



Ethical
Fashion
Initiative



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PRESS RELEASE

The EU announced its latest funding schemes in support of audiovisual and cinema. 10M€ for Africa, Caribbean and Pacific.

The European Commission presented its new initiatives in support of the audiovisual and cinema sector in Southern countries at Venice Bridge Production.

In the framework of the 77th edition of the Venice Biennale of Cinema, the European Commission (EC), in partnership with the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and UN-ITC/Ethical Fashion Initiative organised a series of events dedicated to its support to the audiovisual and cinema sector in the partner countries of the European Union.

The New ACP- UE Co-production facility

The presentation of the new funding mechanism in support of audiovisual co-productions between ACP and EU countries raised a strong interest among the professionals of the sector. The facility is funded with 10M€ by the "ACP-UE Culture Programme", one of the main missions of which is *"to boost cultural and creative industries and innovation in ACP countries, by encouraging entrepreneurship and the participation of young people in cultural value chains"*, as recalled Gian Giuseppe Simeone, speaking on behalf of the OACPS.

The partner organisations co-financing the funding scheme for ACP co-productions - the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), the FONSIC (Ivory Coast), the World Cinema Fund (WCF) and the Centre National du Cinéma (CNC)- announced their first selection of co-production projects they will support over the coming months and clarified their *modus operandi*. For this first year, **already 12 production projects** - ranging from Features film and documentaries to TV or web series - have been selected for financial support of both the EU and OIF, FONSIC and WCF. The CNC's selections will be added by the end of 2020.

"From Kabul to Bamako"

A second session was dedicated to the opportunities opened by the **"Identity Building and Sharing Business Initiative"(IBSBI)**, project funded by the European Union and implemented by the International Trade Centre (ITC)'s Ethical Fashion Initiative in the countries along the line between *"Kabul to Bamako"*. The initiative aimed to create job opportunities and promote traditional knowledge and arts from countries and regions affected by extreme situations (such as armed conflict, forced displacement, dictatorships) pushing the young generation to emigrate. *"Our approach is to create opportunities for the youth of these countries in the creative industries to bring back hope and stimulate the creation of decent jobs, notably for women and young people."* said Giorgio Ficarelli, Head of the Culture Section at the European Commission.

From Kabul to Bamako is an artistic project narrative developed in the framework of the IBSBI project, combining art, music, fashion and now also cinema. *"This type of experience contributes to the establishment of networks to facilitate the emergence of young talents in the fashion, art and film industry. We work as an accelerator for young talents to regenerate the social capital in the countries we work in."* said Simone Cipriani of ITC's Ethical Fashion Initiative.

Interested in the concept of the project, Alessandra Speciale, Director of "Final Cut" initiative at Venice Production Bridge would like to explore avenues of collaboration and integrate these countries into **La Biennale's** different initiatives to support the film industry. *"This would be an opportunity for us to find new talents in countries where the film industry does not get the support it deserves,"* she said.

The day ended with an inedited concert under the name of "Kabul to Bamako Social Club" led by the incomparable voices of Aida Nosrat (Iran) and Mamani Keita (Mali) at the Blue Moon Terrazza, Lido di Venezia.

Links to the sessions:

[EU for the Future of World Cinema: The New ACP-EU Audiovisual Co-production Facility](#)

[EU for the Future of World Cinema: From Kabul to Bamako](#)

Notes to the editor

The ACP-EU Culture Programme is a programme implemented by the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and funded by the European Union (EU). This initiative seeks to stimulate the potential of the cultural and creative sector and its contribution to the socio-economic development of ACP countries.

With a budget of € 40 million (2019-2024), the programme focuses on: (i) fostering entrepreneurship and cultural and technological innovation, as well as the participation of young people; (ii) creating new jobs and increasing the income of artists and cultural professionals; (iii) improve the quality of ACP cultural productions; and (iv) enhancing the value of ACP cultural productions and artists on international markets.

For more information : www.acp-ue-culture.eu/ Follow ACP-UE Culture on [Twitter](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)

The Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS): Formerly known as the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP Group), OACPS has 79 members, all of which, with the exception of Cuba, are signatories to the Cotonou Agreement which governs the framework of their cooperation with the European Union. The main objectives of the Organisation include (i) the sustainable development of its Member States and their progressive integration into the world economy; (ii) the consolidation of unity and solidarity among the ACP States and understanding among their peoples; (iii) the establishment and consolidation of peace and stability in a free and democratic society.

Fore more information: www.acp.int

Ethical Fashion Initiative :

The Ethical Fashion Initiative is a programme from the [International Trade Centre](#) connecting marginalised artisans from the developing world – the majority of them women - to international fashion houses for mutual benefit. In doing so, the Ethical Fashion Initiative harnesses fashion as a vehicle for development.

Find out more: <https://www.intracen.org/itc/projects/ethical-fashion/>

Contact : **Please indicate the name of a spokesperson/focal point to answer media enquiries**