the-female-gaze/>

## July

### **5 July - EWA Talks Change / Hang Out with Film Commissioner Mercedes Martínez-Abarca: Ins & Outs of a 1st Class Festival:**

32 attendees

Film Commissioner Mercedes Martínez-Abarca, who has developed a successful career as a programmer, curator and the member of multiple juries at international festivals, gave her tips and insights on the process of submitting a film project to a top class film festival or co-production market.

<https://www.ewawomen.com/events/online-hang-out-with-mercedes-martinez-ins-and-outs-of-a-1st-class-film-festival/>

### **8 July - EWA Network's Presence at Cannes International Film Festival**

In the 2021 Festival de Cannes, EWA Network supported its new partners in the launch of the Anti-Racism Taskforce for European Film (ARTEF). EWA Network is one of the founding members of ARTEF.

[www.ewawomen.com/film-industry-articles/ewa-network-in-the-anti-racism-task-force-for-european-films/](http://www.ewawomen.com/film-industry-articles/ewa-network-in-the-anti-racism-task-force-for-european-films/)

In addition, EWA Network invited its members to a cocktail to celebrate EWA members and their work. The cocktail was attended by about 50 EWA members, patrons and

partners.

EWA Network also set up an official partnership with the ImpACT Programme of Marche du Film. A joint panel was organized with the title **From Hidden Talent to Global Sensation: How to Support Rising Talent on an International Scale**. This panel debated the most effective ways to boost and empower up-and-coming talent in the competitive international arena. The speakers of the panel were **Rand Abou Fakhern**, (Independent Multi-platform Artist), **Tamara Dawit** (Filmmaker, Gobez Media), **Ted Hope** (Producer and Co Head of Amazon Original Movies, Double Hope Films) and **Dea Kulumbegashvili** (Film Director & Writer). The Talk was hosted and moderated by Strategy Manager Tamara Tatishvili.

<https://www.ewawomen.com/ewa-network/ewa-network-in-cannes-2021/>

In addition to all above activities EWA Network was invited to partner up with ROSKINO, Russian public film promotion agency which is exclusively tasked to promote Russian content abroad. Tamara Tatishvili, Strategy Manager of the Network was approached by Evgenya Markova, CEO of ROSKINO with a proposal of bringing Russian female talent closer to EWA Network. The initial idea was to meet more Russian female talent and moderate official events at the Russian Pavilion in Cannes.

As EWA NETWORK is tasked to reach out to multicultural talent and tap into territories where democratic developments are still rather fragile, an internal decision was made to partner with ROSKINO for a specific event during Marche du Film.

On July 11, 4pm, the round table *Women's Cinema in Russia* was held as an official partnership between ROSKINO and EWA Network. It was moderated by Tamara Tatishvili representing the Network. The producers Natalia Drozd, Victoria Lupik, Tamara Bogdanova, director Ella Manzheeva, actress and director Svetlana Ustinova as well as ROSKINO CEO Evgenia Markova discussed the role of women in the traditionally "male" industries of cinema and content production, as well as the evolution of the term "female cinema" in Russia.

<https://www.ewawomen.com/events/womens-cinema-in-russia/>

<https://roskino.org/tpost/sen943umh1-russia-at-the-74th-cannes-film-festival>

August

**31 August 2021 - EWA Network at Series Mania**

EWA Network partnered up with Series Mania festival and PDFM for a new Award Women in Series. The prize was presented to Executive Director at HBO MAX EMEA Christina Sulebakk.

<https://www.ewawomen.com/events/woman-of-the-year-award-in-seriesmania/>

EWA Network organised and was featured in the panel discussion IS EUROPEAN TV READY FOR DIVERSITY? EWA Network provided some qualitative facts and figures about discrimination for the panel. EWA Network collected the data from a survey among its membership to find out about how deep discrimination was rooted in the film industry.

[seriesmania.com/forum/en/fiche/is-european-tv-ready-for-diversity/](https://seriesmania.com/forum/en/fiche/is-european-tv-ready-for-diversity/)

## September

### **6-7-14 September - Financing Acceleration Programme Module A with Juliane Schulze**

EWA Network's Acceleration Programme 'Financing Audiovisual in Times of Transformation' offers entrepreneurs in the European film and television industry a tailored support for re-evaluating not only their audiovisual projects but their companies as well.

### **25 September - Exchange Europe-Nepal leading to women involvement in filmmaking**

With the moderation by CEO Nunnu Karppinen, Nepali filmmakers Sampada Malla and Ramyata exchanged with European counterparts Biljana Tutorov, producer and founder of Circle Women's Doc Accelerator and Alexia Muiños Ruiz, EWA Network's Director of Programme, and Marie Vermeiren, director of Elles Tournent Film Festival. The event was the first foray of EWA Network in the Nepal Gender Arena. It was an invaluable opportunity to cross bridges with Asian filmmakers.

## October

### **13 October - EWA talks Change/Hang-Out with filmmaker Jenna Suru: Networking at Film Festivals in a Post-Pandemic World:**

15 attendees

EWA member, a multi talented entrepreneur Jenna Suru, who developed a successful career as a festival director, producer, director, programmer and actress unveiled the secrets and tips to maximise networking opportunities at festivals in the post-pandemic scene.

[www.ewawomen.com/events/hang-out-with-jenna-suru/](http://www.ewawomen.com/events/hang-out-with-jenna-suru/)

### **13 October - Financing Acceleration Programme Module B with Juliane Schulze.**

The presentation introduced the organisation of the Investor Pitch and offered participants all the tools they need to create their own Investor Decks.

### **20 October - EWA Morning meet-up with Executive Director Jenni Koski**

Informal get-together of EWA Network members to discuss anything and everything that EWA Network does.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ewa-morning-meeting-with-executive-director-jenni-koski-tickets-189166962477>

### **21-23 October - EWA Network presence at DocLisboa and Nebulae**

Executive Director Jenni Koski was invited as an industry representative to participate in the co-production and pitching forum Nebulae for networking opportunities. Also some EWA members were presenting their projects at the same event.

### **23-25 October - EWA Network's Diverse Voices Award at DOK Leipzig**

Executive Director Jenni Koski participated in the shortlisting and interviewing of projects at the co-production forum for the annual EWA award. The Diversity Voices award was presented to the project *The Woman who Poked the Leopard* and its team director Patience Nitumwesiga and producer Rosie Motene.

## November

### **7 November - Agora Talk at Thessaloniki Film Festival "Stop Being a Conformist. Discussing Methods & Tools on How to Secure a Safer Workplace for Everyone"**

Executive Director Jenni Koski was in a panel discussing workplace safety issues with Greek film industry representatives. Along with the #MeToo movement, a significant shift is happening when it comes to addressing workplace bullying. What people consider acceptable is changing and while the low level of complaints may suggest the problem is not widespread, workplace practitioners insist that bullying in the audiovisual

sector is prevalent and has considerable negative impacts. Is there a conformist culture in the industry that preserves the phenomenon and why do people stay quiet and do not intervene, even when it would be best for everyone?

Event live-streamed on TIFF Youtube channel: <https://youtu.be/QJGuCik6YnA>

### **8-10-22-23 November - Financing Acceleration Programme Module B with Juliane Schulze.**

Module B of EWA Network's Acceleration Programme 'Financing Audiovisual in Times of Transformation' offered entrepreneurs in the European film and television industry a tailored support for re-evaluating not only their audiovisual projects but their companies as well. Most of the participants of Module A signed for Module B, altogether there were 10 participants in the training.

### **11 November - Women's Films scoop the festivals in 2021: A mirage or a definitive shift?**

EWA Network took part in the debates at the European Film Meetings in Argentina. Director of Programmes Alexia Muiños Ruiz moderated a table discussion about the success of women's films in 2021. Other speakers were Alvarez Vaccaro (mentor in EWA Network's mentoring programme, Argentinian producer and scriptwriter based in London), Agustina San Martín (Argentinian filmmaker) and Eulàlia Iglesias (film critic based in Barcelona).

### **EUROPE! VOICES OF WOMEN IN FILM 2021 presented by EFP (European Film Promotion) and Sydney Film Festival.**

EWA Network continued partnership with the programme managed by Sydney Film Festival and which was supported by the Creative Europe - MEDIA Programme of the European Union, Eurimages and presented for the second time in cooperation with the Festival Scope. The role of EWA Network in this partnership was to unite all selected film talent and engage them into a thematic exchange.

The theme of the 2021 edition was ***How do you navigate cultural boundaries and tell your own story?*** The Talk was prepared and hosted by Strategy Manager Tamara Tatishvili.

[www.ewawomen.com/ewa-network/how-do-you-navigate-cultural-boundaries-and-tell-your-own-story/](http://www.ewawomen.com/ewa-network/how-do-you-navigate-cultural-boundaries-and-tell-your-own-story/)

### **19 November - IDFA Consultancy with EWA Network and Jenni Koski**

Executive Director Jenni Koski was invited by International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam to give a consultancy session for industry professionals and representatives

at IDFA. The discussion revolved around topics on gender equality and inclusion with several case stories from different European countries.

<https://www.idfa.nl/en/shows/08224e54-0cbd-40fa-b76d-2f020a37951b/industry-consultancies-with-jenni-koski>

### **25 November - EWA Network meet-up with Executive Director Jenni Koski**

EWA Network's members were invited for an evening tea meeting to brainstorm and discuss strategy for the network for the upcoming years.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ewa-network-member-meet-up-with-director-jenni-koski-tickets-210745293847>

## December

### **16 December - Women in European Cinema, where do we stand exactly?**

EWA Network organised a seminar on recent research into gender equality in the film industry. Executive Director Jenni Koski gave an ending speech on the issues raised after the presentations given by European Audiovisual Observatory and Lab Femmes de Cinema. The event was organised online and took place within the programme of Les Arcs Film Festival.

[www.ewawomen.com/film-industry-articles/replay-women-in-european-cinema-where-do-we-stand-exactly/](http://www.ewawomen.com/film-industry-articles/replay-women-in-european-cinema-where-do-we-stand-exactly/)

### **16 December - EWA Talks Change: a masterclass with HBO MAX EMEA General Manager Christina Sulebakk in a conversation with EWA members**

## Follow-up of Projects supported by EWA Network

Scripwriters' Residency 2020, *The Little loves* by EWA member Celia Rico, an international coproduction between Spanish Arcadia Motion Pictures and French Noodles Production which will be shot in July 2022

DOK LEIPZIG winner in 2018, *We are inside* by Farah Kassem. The film is in post-production.

DOK LEIPZIG winner in 2019, *This rain will never stop* by Alina Gorlova. Premiered at IDFA 2021 and won IDFA Award for Best First Appearance and multiple awards since then.

DOKL Winner 2020, *Ever Since I Know MYSelf* by Maka Gogaladze. The project received production support from Georgian National Film Center in October 2021. The project has been selected to the Change Workshop, organized by EAVE, IMS and CPH:DOX and it will be presented at CPH:DOX industrial program by the end of March 2022.

BEST FEMALE DIRECTOR WEMW 2019, *Methusalem* by Floor van der Meulen, now called PINK MOON. The film is finished and waiting for its WORLD PREMIERE.

BEST FEMALE DIRECTOR at WEMW 2021, *A Winner is Seen at the Start* by Zhannat Alshanova. The project received Hubert Bals script development fund, it was also selected for BoostNL program, participated at Holland Film Meeting and participated in Cinemart (IFFR). The project has a French co-producer now from Films de Force Majeure and received a co-production development fund from France - Region Sud.

BEST PITCH at FEST FORWARD 2017

SILENT LAND, formerly *Fortnight* by Aga Woszczyńska. received Eurimages support in 2020 and was finally released. The film had its world premiere at TIFF in the Platform section (the only competition section of the festival). Then it went to Zurich Film Festival, Goa IFF, Thessaloniki (won FIPRESCI award), Polish Film Festival in America (won Discovering Eye Award for Young Filmmakers - for Aga Woszczyńska), and is selected for Ingmar Bergman Competition Section at Goteborg Film Festival 2022.

## BEST PITCH AT FEST FORWARD 2019

Aurora's sunrise by EWA member Inna Sahakyan is in its final stage of post-production. They plan to complete it by April, and currently, they are doing music production, sound design, and color correction.

## **EWA Network's Fundraising and Partners**

### **Funders**

Austrian Film Institute  
Région Grand Est / Alsace  
Ville de Strasbourg / Eurometropole  
Lithuanian Film Centre  
Swedish Film Institute

### **Co-Production Markets & Festivals**

DOK Leipzig  
Docudays Ukraine  
ELLES TOURNENT Festival (Belgium)  
European Film Market (Berlinale)  
Marche du Film (Cannes Film Festival)  
Series Mania  
Sydney Film Festival  
When East Meets West (Trieste Film Festival)  
Zanzibar Film Festival  
Thessaloniki International Film Festival  
DocLisboa / Nebulae  
IDFA International Documentary Film Festival

### **Stakeholders**

European Film Promotion (EFP)  
European Film Agency Directors association (EFAD)  
Europa Distribution  
Federation of European Film Directors (FERA)  
Federation of Scriptwriters in Europe (FSE)  
International Federation of Actors (FIA)  
Le Collectif 50/50  
Pro Quo te Germany  
Society of Audiovisual Authors (SAA)  
UNI Europa - Media, Entertainment & Arts (EURO-MEI)  
DAE Documentary Association of Europe

## **EWA Network Team & Board**

### **STAFF:**

Alessia Sonaglioni, Executive Director, until 31 August 2021

Jenni Koski, Executive Director, from 1 September 2021

Alexia Muiños Ruiz, Director of Programmes

Tamara Tatishvili, Strategy and Partnership Manager

### **BOARD:**

Adriana Solomon, President

Zeynep Atakan, Vice President

Kristina Trapp, Vice President

Petri Kemppinen, Vice President

Isabel Castro, Treasurer

Juliane Schulze, Deputy Treasurer

Francine Raveney, Secretary

Jonas Dornbach, Deputy Secretary



EUROPEAN WOMEN'S  
AUDIOVISUAL NETWORK