

women in revolt and other stories: the coco line-up 2021

connecting cottbus, the East-West co-production market at the FilmFestival Cottbus, presents this year's selection of projects in development and works in progress.

On 3-5 November, the 23rd edition of connecting cottbus (coco) will take place as a **hybrid event** with online and on-site components and we look forward to welcoming industry guests in Cottbus physically this year. As we continue to monitor the pandemic situation, more details about the programme will be available in the upcoming weeks.

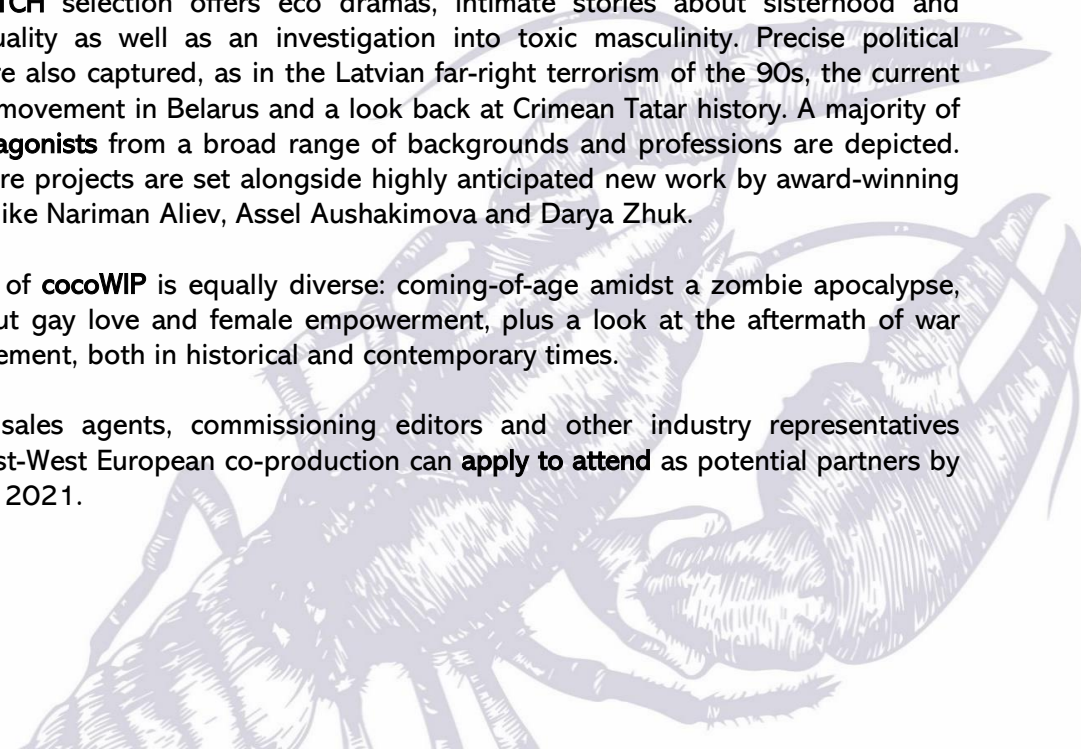
This year, coco presents an **exciting line-up of feature film projects from 19 countries** in wider Eastern Europe, which will be pitched and compete for a variety of awards. Their producers and directors will take part in the cocoLAB in-depth feedback sessions with industry experts, while all participants can join networking events and a focused framework programme on current co-production topics.

We are proud of our **impact as a market**, which has supported highly successful 2021 festival titles like Berlinale Generation 14+ Crystal Bear winner STOP-ZEMLIA by Kateryna Gornostai (Ukraine), Best International Film in Tribeca BRIGHTON 4TH by Levan Koguashvili (Bulgaria, Georgia, Monaco, Russia, USA), winner of the Special Jury Prize at the East of the West Competition in Karlovy Vary SISTERHOOD by Dina Duma (North Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro), and critically acclaimed LEAVE NO TRACES by Jan P. Matuszyński (Poland, France, Czech Republic) which premiered in competition in Venice.

Our **cocoPITCH** selection offers eco dramas, intimate stories about sisterhood and female sexuality as well as an investigation into toxic masculinity. Precise political moments are also captured, as in the Latvian far-right terrorism of the 90s, the current opposition movement in Belarus and a look back at Crimean Tatar history. A majority of **female protagonists** from a broad range of backgrounds and professions are depicted. Debut feature projects are set alongside highly anticipated new work by award-winning filmmakers like Nariman Aliev, Assel Aushakimova and Darya Zhuk.

The line-up of **cocoWIP** is equally diverse: coming-of-age amidst a zombie apocalypse, stories about gay love and female empowerment, plus a look at the aftermath of war and displacement, both in historical and contemporary times.

Producers, sales agents, commissioning editors and other industry representatives active in East-West European co-production can **apply to attend** as potential partners by 17 October 2021.



Selected cocoPITCH Projects 2021:

BIKECHESS | France, Kazakhstan | dir: Assel Aushakimova
prod: Antoine Simkine, Almagul Tleukhanova | Les Films de Antoine / Alma Pictures

Midpoint - coco Award (Midpoint Feature Launch)

THE BOMBER | Latvia | dir: Pauls Kesteris
prod: Inese Boka-Grūbe | Film Office Latvia

CHINA SEA | Lithuania | dir: Jurgis Matulevičius
prod: Elena Rožukaitė, Stasys Baltakis | Film Jam

HAPPINESS | Poland | dir: Marta Minorowicz
prod: Izabela Kiszka-Hoflik | IKH Pictures Production

Special Pitch Award FilmFestival Cottbus

HYSTERIA | Russia | dir: Ivan I. Tverdovsky
prod: Katerina Mikhaylova, Konstantin Fam | Vega Film

ORTALAN | Ukraine | dir: Nariman Aliev
prod: Vladimir Yatsenko, Anna Sobolevska | ForeFilms

SHE | Poland | dir: Agnieszka Zwiefka
prod: Izabela Igel | Harine Films

SMARAGDA | Cyprus | dir: Emilios Avraam
prod: Tonia Mishiali | Bark Like A Cat Films

THIS BEAUTIFUL NIGHT | Turkey | dir: Ozan Yoleri
prod: Alara Hamamcioğlu, Ilgım Coşar | Vigo Film

TUNDRA BLUES | Russia | dir: Andrey Redkin
prod: Vladislav Ketkovich | LCC Ethnofund Film Company

VIRGINS | Croatia, North Macedonia | dir: Dora Šustić
prod: Maja Pek-Brünjes, Marija Dimitrova | Antitalent / List Production

Transilvania Pitch Stop - coco Award

THE WAYS WE LOOK AT THE SUN | Romania | dir: Ioana Țurcan
prod: Ana Maria Pirvan | Studioset Production / Anchor Films

WE HAVEN'T MET UNTIL THIS SUMMER | Belarus, Russia, Poland | dir: Darya Zhuk
prod: Iva Stromilova, Ewa Puszczynska | Kairos Films / Extreme Emotions

THE WHITE MARE | Slovakia | dir: Teodor Kuhn
prod: Miroslav Gerbel | Filmaari



Selected cocoWIP Projects 2021:

AIR BLUE SILK | Georgia | dir: Irine Jordania
prod: Elene Margvelashvili | Parachute Films

THE ART OF FALLING | Bulgaria | dir: Orlin Milchev
prod: Pavlina Jeleva | Geopoly

KLONDIKE | Ukraine, Turkey | dir: Maryna Er Gorbach
prod: Sviatoslav Bulakovskiy, Maryna Er Gorbach, Mehmet Bahadir Er | Kedr Film / Protim

LIUBEN | Spain, Bulgaria | dir: Venci Kostov
prod: Antonio Hens, Vanya Rainova, Miguel Torrente | Malas Compañías /
Portokal / Balance Media

M | North Macedonia, Croatia, Kosovo, France | dir: Vardan Tozija
prod: Darko Popov, Anita Juka, Valon Bajgora, Patrice Nezan |
Focus Pocus Films / 4 Film / In My Country Postproduction / Les Contes Modernes

THE WORD | Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia | dir: Beata Parkanová
prod: Vojtěch Frič, Přemysl Martinek | love.FRAME

CONTACT

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