

connecting cottbus:

## PROJECT SELECTION 2023

The East-West co-production market connecting cottbus presents the projects of its 25th anniversary edition (8-10 November 2023).

This year, connecting cottbus goes into its **25th edition**. We are happy to report that since coco's inception in 1999, well over half of the projects presented have been completed, and almost 70 percent of those had an A-list festival premiere. We look forward to some special anniversary events during which we will look back on the market's history, talk about some alumni films, share memories and simply celebrate with you!

Regarding this year's line-up: The **feature film projects** that will be pitched at **coco 2023** come from 15 countries from wider Eastern Europe. The selection of projects in development (**cocoPITCH**) features debuts by upcoming directors as well as new work by established filmmakers. Magical realism, political allegory, drama and dramedy, the stylistic spectrum is rich and varied. Protagonists struggle with their family history and personal identity, others have to navigate a profoundly changed status quo around them. Main characters range from control freaks, Uber drivers, a deaf-blind couple and a supposedly gay altar boy.

This year's **cocoWIP** selection of **works in progress** comprises intimate stories about female coming-of-age and trauma. Dystopian sci-fi can be found next to a deadpan slacker comedy and a tense smuggling thriller.

We look forward to meeting the filmmakers behind these exciting projects and to continue to facilitate connections between all of you. The East-West co-production market was designed to provide a platform for dialogue and exchange, all with the goal to bring all these multifaceted stories from the region to life and to see them on the big screen.

Join us! Producers, sales agents, commissioning editors and other industry representatives active in East-West European co-production can **apply to attend without a project until 6 October**.

### cocoPITCH Projects 2023:

**A LEG** | Kazakhstan | dir: Shokir Kholikov  
prod: Aigerim Satybaldy | A Films

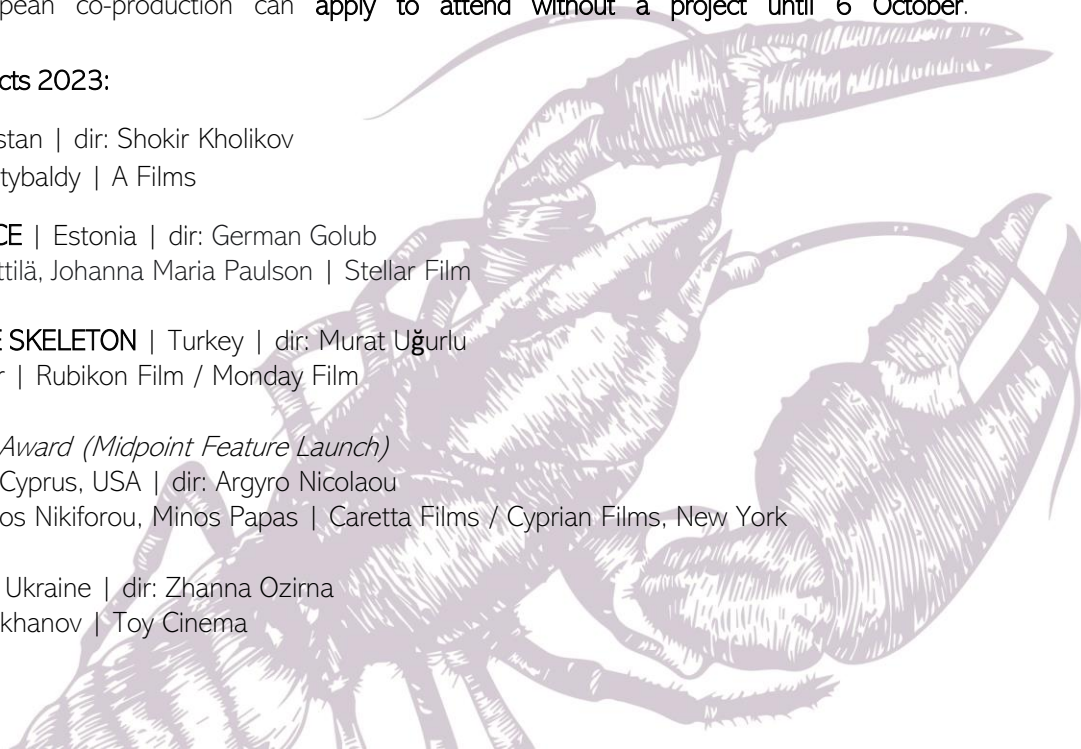
**AT YOUR SERVICE** | Estonia | dir: German Golub  
prod: Evelin Penttilä, Johanna Maria Paulson | Stellar Film

**BALLAD OF THE SKELETON** | Turkey | dir: Murat Uğurlu  
prod: İlgin Coşar | Rubikon Film / Monday Film

*Midpoint - coco Award (Midpoint Feature Launch)*

**EXCAVATORS** | Cyprus, USA | dir: Argyro Nicolaou  
prod: Constantinos Nikiforou, Minos Papas | Caretta Films / Cyprian Films, New York

**HONEYMOON** | Ukraine | dir: Zhanna Ozima  
prod: Dmytro Sukhanov | Toy Cinema



*Special Pitch Award FilmFestival Cottbus*

**LA MANCHE** | Poland | dir: Damian Kocur  
prod: Anna Gawlita, Marta Szymanowska | Kijora Film

**MATHER** | Bulgaria | dir: Anguelina Rangelova & Vesela Kazakova  
prod: Mina Mileva, Vesela Kazakova, Ivelina Pavlova | Activist 38 / Doni Mont

**MY WORLD UPSIDE DOWN** | Slovakia, Germany | dir: Daniel Rihák  
prod: Martina Saková, Daniel Rihák | WHAT IF Films / Projector23

**NIGHT WAVES** | Croatia | dir: Filip Heraković  
prod: Tamara Babun, Matija Drniković | Wolfgang & Dolly

*Transylvania Pitch Stop - coco Award*

**PYRRHIC** | Romania | dir: Cosmin Nicolae  
prod: Velvet Moraru, Ioana Moraru | Icon Production

**RESONANCE** | Bulgaria, Greece | dir: Yordan Petkov  
prod: Vanya Rainova, Victoria Mitreva, Rossitsa Valkanova, Mina Dreki |  
Portokal / Garti Films / Klas Film / Marni Films

**TACTILE UNIVERSE** | Hungary | dir: Szilárd Bernáth  
prod: András Muhi | Focus Fox

**THE FOURTH WAY** | Germany, Uzbekistan, France | dir: Sasha Kulak  
prod: Julia Shaginurova, Louis Beaudemont |  
Einbahnstraße Productions / SESTRA Films / Les Steppes Productions

**cocoWIP Projects 2023:**

**BORDERLINE** | Lithuania | dir: Ignas Jonynas  
prod: Ruta Adelė Jekentaitė | Baltic Productions

**CHRYSANTHEMUM DAY** | Ukraine, The Netherlands | dir: Simon Mozgovyi  
prod: Daryna Zakharova, Artem Koliubaiev, Alex Chepiga, Annemiek van der Hell |  
Mainstream Pictures / Windmill Film

**INK WASH** | Romania, Greece | dir: Sarra Tsorakidis  
prod: Anca Puiu, Nikos Moustakas | Mandragora / Bad Crowd

**NO MORE** | Georgia | dir: Keko Chelidze & Kote Kalandadze  
prod: Elene Margvelashvili | Parachute Films

**ON THE WATER SURFACE** | Turkey, Germany | dir: Zeynep Köprülü  
prod: Utku Zeka, Okan Üzey, Paulina Toenne | Periferi Film / Kalavara Film / Tamtam Film

**WET MONDAY** | Poland, Czech Republic, Estonia | dir: Justyna Mytnik  
prod: Marta Gmosińska, Jakub Kostal, Marianne Ostrat |  
Lava Films / Bionaut / Aleksandra Film



## CONTACT

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Organiser: [pool production GmbH](http://poolproduction.com)

