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EUROPEAN WOMEN'S
AUDIOVISUAL NETWORK

EWA NETWORK ANNUAL REPORT

2022

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SALONIKI DOCUMENTARY
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AGORA - DOC MARKET



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MEDIA

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INTRODUCTION

Executive Director Anamaria Antoci, Director of Strategy Edel Brosnan and Director of Programmes Alexia Muiños Ruiz

2022 was the first leap year since the onset of **Covid-19** and fittingly, **EWA Network** hit the ground running. Our online hangouts, masterclasses and seminars went from strength to strength. Campaigning and networking are both entwined in **EWA's** DNA, and with this in mind, we ran a diverse programme of online and in-person events for our members across the year, while also highlighting the continuing gender gap – and diversity gap – in the screen industries. In September, we said goodbye to our outgoing Executive Director **Jenni Koski** and Strategy and partnership manager **Tamara Tatishvili**, and we thank them for their contribution to **EWA's** vision of a gender-balanced audiovisual sector in Europe.

Looking at online events, we blew away the January cobwebs with a fireside chat and mixer with **Breaking through the lens, Film Fatales** and **Wscripted**.

In February we shared our full **Berlinale** programme online, covering topics ranging from sustainable production, pitching documentaries and writing for the screen with **WScripted**, to the **LGBTQI** experience behind the camera. We followed up with an online session on empowerment and entrepreneurship with **EAVE's** CEO **Tina Trapp** in March, a masterclass on film composition with **Reframe** in April and several sessions across the year on film financing. We brought film theorist and filmmaker **Fernanda Rossi** to work with **EWA** members in five sessions on the art and craft of pitching, perfecting loglines, creating pitch decks, as well as writing and editing scenes. We hosted **Mo Abudu** - described by **Forbes** as **Africa's Most Successful Woman** - in a masterclass session and a series of hugely informative sessions on an eclectic range of topics ranging from animation and co-production to contracts and international sales.

Documentary film was a strong focus for **EWA** right from the start of 2022: for example, we gave awards to superlative projects at **Women Circle Doc Accelerator** programme in January and **Dok Leipzig** in October. **EWA** attended **Sunny Side of the Doc** in June, and we were a partner of the **Nebulae** programme at **DocLisboa** in October.

Across all audiovisual disciplines in fact, we had a busy year. In the first three months alone, we were present at Trieste, Berlin (for our annual members' event), Thessaloniki (for the launch of our mentoring programme) and Lille, where we co-sponsored the second **Woman in Series Award**. We also held our **General Assembly** at Lille in March. That same month, we held a live networking event in Vilnius with Lithuanian film industry professionals. In April, we held a screening of *"Klondike"* in Brussels, to support Ukrainian filmmakers, and in May we flew the flag for gender equality at a roundtable discussion in Madrid, at Reykjavik's **RVK Feminist Film Festival**, and at **Cannes**.

In June, we reinforced our presence in **Forum Alentours** in Strasbourg with a keynote on social protection and a panel on safety and well-being in the workspace. In September, we brought our mentoring programme participants together once again at the **Venice Film Festival**. In November, our new Executive Director **Anamaria Antoci** spoke out at Thessaloniki about how to maintain mental health and wellbeing in the pressure-cooker environment of the film industry – a hot topic that impacts directly on the exodus of women from our sector. In December, our new Director of Strategy, **Edel Brosnan**, gave the closing remarks to the hybrid online/in person roundtable discussion entitled '**Women in European Cinema – Are We Making Progress?**' that we co-hosted in Brussels with our partner **Uni-Europa**. This live-streamed event was followed by a private briefing on the gender pay gap. Again, this is a topic that directly affects our members – and women across the screen industries and we intend to return to this topic in 2023. Watch this space!

EWA NETWORK'S PRESENCE AND ACTIVITIES IN THE INDUSTRY

EWA Network Industry Activities by chronological order - 2022

January	Trieste, ITALY	EWA WEMW AWARD and EWA Circle Award
January	Online	A Reel Story. A fireside chat & international networking mixer
January	Online	Round Table. Visionaria Film Festival: The Gender Gap
February	Online	EWA Network's Annual Event in Berlinale
March	Online	Celebrating Women in MEDIA
March	Thessaloniki, Greece	Kick Off of the Mentoring Programme
March	Lille	General Assembly
March	Lille, France	Woman in Series Award at Series Mania
March	Vilnius, Lithuania	EWA Network's collaboration with the Lithuanian Film Industry
April	Brussels, Belgium	Celebrating Ukrainian Cinema: Screening Of Klondike And Q&A
May	Madrid	First Seminar Women professionals in Film & TV. Observatory of Equality of the Spanish RTVE Corporation in Madrid
May	Reykjavik, Iceland	Keynote at RVK Feminist Film Festival
May	Cannes, France	Annual cocktail at Cannes Festival
May	Cannes, France	ImpACT programme
May	Cannes, France	Informal gathering of the Mentoring group
June	Online	EWA NETWORK hosting the EUROPE! VOICES OF WOMEN IN FILM panel
June	La Rochelle, France	EWA Network at Sunny Side of the Doc
June	Strasbourg, France	Forum Alentours. Industry guests and hosts in the panel Gender equality and workplace safety – Where are we now?
September	Venice, Italy	Informal gathering of the Mentoring participants at Venice Film Festival.
October	Lisbon, Portugal	Nebulae Partners' Cocktail at Doc Lisboa
October	Leipzig, Germany	EWA Network Diverse Voices Award
November	Thessaloniki, Greece	Panel. How to Stay Well and Mentally Balanced in an Ever-demanding Industry.
November	Turin, Italy	EWA Network Female Voices Award
December	Brussels, Belgium	“Women in European Cinema: Are We Making Progress? Hosted by EWA Network and UNI Europa - Media Entertainment and Arts (EUROMEI) and the EFAD

EWA Network Members Training/Networking Activities for members by chronological order - 2022

January	Online	A Reel Story. A fireside chat & international networking mixer
February	Online	EWA Network's Annual Event in Berlinale. MEMBER-EXCLUSIVE CONTENT <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Green production - Sustainability 2. Documentary development initiative. Pitch the Doc 3. Developing stories for the screen with WScripted 4. The Queer side
March	Online	EWA talks: Empowering (female) entrepreneurs. Meet EAVE's CEO Tina Trapp
March	Online	Masterclass: Learn Composition from Female Masters with Reframe
April	Online Hangout	Learn about NFT and Film Financing in our Hang Out with Josephine Landertinger Forero
April	Online Hangout	Meetup with Writers Lab Europe
May	Online. Mentoring Seminar	THE JUNGLE OF FUNDS FOR INTERNATIONAL CO-PRODUCTION
May	Online seminars	Improve your skills with writer and film theorist Fernanda Rossi. Pitching Opening techniques
May	Online seminars	Case study with Fernanda Rossi. The logline
May	Online seminars	Case study with Fernanda Rossi. The pitch-deck
June	Online seminars	Seminar with Fernanda Rossi. Scene study
June	Online seminars	Seminar with Fernanda Rossi. Working on edited scenes
June	Online	Masterclass with CEO Mo Abudu
July	Online Hangout	Let's talk about animation
July	Online. Mentoring Seminar	How to work with International Sales Companies.
October	Online Hangout	Meeting Cecilie Bolvinkel from International Media Support
October	Online Hangout	Meet up with EWA Network new team
October	Online. Mentoring Seminar	Everything you want to know about contracts
November	Online Hangout	Hang out with IDM Film Commission Südtirol: The RACCONTI Lab
December	Online. Mentoring Seminar	The human side of Co-Production Stories. Communicating with Impact

EWA WHEN EAST MEETS WEST (WEMW) and Circle Awards

EWA Network has been collaborating with WEMW since 2017 delivering content to the industry program and presenting an annual award for an outstanding female director.

In this year's program EWA Network presented two awards for female filmmakers and also supported a panel on inclusive filmmaking initiatives and active collaborations on diversity. The panel "Embracing a New and Inclusive Future" included filmmakers and activists representing a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences.

The panelists were filmmaker **Iyabo Boyd** from **Brown Girls Doc Mafia** (USA), Europe Council Chair **Melanie Hoyes** from the **Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media** (UK), Program Director and EWA member **Biljana Tutorov** from **Circle Women Doc Accelerator** (Serbia), and Producer **Tamara Dawit** from **The Racial Equity Media Collective** (Canada). The panel was moderated by **DAE co-founder** and EWA member **Brigid O'Shea**.

EWA Network presented two awards to strong projects by female directors.

EWA WEMW AWARD

Traditionally, **European Women's Audiovisual Network** has presented the annual award at [WEMW Co-Production Forum](#) to a project which is helmed by a woman director. However, this year the selection was broadened to be more inclusive. The selection criteria included aspects such as the narrative of the story, the representation of the characters, the production team and other facets that widen the idea of what makes us equal and inclusive in this film business.

Read more about all **WEMW awards 2022** in an article written by [Cineuropa](#).

The **2022 EWA WEMW Award** was presented to a debut feature project by a woman director. We were enchanted by the main character, one we rarely see on the silver screen, dealing with obstacles that no girl in that age should face.

With this award **EWA Network** celebrated the expansion of the canon on and about young women and the multifaceted view on what it means to be a woman presented in a fiction film.

The **EWA WEMW Award** was presented to director **Mo Scarpelli** for the film ["A Song that Slays"](#)



EWA Circle Award

EWA Network has also supported work-in-progress projects in the [Circle Women Doc Accelerator](#) training program in the past few years. This year the selection jury was unanimous in their decision to support the winning documentary by a woman director, including a narrative that expands the scope of womankind on screen.

This year the **EWA Circle Award** jury focused on the selection criteria to select a film project that observes feminism and the history of womankind in an excellent and unusual way. The awarded project is a documentary time machine, connecting

feminist discourse of the 1970s and 80s with a new generation of women looking to understand their current-day discomfort and answer some of the ongoing questions about why we still live in a patriarchal world.

The **EWA Circle Award** was presented to the project [“Searching for the Goddess”](#) and its director **Lina Lytė Plioplytė** and producer **Andrėja Čebatavičiūtė**.

EWA Network was represented at WEMW by Strategy Manager **Tamara Tatishvili**.

A Reel Story. A fireside chat & international networking mixer

[EWA Network](#) alongside [Film Fatales](#), [Breaking Through The Lens](#), and [Wscripted](#) organised on Friday January 28th a panel discussion with acclaimed documentary directors Moroccan - American **Rita Baghdadi** (Sirens) and two-time Sundance Grand Jury Prize winner **Ondi Timoner** (Last Flight Home) to talk about the art of telling

underrepresented stories for the screen. This fireside chat was hosted by **Akua Gyamfi** of the **British Blacklist**.

After the panel, the participants went into breakout rooms, each one exploring specific topics, to network and meet potential partners to develop their projects.



ROUND TABLE AT VISIONARIA FILM FESTIVAL: THE GENDER GAP

EWA Network was proud to participate in the panel **Gender Gap: Bias and Gender Inequality in the Audiovisual Industry**, organized by **Visionaire Festival**, Rome on January 29 at 11h.

The network was represented by **Alexia Muños Ruiz**, director of programmes of EWA Network who joined **Antonella Barbieri** direttrice di **APA – Associazione Produttori Audiovisivi**, **Marta Donzelli**, mentor in EWA Network's Programme and President of the **Fondazione Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia**, **Verdiana Bixio**, Film Producer and **Chiara Salvo** Film Producer.



February 2022

EWA Network's Annual Event in Berlinale 2022

The day was filled with both interesting content open to the public as well as [EWA Network's member-exclusive programming](#). EWA Network's Berlinale event was focused on EWA Network's strategic key areas.

The event started off with a public talk by the main speaker **Yacine Samb** and a presentation by **Cannes Marché du Film** after which EWA members could join specific programming for EWA Network's members only.

The program of the annual event:

- Public Talk and Q&A with Google Executive **Yacine Samb**, in conversation with EWA Network's Executive Director **Jenni Koski**.

How to lead change after post-covid times in the creative career. New opportunities and commitments for a more equal and inclusive audiovisual industry.

- **Cannes Marché du Film's Aleksandra Zakharchenko** in discussion with EWA Network's Strategy Consultant **Tamara Tatishvili**.

Marché du Film: Programmes 2022 & how they contribute to improved positioning of female talent.

MEMBER-EXCLUSIVE CONTENT ONLY:

- New membership card and new membership types of **EWA Network** / Executive Director **Jenni Koski**
- Green production - Sustainability Consultant **Birgit Heidsiek** in conversation with **EWA** Director of Programmes **Alexia Muiños Ruiz**

How to make your production more sustainable and eco-friendly? Experiences of green production in Europe.

- Documentary development initiative - Executive Director **Jenni Koski** with **Pitch the Doc Team**. The launch of **EWA Network's** new documentary film development tool in partnership with **Pitch the Doc**. How your film can benefit from a constructed pitching platform online and learn about the “**EWA Supported**” documentary development initiative.
- Meet our member **Romas Zabarauskas** in discussion with Executive Director **Jenni Koski**

As a gay writer, director and producer, **Romas Zabarauskas** had his fair share of challenges in Lithuania – challenges that he has successfully overcome. His unique background made him think on how to make our industry more welcoming, diverse and sustainable.

- Developing stories for the screen with **WScripted**. **Alexia Muiños** introduced this new partner for **EWA Network** to tackle the key challenges of writing for the screen and how to connect and find appealing stories to develop.

Announcement of the participants in the Mentoring Programme



The [selection of the mentees for EWA's Mentoring Scheme for emerging women producers](#) was revealed in February, prior to the kick off of the programme in the context of **Thessaloniki Film Festival** in March 2022.

"Celebrating Women in MEDIA" - "What is there for me?" -

EWA Network together with other organisations introduced available training initiatives for women in the audiovisual industry.

The presentation was focused on available training initiatives for women in the audiovisual industry with six great women leaders in the European and International training context. EWA Network was represented by Executive Director Jenni Koski.

General assembly

After two years of hosting our general assembly online, the board and founding members of EWA Network were able to convene together in person at Lille in France. The new strategy and program for EWA Network was discussed and approved at the meeting.

KICK OFF of the MENTORING PROGRAMME in Thessaloniki

In the context of the **Agora Docs co-production market** at Thessaloniki Film Festival, EWA Network [kicked-off the fourth edition of its Mentoring scheme for female producers](#). After almost two years of online interaction, EWA Network was proudly launching a new edition of the **Mentoring Programme** on site.

The selected participants of EWA's mentoring scheme could meet their mentors for the first time in a meeting hosted by the **AGORA DOCS co-production market**.

EWA Network mentoring Programme 2022-2023 received the support of **Creative Europe MEDIA** and was run in partnership with **Agora co production Market** in Thessaloniki, **WEMW** co-production market in Trieste and the media partner, **Cineuropa**.



WOMAN IN SERIES AWARD AT SERIES MANIA

On International Women's Day, **Series Mania** and **Series Mania Forum** in association with the **European Women's Audiovisual Network** (EWA Network) and **Pour Les Femmes Dans Les Médias** (PFDM) awarded an outstanding woman in the audiovisual industry to honour her vision and leadership. The 2022 recipient of the **Woman in Series Award** was **Mo Abudu**, CEO of **EbonyLife Group**.

Ms. Abudu received her prize on the evening of March 22 during the **Series Mania Forum** prize-giving ceremony in. In addition, she spoke at the **Dialogues de Lille** event (March 24) during a panel entitled "*Investing In Talent: How To Drive New Narratives*".

EWA TALKS WITH TINA TRAPP: EMPOWERING FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS

The March edition of **EWA Talks** hosted **EWA Network's** Board member and the CEO of **EAVE Tina Trapp**. In conversation with **Tamara Tatishvili**, Strategy Manager of **EWA Network**. The event covered the different programmes offered by **EAVE** as well as the internal strategies of Empowering (female) Entrepreneurs. This event served as a practical opportunity for members to meet **Tina Trapp** in an informal environment, exchange ideas and pose questions.

EWA NETWORK AND FILM REFRAMED PRESENT: LEARN COMPOSITION FROM FEMALE MASTERS

Free Composition and Framing Masterclass. Learn visual storytelling from the work of female directors and DoPs.

EWA Network and **Film Reframed** presented this seminar to take filmmaking vision to the next level by learning the visual storytelling techniques used by your favorite femme directors and DoP's.

In the talk, participants could dive into the work of masterful filmmakers like **Chloe Zhao**, **Maggie Gyllenhaal**, **Chinoye Chukwu**, **Jane Campion**, **Janicza Bravo**, **Sian Heder**, **Sofia Coppola**, **Elaine May**, **Celine Sciamma**, **Penny Marshall**, **Alice Brooks**, and more!

EWA NETWORK'S COLLABORATION WITH THE LITHUANIAN FILM INDUSTRY AND MEETING POINT VILNIUS

Thanks to the generous support of the **Lithuanian Film Fund**, it was very important for **EWA Network** to team up with **Meeting Point Vilnius (MPV)**. Our partners in the activities in Vilnius were **Lithuanian Shorts** and **Women in Film and Television (WIFT) Lithuania** together with **Pitch the Doc**. At the market, **EWA Network** organised a networking event, a panel discussion and a joint industry lunch at **MPV**.

The panel discussion "*Communities as a Tool for Change*" was very well attended by the market participants and it raised several relevant topics for future collaborations.

In addition, together with our partners we organised a networking event for our communities and an industry lunch to enable professional networking and further community building regionally and internationally.

Finally, the new **EWA Endorsed documentary showroom** at **Pitch the Doc** was presented at **Meeting Point Vilnius**.



April 2022

CELEBRATING UKRAINIAN CINEMA. SCREENING OF KLONDIKE

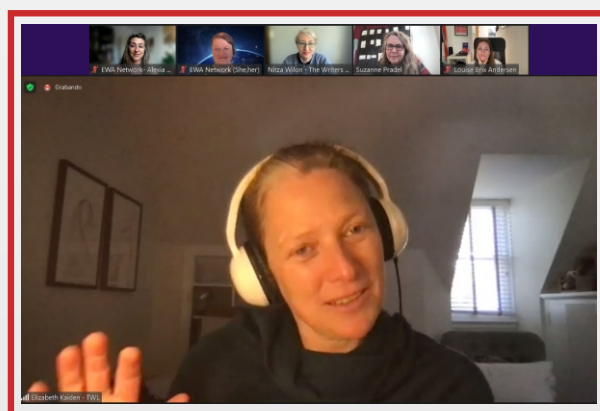
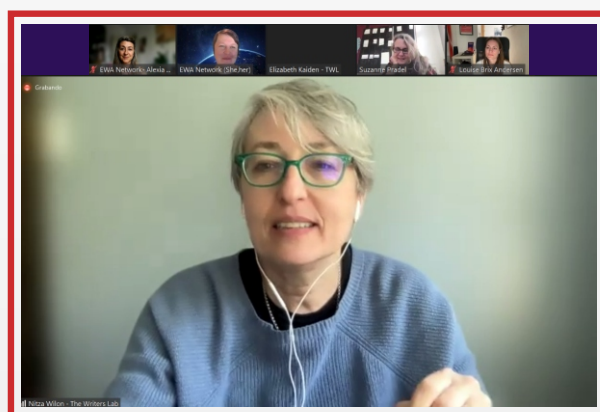
EWA's response to the war in Ukraine resulted in different support actions undertaken towards Ukrainian professionals. As one of those undertakings, the Network partnered with EFAD for the proposed event and co-hosted a special screening of "KLONDIKE" – a Ukrainian Turkish co-production directed by **Maryna Er Gorbach**. The event was further supported by EFA, EPC, FERA, SAA and UNIC. The screening served as an occasion to celebrate Ukrainian cinema and discuss how to support the film community in Ukraine. It was organized in **Cinema Galleries** (Galerie de la Reine) and hosted by **Tamara Tatishvili**, EWA's **Strategy Consultant** who also engaged in an emotional conversation with **Maryna Er Gorbach** and **Mehmed Er**.

"KLONDIKE" tells the story of a Ukrainian family living on the border of Russia and Ukraine during the start of the war. Irka refuses to leave her house even as the village is captured by armed forces.



EWA NETWORK'S HANGOUT WITH WRITERS LAB EUROPE

EWA Network invited the co-founders of **The Writers Lab** for a casual, candid conversation about how to workshop an idea, alone and in community, and by using script development labs. **Elizabeth Kaiden** and **Nitza Wilon** answered our members' questions about preparing a screenplay to submit (and top reasons scripts are NOT selected); about the types of content and genres; about screenwriting craft and markets for screenplays; and about how to approach script development generally. The session is ideally suitable for writers of any kind and creative producers interested in story development. The event was attended by about 30 EWA Network members.



Mentoring Programme Online Seminar : THE JUNGLE OF FUNDS FOR INTERNATIONAL CO-PRODUCTION

This workshop presented the main international co production funds available either regional, national or international and some of the best practices to ensure a strong application.

First Seminar for Women professionals in Film & TV. Observatory of Equality of the Spanish RTVE Corporation in Madrid

EWA Network attended the [Seminar of Women in Film & TV](#) organized by the Spanish TV National Corporation held in Madrid on May 4.

EWA Network was represented by its Director of Programmes, **Alexia Muiños** who took part in the third table, **Opportunities and Best practices for Women in Audiovisual sector** alongside, **Carlota Álvarez Basso**, Co-founder of [Festival Internacional de Cine hecho por Mujeres](#) and **RAMPA** (Red Abierta de Mujeres Profesionales del Audiovisual); **Mariola Cubells**, representative of the **Spanish Film Journalists Gabriela Garcés Santamaría**, Director and founder of the programme **Coofilm** (Collaborative Residencies Colaborativas for female filmmakers) and **Maria Zafra**, Director Board of **Mostra Internacional de Films de Dones de Barcelona** presented their activities. **Beatriz Aparicio**, Deputy of **Equity Observatory of the Spanish Radio and TV consortium** moderated the table.



Alexia Muiños Ruiz, our Director of Programmes presented the initiatives that **EWA Network** offers to female filmmakers and an overview of what the last 9 years have meant for the fight for gender equity.

[You can read her speech here](#)

Reykjavik Feminist Film Festival. Keynote

For the second year, EWA Network attended RVK Feminist Film Festival to participate in a networking event and presented our latest training and networking initiatives in development

EWA Network Director of Programmes, Alexia Muiños Ruiz presented the activities in the Sister Award Ceremony.

TRAINING: FIVE SEMINARS WITH FERNANDA ROSSI

SEMINARS: CLINIC FOR PITCH, LOGLINE, DOSSIER AND KEY SCENES WITH FERNANDA ROSSI

EWA Network teamed up with **Fernanda Rossi**, writer, film theorist and director in five unique seminars and case studies for EWA members. The programme was designed to entirely take place on-line. In five practical meetings for EWA members only, we explored innovative tools using the principles of semiotics to improve your work. Whether it's a pitch, logline, dossier or scene (written or already shot and edited) you can practice in real time how to transform your materials from merely good to really great. Each session used case studies as guidance and the participants can follow along applying the techniques on their own work and ask questions.

Fernanda Rossi is a renowned film theorist and speaker who has given her signature workshops and lectures in more than 15 countries for over 40 film organizations. She has also been a trainer for special mid-career programs such as **Doc Campus** and **ESoDoc**.

5 CASE STUDIES	
www.ewawomen.com	
#1 PITCHING Opening techniques to grab the attention of your listeners	MAY 3 @3PM CET Study of 3 pitches
#2 LOGLINES Effective and fast re-writing techniques	MAY 10 @3PM CET Study of 3 loglines
#3 PITCH DECK How to make the images tell your story too.	MAY 12 @3PM CET Study of 3 pitch-decks
#4 SCENE STUDY Analyzing a written scene. Point of View, objective, dialogue	JUNE 14 @3PM CET Study of 1 scene
#5 EDITED SCENE Finding the scene objective and strengthening its emotional arc.	JUNE 16 @3PM CET Study of 1 sizzle or edited scene

EWA NETWORK AT CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

In 2022 **EWA Network** had a strong presence in **Cannes**. We organised the traditional cocktail event with high representation of partners, members and other film festival goers. In addition to the traditional program, **EWA Network** was privileged to have access to the **Cannes Marché du Film Co-Production Night**, where we had a large delegation of talented filmmakers among 400 production experts. **The Co-Production Night** was the perfect event to match up with potential co-producers and catch up with representatives of the most important international co-production markets who will facilitate the matchmaking.

Executive Director **Jenni Koski** was also a guest of honour at the **Producers Network** breakfast meeting during the **Cannes Film Festival**. It was a great opportunity to talk about the work on gender equality and inclusion in the European film industry with several young generation producers eager to create change.

Furthermore, **EWA Network** partnered with the **Marché du Film's** new program titled **impACT Lab**, presented for the first time during **Cannes Film Festival 2022**.

The ImpACT Lab was designed specifically to help emerging producers develop essential skills needed for the ideal positioning of their projects in the global marketplace. **Tamara Tatishvili**, Strategy Manager of **EWA Network**, acted as one of the **ImpACT Lab** experts helping selected participants explore funding landscapes of European coproductions as well as some trends of enhanced international cooperation in the AV sector.

As an official partner of **Marche's Co-Production Day**, **EWA Network** also co-hosted the **Co-Pro Party** gathering all participating producers and **EWA Network** members for a fun night full of networking opportunities.



Lastly, we were proud to [highlight the presence of EWA Network members](#), specially the success story of **PAMFIR**, a project boosted in our mentoring programme in the festival and the presence of two **EWA** members in the [WScripted Cannes Screenplay list](#)



EWA NETWORK SUPPORTED EUROPE! VOICES OF WOMEN IN FILM

For the third year in a row, **EWA Network** continued its cooperation with **European Film Promotion** programme, **Europe! Voices of Women in Film**, proposed in partnership with **Sydney Film Festival** and with the support of **Creative Europe MEDIA** and **Eurimages**.

A special online meeting was organized with all selected female talent and offered safe space for the directors to unpack their views on the issues shaping gender equality agenda in Europe and internationally. **Tamara Tatishvili** hosted this talk, presenting filmmakers from 10 different countries and demonstrating diverse artistic talent.

[The Talk can be watched at the following link](#)

A MASTERCLASS WITH MO ABUDU

EWA Network proudly hosted an e-masterclass with **Mo Abudu**, the **Series Mania [Woman in Series Award](#) winner** and **Ebony Films** CEO. Chaired by **Tamara Tatishvili**, the talk shedd lots of light on the career path of **Mo Abudu**, creating special and inspiring momentum for **EWA's** members.

Mo has made her mark through various endeavors in the corporate world; she has been described by **Forbes** as “Africa's **Most Successful Woman**”. **Abudu** oversees all the divisions of the **[EbonyLife Group](#)** which include **[EbonyLife Media](#)**, comprising **EbonyLife Films** and **EbonyLife Studios**, as well as the **EbonyLife Creative Academy**, a school aimed at accelerating filmmaking skills, and **EbonyLife Place**, Nigeria's first luxury entertainment resort.

EWA Network, alongside **Séries Mania & Pour les femmes dans les Médias (PFDM)** awarded **Mo** with the **[second annual Woman in Series Award](#)** in March 2022 to recognise her work and many notable achievements throughout her career. In her masterclass **Mo** shared insights into her career, barriers she had to overcome and the strategic vision of **EbonyLife Group** and interacted naturally with members.

EWA Network at Sunny Side of the Doc

EWA Network was invited to join **Sunny Side of the Doc** as an expert in the film industry to meet and liaise with filmmakers. In addition, we organised a network talk **“The Power of Networking”** and industry cocktail event together with our partner communities DAE, Pitch the Doc, B2B Doc and the Institute of Documentary Film.

FORUM ALENTOURS

EWA Network organised a seminar titled [“Gender equality and workplace safety – Where are we now?”](#) at Forum Alentours.

Post **#Metoo** and **Covid-19** pandemic, cultural and creative sectors are still dealing with social protection issues, with more violence and harassment coming to light across all sectors. How we can build protective systems that develop and enhance social protection for our industry professionals to guarantee safety not only for women but all genders working in the audiovisual sector.

EWA Network hosted a keynote and a panel with experts who discussed social protection in our industry. The keynote was hosted by **Ms Margherita Licata** and in the panel we explored the situation in France and Finland with experts **Nora Philippe** from Eurodoc and **Tarja Savolainen** from WIFT Finland.

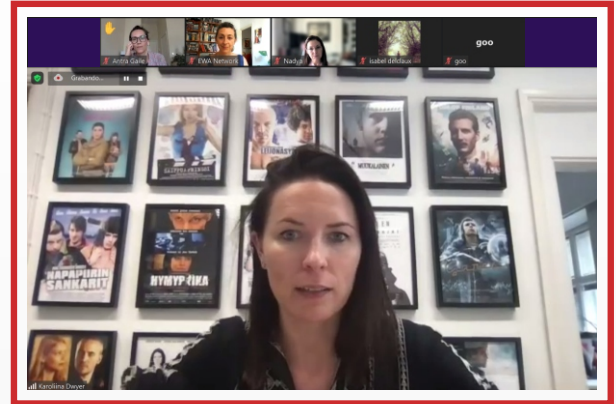
[VIDEO of the keynote](#)



July 2022

MENTORING SEMINAR: HOW TO WORK WITH INTERNATIONAL SALES COMPANIES.

EWA Network was proud to host this seminar with **Karollina Dwyer**, a Films Sales & Acquisition Executive at [The Yellow Affair](#), who shared her experience and clarified general points about international sales, about what they do, when you could bring on board a sales agent, which deliverables you should hand out, and the financial terms in an interactive seminar which was followed by a Q&A.



HANG OUT LET'S TALK ABOUT ANIMATION:

Documentary filmmaker **Inna Sahakyan**, [fresh from Annecy Film Festival](#) and the team behind **Warsaw Animation Film Festival** and **Ex-Anima** foundation, **Ewelina Leszczyńska** and **Tessa Moul-Milewska** joined EWA Network community to share their knowledge about producing and creating animation films. A good intake on what it means to work with the animated techniques and how their paths have been.

September 2022

Venice Film Festival

EWA Network was represented in this year's Venice Film Festival by the president, **Ada Solomon** and the director of programmes, **Alexia Muiños Ruiz**.

A gathering of the Mentoring group was held in the premises of the Venice Immersive Island.

October 2022

Meet up with EWA Network new team



Open conversation with the **EWA** team and introduction of **Anamaria Antoci**, as the new Executive Director and **Edel Brosnan** as the new Director of Strategy.

On Thursday 20th October **EWA's** new Executive Director **Anamaria Antoci** and new Director of Strategy **Edel Brosnan** met up online with **EWA** members to introduce themselves, with **Alexia Muiños Ruiz**, the Director of Programmes acting as chair. They discussed **EWA's** main areas of interest going forward and thanked outgoing Executive Director **Jenni Koski** and **Tamara Tatishvilli** for their outstanding work for the **EWA Network** and for the cause of gender equality in the screen industries. Meet the EWA team [here](#).

Mentoring Seminar: Everything you want to know about contracts

EWA Network hosted this seminar with the renowned lawyer **Filomena Cusano** who shared her experience and clarified general points about contracts and deals in a seminar which was followed by a Q&A. The recording of the seminar is available in the private section of our website.

EWA Network at DOC LISBOA

On the 13th October, EWA's new Director of Strategy, **Edel Brosnan**, represented the network at the **Nebulae Partners' Cocktail** at **Doc Lisboa**. It was a welcome opportunity to meet with current and future partners and discuss how best to promote and support women working in documentary filmmaking.

Nebulae is the dedicated industry-oriented project and networking space at **Doclisboa**, and is held on-site at the festival between the 11th and 16th October. This year's **Nebulae** programme included activities, gatherings, opportunities exploring the advancement of the creation, production and dissemination of independent film. In addition, EWA member **Iva Plemić Divjak**



was a tutor in the festival's **Jumpgate** program and we were delighted to see two alumni from our **Mentoring Programme**, [Irina Malcea](#) and [Mina Dreki](#), taking part in **Jumpgate** to accelerate their careers.

ONLINE HANGOUT with International Media Support

EWA Network hosted **Cecilie Bolvinkel**, from [International Media Support](#) in a conversation with EWA members.

IMS Documentary Film works with independent filmmakers from around the world to develop new projects, connect with the film industries and enable collaborative storytelling that creates impact and contributes to social, political and cultural developments.

DOK LEIPZIG: Diverse Voices Award

Anamaria Antoci, Executive Director, presents the **EWA Network Diverse Voices Award** in **DOK LEIPZIG** to the Indian project, in the *Light of Darkness*.

EWA BOARD AGREES NEW STRATEGY FOR 2023-25

The Executive Team presented to the board **EWA's** strategy for 2023-2025, focusing on the gender pay gap, the different needs and priorities of women from marginalised groups working in the screen industries, and the importance of safety, wellbeing at work, both in front of and behind the camera. The board adopted the new strategy, and agreed that it should be shared with members and partners in the new year.

Hang out with IDM Film Commission Südtirol: The RACCONTI Lab

On November 14th, the team of **Südtirol Film Commission** presented their programme **RACCONTI | IDM Script Lab** to **EWA** members. **RACCONTI** is an annual exclusive script-writing laboratory, designed to develop only three feature film projects with a high production potential. **EWA Network** is delighted to host **Renate Ranzi** and **Barbara Weithaler** from **IDM Film Commission Südtirol** to present their **scriptwriting Lab RACCONTI** and to encourage writers/directors to apply.

Torino Female Voices Award

EWA Network partnered with **Torino Film Lab** to present an award to a project in development penned by a female writer.

EWA Network Director of Programmes, **Alexia Muiños Ruiz**, addressed to the industry audience at **Torino Film Meeting**, mentioning the pay gap female authors suffer and the lesser representation of women (only 25% of the film writers are female). **Kosovar Doruntina Basha** with **BLEACH**, won the first **EWA Network Female Voices Award** at TFL.

PANEL: "Women in European Cinema: Are We Making Progress?"

On 7th December, EWA Network and UNI Europa - Media Entertainment and Arts (EUROMEI) and the European Film Agency Directors Association (EFAD) organised and held the third annual "Women in European Cinema: Are We Making Progress?" online panel. The event also featured partners the [International Federation of Actors \(FIA\)](#), the [Federation of European Screen Directors \(FERA\)](#), the [Lab Femmes de Cinema](#), the [European Audiovisual Observatory](#) and Cineuropa.

For the third consecutive year (see 2021 and 2020 events [here](#) and [here](#)), the event provided an invaluable update on the gender gap in European cinema, with a view to keeping the topic on the policy agenda, monitoring progress and identifying priority actions for the future.

The meeting started with a presentation of the most recent gender-equality statistics from the **European Audiovisual Observatory**, by **Patrizia Simone**. According to data from the years 2017-2021 (both inclusive), women represented only 25% of all European feature directors, compared to 75% for men; for screenwriters, women account for 28%, 34% for producers, 39% for lead roles, 10% for composers and 10% for cinematographers. Although the percentage of women in the ranks of active professionals is growing, progress is slow, and women are still underrepresented. Women worked on a smaller number of films than men and that there is a disparity when it comes to the productions' budgets. You can read the report in full by clicking [here](#).

During the second panel, **Fabienne Silvestre**, co-founder of the [Lab Femmes de Cinéma](#), and overall coordinator **Lise Perottet** presented an overview of good practices on a European level.

Edel Brosnan, EWA's Director of Strategy made the closing remarks for the online panel, noting the importance of capturing the reality of work in the screen industries for women through data, as a tool to help drive policy change, and giving as an example the positive impact that **Eurimages'** gender monitoring has had in striving for a better gender balance in terms of projects funded. In summary, we are making slow progress and there is still much work to be done but we are nevertheless heading in the right direction.

[Watch the full video of the online event here:](#)

After the public event, the organizers and partners held a roundtable discussion about the gender pay gap in the screen industries and discussed practical measures for closing the gap.

Mentoring Seminar: The human side of Co-Production Stories. Communicating with Impact

EWA Network finished the year with the working sessions in the **Mentoring Programme**. This session consisted of a workshop, a follow up of **CO-PRODUCTION STORIES: The Human Side - Communication with impact**, meant to be a safe space to discuss and perfect the art of communication when navigating cultural differences. **Bonnie Williams**, was the facilitator in this interactive seminar about the way we communicate considering the cultural differences.

This workshop was followed by a group meeting over the following week.

EWA DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

EWA Network's Awards at When East Meets West 2022

EWA Network has been collaborating with WEMW since 2017 delivering content to the industry program and presenting an annual award for a female director. However, this year the selection was broadened to be more inclusive. The selection criteria included aspects such as the narrative of the story, the representation of the characters, the production team and other facets that widen the idea of what makes us equal and inclusive in this film business.

The 2022 EWA WEMW Award was presented to a debut feature project with a main character we rarely see on the silver screen, dealing with obstacles that no girl in that age should face. With this award EWA Network celebrates the expansion of the canon on and about young women and the multifaceted view on womanity presented in a fiction film.

The EWA WEMW Award was presented to director Mo Scarpelli and the film [A Song that Slays](#).



EWA Network has also supported work-in-progress projects in the [Circle Women Doc Accelerator](#) training program in the past years. This year the selection jury was unanimous in their decision to support the documentary by a woman director, including a narrative that expands the scope of womankind on screen. EWA Circle Award was presented to the project [Searching for the Goddess](#) and its director Lina Lytė Pliplytė and producer Andrėja Čebatavičiūtė.

Woman in Series Award in Series Mania

On the International Women's Day, **Series Mania** and **Series Mania Forum** in association with **European Women's Audiovisual Network (EWA Network)** and **Pour Les Femmes Dans Les Médias (PFDM)**, awarded an outstanding woman in the audiovisual industry to honor her vision and leadership. This year's recipient of **Woman in Series Award** was **Mo Abudu**, CEO of **EbonyLife Group**.

From the outset, the mission with the **Woman in Series Award** has been to increase the visibility of female producers and projects. The Award was launched in 2021.



Female Voices Award at Torino Film Lab

EWA Network signed a collaboration with **Torino Film Lab** to present an award to support female writing talent. **EWA Network** awarded a project written by a woman in **Torino's ScriptLab** selection.

Doruntina Basha, writer of **BLEACH**, wins the first **EWA Network Female Voices Award** at **Torino Film Lab**.

Read the jury motivation: **EWA Network** is proud to present the **FEMALE VOICES AWARD** to a project dealing with the clash of classes, the mirage of friendship and bling bling. A project that invites us to reflect on how women are perceived and how they would love to be. With subtle yet intense dramatic arcs and resilient characters. Bold enough to put in the spotlight one of our taboos, menopause and middle aged women. **To Doruntina Basha**, writer of **Bleach**.

Diverse Voices Award in DOK LEIPZIG



This year the award was presented to an Indian project which tackles a sensitive subject, hence the omission of the names of the artists involved in it and a more explicit storyline.

In the Light of Darkness wins the **EWA Network Diverse Voices Award** in Leipzig

Read the jury motivation: To a personal story proposing a daring artistic style, while touching upon a current global threat to democratic values and freedom of speech.



FOLLOW-UP OF PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY EWA

RELEASED in 2022

Aurora's Sunrise by Inna Sahakyan premiered in Festival de Annecy and was the Armenian candidate for the Oscars. *Aurora's Sunrise* was awarded in Fest Forward in Belgrade in 2019.

Pink Moon by Floor van der Meulen formerly known as *Methusalem*. The project received EWA Network's Award in WEMW 2019 and finally premiered in Tribeca 2022 winning Best New Narrative Director - Special Jury Mention. Released in September.

Silent Land by Aga Woszczyńska (formerly known as *Fortnight*) was released in 2021 and it has become a case study for Green SHOOTING.

IN PRODUCTION

The Little loves by Celia Rico, who took the EWA Network Scripwriters' Residency 2020, was shot in July 2022. The film is an international coproduction between Spanish Arcadia Motion Pictures and French Noodles Production.

We are Inside by Farah Kassem is still in postproduction, after retakes and editing of the rough cut.

Ever Since I knew Myself by Maka Gogaladze, awarded in DOK Leipzig 2020. The DOCUMENTARY project was selected to Change Workshop, organized by EAVE, IMS and CPH:DOX and was presented at CPH:DOX industrial program by the end of March 2022 and received the Alpha Panda Award at Cannes DOC.

IN DEVELOPMENT

A winner is seen at the start by Zhannat Alshanova (KZ). Winner of the EWA Network Award in WEMW 2021. It was selected for several development programs such as TIFF Filmmakers Lab and ACE. On the funding side, after HBF, they received CNC production fund, Sud Region development and plan to shoot in 2023

The Woman Who Poked the Leopard by Patience Nitumwesiga. The project is now a co production between Kenya and Germany, with EWA member Natalia Imaz involved as coproducer.

A SUCCESS STORY

Pamfir, a success story of the EWA Network Mentoring Programme, nominated to the European Discovery Prize

The film produced by **Aleksandra Kostina**, co-produced by **Laura Briand** and directed by **Dmytro Sukholytkyy-Sobchuk**, premiered in **Festival de Cannes**, directors' fortnight.

We are particularly proud of this film which was developed during the **Mentoring Programme** for emerging producers, where **Kostina** and **Briand** met, as emerging producer and mentor.

COMMUNICATION

Over the year, 55 original posts were published on our website dealing with members' news, EWA's news and relevant announcements.

In addition, 25 events were announced on our website.

MAILSHOTS

Twenty-two mailshots were sent out to members and newsletter subscribers with articles about EWA's activities, calls for applications and relevant news about women in the film industry. 52.8% (1049 people) was the peak of opens in the mailing sent to our community of subscribers.

In addition, **EWA Network** members received thirty-eight mails, including the introduction of new members.

We can conclude that we have a steady audience, more than 60% of the members reading our mailings with a maximum of 69% which means a slight increase from last year.

Interviews



[Mo Scarpelli](#) talks to [EWA](#) about the making of her first feature film, *A Song that Slays*, which was supported by [EWA Network](#).

Pamfir, a success story of the EWA Network Mentoring Programme, nominated to the European Discovery Prize

After the premiere at the [Cannes Festival, in the Directors Fortnight](#) session, *Pamfir* was released in France on November 3rd, with amazing press reviews. “It was defined as the revelation of the year that would have deserved the Camera d'Or” [said Laura Briand, the film's French co-producer.](#)

True Comradery. EFA Lifetime Achievement, Margarethe von Trotta interviewed by Bettina Brokemper

On the occasion of the European Film Academy's Lifetime Achievement Award, actress, director and screenwriter Margarethe von Trotta and producer Bettina Brokemper, member of the European Film Academy Board and former mentor in EWA Network's Mentoring Programme, remembered their first encounter and [talked about the danger of being put into the corner for “strong women”, about producing in Europe and choosing the right subject.](#)

Snezana van Houwelingen, Alejandra Mora Mentor on and participant in the EWA mentoring programme

“The communal experience created a very positive and enriching network of colleagues”

[Cineuropa met up with producers Snezana van Houwelingen and Alejandra Mora,](#) respectively a mentor on and a participant in the [EWA mentoring programme](#), designed to provide coaching and visibility to women professionals.

FUNDRAISING

Public Funding

In 2022 **EWA Network** was supported by the following funds:

- > Creative Europe, funding the Mentoring Programme for Emerging Female producers
- > The Austrian Film Institute
- > CNC, CENTRE NATIONAL DU CINÉMA ET DE L'IMAGE ANIMÉE
- > The Région Grand Est, and
- > The Ville de Strasbourg EuroMetropole.

Memberships

In addition to the institutional funding, **EWA Network** counts on membership contributions (€50/year since 2015), which increased in 2022 with 66 new members, giving a total of 682 members and more than 2000 newsletter subscribers.

Partnerships with other networks

In 2022 we welcomed the membership of [Film Centre Montenegro](#), who joined our former partnerships with:

- > DAE
- > Cinéastes Non Alignées
- > Circle Women's Doc Accelerator
- > Series Women by Erich Pommer Institute
- > FC Gloria
- > Films des Femmes association
- > HEMEN, the Basque Association of Women in Film
- > Lithuanian Shorts
- > SWAN, Swiss Women's Audiovisual Network
- > UWCA- Ukrainian Women Cinema Association

St Johns's Women's Festival

And professional networks such as **Blockbusters Gang** and **Noise Film PR**.

Furthermore, **EWA Network** is in regular exchange with other female networks such as **WIFTI**, **WIFT Germany**, **WIFT Italy**, **WIFT Finland**, **Raising Films (UK)**, **Dones Visuals (Spain)**, **Dona i Cinema (Spain)**, **WIFT Canada**, many women's festivals and Women-oriented streaming and platforms.

EWA NETWORK

In 2022, **EWA Network** changed its structure with an outgoing Executive Director, **Jenni Koski**, and a new director, **Anamaria Antoci** who took over in September. **Edel Brosnan** joined the team as Director of Strategy in October. **Marit van den Elshout** and **Maria Ekerhovd** joined the board. **Tina Trapp**, **Zeynep Atakan** and **Isabel Castro** left the board.

EWA had sixty-six new members and twenty-two cancellations in 2022 to a total of 682 members by December 2022.

The Team

- **Jenni Koski**, Executive Director (January - August)
- **Anamaria Antoci**, Executive Director (September - December)
- **Tamara Tatishvili**, Strategy and Partnerships Consultant (January - August)
- **Edel Brosnan**, Director of Strategy (October - December)
- **Alexia Muiños Ruiz**, Director of Programmes and Communication officer

The Board

- **Ada Solomon**, Executive President
- **Isabel Castro** (Treasurer until February 2022)
- **Marit van den Elshout**, new board member and treasurer
- **Francine Raveney**, Secretary
- **Zeynep Atakan** (January - February)
- **Kristina Trapp** (January - September)
- **Maria Ekerhovd**, new board member
- **Juliane Schulze**
- **Petri Kemppinen**
- **Jonas Dornbach**

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