

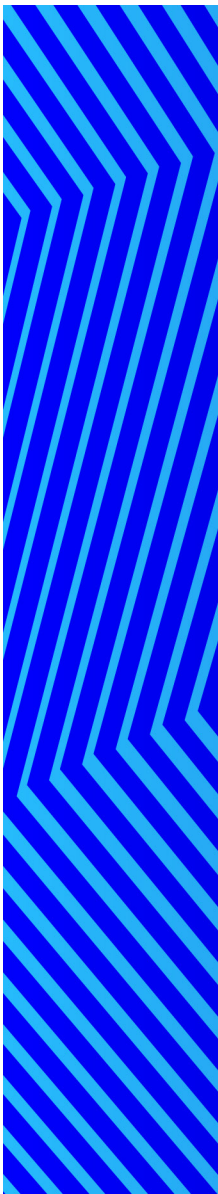
# BITOLA UNESCO CITY OF FILM UCCN MONITORING REPORT 2015 – 2019



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



• Bitola - City of Film  
• Designated UNESCO  
• Creative City in 2015



## EXECUTIVE Summary

Located in the south of North Macedonia, Bitola is second largest city in the country with around 100,000 inhabitants. The city's film heritage originated from the early 20th century with the film industry now representing the backbone of the city's creative economy. Bitola's history with film dates back to the Manaki brothers, Yanaki and Milton who as film and photography pioneers, brought to Bitola – formerly named Manastir – the Bioscope 300 film camera. The brothers famously filmed the very first motion pictures shot in the Ottoman Balkans. Bitola is mostly known for the Manaki Brothers International Cinematographers Film Festival and Non Professional Documentary Film Festival - Camera 300 which celebrated 40 years in 2019. Also, the city is recognized as an open studio and thanks to its famous for the beautiful locations, in and around the city, a lot of films are shot each year in Bitola and the surrounding villages. Near Bitola is Heraclea Lyncestis. It was an ancient city in Macedon, ruled later by the Romans. Its ruins are situated 2 km (1.2 mi) south of the present-day town of Bitola. It was founded by Philip II of Macedon in the middle of the 4th century BC. The city was named in honor of the mythological hero Heracles. The name Lynkestis originates from the name of the ancient kingdom, conquered by Philip, where the city was built.

Bitola became a UNESCO City of Film in 2015, joining 180 members from 72 countries. As a Creative City of Film, Bitola envisages:

1. Nurturing the vibrant role of film in Bitola's creative economy, notably by expanding the scope of the programme Film Center Bitola through public private partnerships involving public cultural centres, universities, academia and private production companies;
2. Fostering the city's cultural offerings through exhibitions, festivals, workshops and other events especially based on the film heritage of the Manaki brothers;
3. Positioning Bitola as an international hub for film creations;
4. Exchanging experience and knowledge with other Creative Cities of Film

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of the city: Bitola  
Country: North Macedonia  
Creative field of designation: FILM  
Designated: 2015

Date of submission of the monitoring report: December 2019  
Entity responsible for the report: Film Center Bitola  
Focal point of contact:

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FILM CENTER BITOLA is a non-profit organization dedicated to the development of film as an artistic medium in Bitola. Main goal is to help in the realization of existing projects and manifestations organized by the City of Bitola, in field of film and new media.

FILM CENTER BITOLA provides services for the city's film-related activities and relations with the film industry, develops the awareness of the public, the benefits and significance of the film industry (and other creative industries) in Bitola and the wider economic area. FILM CENTER BITOLA works lot on film and media education and organize different events in the schools as workshops, projection of kids movies and film practice.



Number of UCCN annual meetings attended since 2015

2015 - /

2016 - /

2017 – Enghien-les-Bains (France) – attended by Dimitar Nikolov

2018 – Krakow and Katowice (Poland) - attended by Dimitar Nikolov

2019 – Fabriano (Italy) - - attended by Dimitar Nikolov

Hosting of a UCCN annual meeting and dates: None

Hosting of a working or coordination meeting addressed to one or more specific UCCN creative field representatives: None, but Bitola would like to host an annual meeting of the UCCN Network at some time in the future.

Hosting of an international conference or meeting on specific issues salient to the Creative Cities with a large participation of members of the network: 2019 FORUM OF UNESCO CREATIVE CITIES OF FILM - The Role of Innovation and Education in the Local Development of Cities

-held from 4th to 6th July in Bitola

-Hosted by Film Center Bitola with support from Ministry of culture and Municipality of Bitola

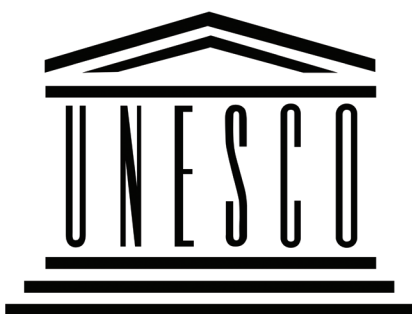
-Participated cities: Bradford, Galway, Bristol, Sofia, Lodz, Rome, Bitola

Mobil Festival

Financial and/or in-kind support provided to UNESCO's Secretariat in order to ensure the management, communication and visibility of the UCCN: None

Membership of the Steering group and period: None

Participation in the evaluation of applications: Yes, 2017 and 2019



## International Mobile Film Festival

One of the most important events is Mobile Festival, the first international festival of films shot on mobile phone in South Eastern Europe, which take place from 2010. This a festival carried out in the Cinematheque of Macedonia awarding best films made by young people using their mobile phones. In 2019 it celebrated its 10th edition. The Festival also provide workshops on audiovisual techniques. Children from elementary schools of Skopje and Bitola learn about stop-animation and then make their own videos that are shown in the festival. Mobile Festival is happening in collaboration with the primary and secondary schools in the country.

Partnerships involved: KT Film and Media, Macedonian Film Agency ,the City of Skopje and the Cinematheque of Macedonia, Elementary schools in Skopje and Bitola



# Dubbing European Children Production

Not all children films screened in North Macedonia are dubbed, due to the high costs, but since 2015 more than 10 children films have been dubbed both in Macedonian and Albanian language as the second most spoken language in the country. Since 2015, the specialized distribution company for children films Uzengija began dubbing films intended for the youngest audience in order to bring them closer to the children's world. The synchronization included six films dubbed in Macedonian and Albanian - four in Macedonian and two in Albanian:

“Pim and Pom – The Great Adventure” (Netherlands), dubbed in Macedonian and Albanian language;

“Phantom boy” (France), dubbed in Macedonian and Albanian language;

“The Great Bear” (Denmark), dubbed in Macedonian language;

“Thor and the legend of Valhalla” (Iceland / Germany / Ireland), dubbed in Macedonian

The dubbing of the films was supported by then Macedonian Film Agency.

Since 2016 also distribution company Cutaway started to dub European films for children and screen them both online and offline as a film initiative aiming to improve the efficiency in education using

VOD platform Cinesquare. The dubbed Dutch Film Little Gangster both in Macedonian and Albanian was watched by more than 10.000 children which set the viewing record of a non-national film. Tickets are not expensive, from 1 to 2 euros, but the children massively attend the screenings, especially if dubbed.



## Bitola summer festival Bit Fest

Throughout the duration of approximately 3 months each summer, the festivals' content offers a wide choice to all age groups to find their interest in the children's program, classical music, film, theater, art and other exhibitions, handcraft, promotion of tradition, a great number of concerts of folk and pop music, ethno music, rock and other concerts, multimedia projects and a large number of other contents ... At the same time the city is filled with many cultural events and a large number of guests from several other countries.

# Manaki Brothers International Cinematographers' Film Festival

It is the first and oldest film festival dedicated to the creativity of cinematographers across the world. It started in 1979 with the initiative of one of the main founders – MFPA/ the Macedonian Film Professionals' Association. It was also co-organized with the Cinematheque of Macedonia and host-city of Bitola, established in honor and inspired by the abundant photographic/cinematographic opus of the MANAKI brothers: Yanaki (1878-1954) and Milton (1880-1964).

Thanks to the festival, Bitola became the Mecca of the best international cinematographers, discovering many new talents who are today deemed superb wizards of film photography and cinema aesthetics. They are adorned with the awards of our festival, and at the same time recognized as glorious Oscar-winners who have strolled down the streets of Bitola, which they have considered to be an artistic hub, going back for many years.

Laureates of the Golden Camera 300 for Lifetime Achievement were great cinematographers of world cinema art, such as: Sven NYKVIST, Henri ALEKAN, Freddie FRANCIS, Jose Luis ALCÁINE, Jerzy WÓJCIK, Raoul COUTARD, Vittorio STORARO, Vadim YUSOV, Miroslav ONDŘÍČEK, Tonino Delli COLLI, Walter CARVALHO, Michael BALLHAUS, Vilmos ZSIGMOND, Billy WILLIAMS, Peter SUSCHITZKY, Dante SPINOTTI, Anatoli PETRITSKY, Luciano TOVOLI, Chris MENGES, Ryszard LENCZEWSKI, Jaromir SOFR...



While the winners of the second-in-rank award are: Christopher Doyle, Anthony Dod MANTLE, Robby MÜLLER, Bruno Delbonnel, Roger PRATT, Christian BERGER, Agnès GODARD, Luca BIGAZZI; as well as the actors: Victoria ABRIL, Daryl HANNAH, Catherine DENEUVE, Isabelle HUPPERT, Juliette BINOCHE, Bruno GANZ, Charles DANCE, Miki MANOJLOVIC, Aleksey SEREBRYAKOV and the directors: Jerzy MENZEL, Veljko BULAJIĆ, Karen SHAKHNAZAROV and Menahem GOLAN, as well as the double Academy Award winner –producer, Branko LUSTIG. Many of these great cinematographers in the role of presidents or members of the main international jury, have contributed in significantly increasing the importance of the award for the winners.

# Strengthening the production services and fostering the creative economy

Bitola is the city where a lot of films and TV series were filmed in recent years and continues to be the location of choice for both international and local production and post-production. Some of the domestic and international films in 2018 and 2019 that have chosen Bitola include:

A Mermaid in Paris by Mathias Malzieu (2019)

The Hardest Thing by Serdar Akar (2019)

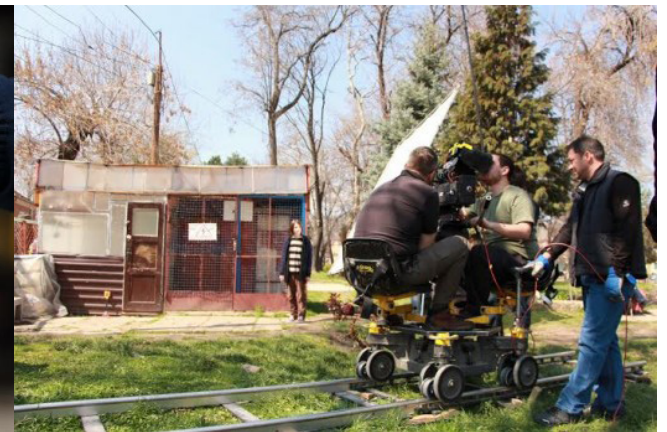
Beyond the Horizon by Delphine Lehericey (2018)

Domestic and international producers and directors are drawn by the combination of competitive financial incentives, diverse locations and already experienced crews.

## FINANCIAL INCENTIVES

A 20% cash rebate on qualifying Macedonian spend of at least \$113,000 (€100,000) for international producers was introduced in 2014. They need to work with a local production partner.

- low taxes - vat of 18% to all taxable sales and import, except to sales and import taxable with the preferential rate of 5%(ex. for hotel & catering the rate is 5%) - personal income tax of 10% - income from copyright and industrial property rights - depending on the type of the artwork (paintings, artistic work in music,
- low operational costs Macedonia is one of the most cost-competitive locations in Europe.
- competitive labor cost advantage in Europe
- exceptional and skilled production companies and crew Macedonia with experience in international production.
- quality production service for films cgi, vfx, sfx **INFRASTRUCTURE AND CREWS** There are many well-regarded service companies. Most technicians speak reasonable English. North Macedonia is a member of Eurimages and an active co-producer, providing opportunities for local talent. The local industry can host three big international projects at the same time.





# Films shot in Bitola:



**“Before The Rain” 1994**

**Director: Milcho Manchevski**

**“The Peacemaker” 1997**

**Director: Mimi Leder**

**“Welcome to Sarajevo” 1997**

**Director: Michael Winterbottom**

**“Across the Lake” 1997**

**Director: Antonio Mitrikeski**

**“Good-Bye, 20th Century” 1998**

**Directors: Darko Mitrevski, Aleksandar Popovski**

**“Dust” 2001**

**Director: Milcho Manchevski**

**“Secret Book” 2004**

**Director: Vlado Cvetanovski**

**“The Great Water” 2004**

**Director: Ivo Trajkov**

**“The Border Post” 2006**

**Director: Rajko Grlic**

**“Balkan Is Not Dead” 2007**

**Director: Aleksandar Popovski**

**“Sarah Un Mythe” 2011**

**Director: Sasa Stanisic**

**“The Third Half” 2012**

**Director: Darko Mitrevski**

**“To the Hilt” 2014**

**Director: Stole Popov**

**“Children of the Sun” 2014**

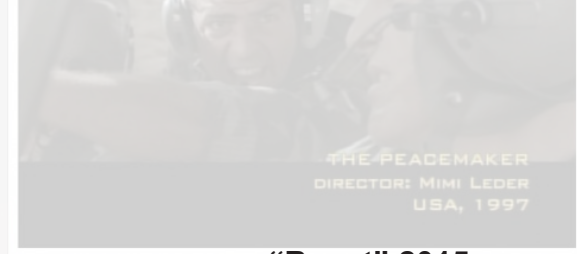
**Director: Antonio Mitrikeski**

**“Bolkata Ostanuva” 2015**

**Director: Vladimir Talevski**



**GOOD-BYE, 20TH CENTURY!**  
**DIRECTORS: A. POPOVSKI - D. MITREVSKI**  
**MACEDONIA/PORTUGALY, 1998**



**THE PEACEMAKER**  
**DIRECTOR: MIMI LEDER**  
**USA, 1997**

**“Banat” 2015**

**Director: Adriano Valerio**

**“Down from heaven” 2015**

**Director: Sasa Stanisic**

**“Liberation of Skopje” 2016**

**Director: Rade Šerbedžija, Dušan Jovanović**

**“Broken” 2017**

**Director: Edmond Budina**

**“Year of the Monkey” 2018**

**Director: Vladimir Blazevski**

**“Beyond the Horizon” 2018**

**Director: Delphine Lehericcy**

**“Willow” 2019**

**Director: Milcho Manchevski**

**“The Hardest Thing” 2019**

**Director: Serdar Akar**

**“A Mermaid in Paris” 2019**

**Director: Mathias Malzieu**

**“M” 2019**

**Director: Vardan Tozija**

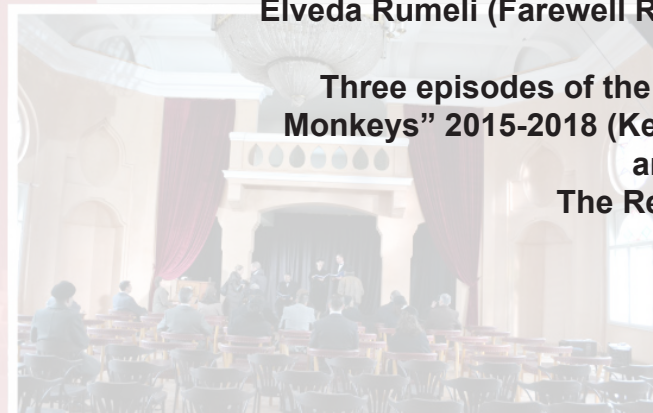


**TV Series**

**Elveda Rumeli (Farewell Rumeli) (2007-2009)**

**Three episodes of the TV series “12 Monkeys” 2015-2018 (Keys, Yesterday and Tomorrow)**

**The Red Poet (2016)**



### FIRST FILM FIRST (Through International Cinematographers Film Festival Manaki Brothers)

Training program with the aim of supporting young South-east European film directors to develop their first feature-length fiction films. FIRST FILM FIRST consists of 4 modules, over a period of 10 months, allowing the participants to develop their first feature film projects, step-by-step through different phases of the project development. The 2nd module of the FIRST FILMS FIRST program, in the frame of “Manaki Brothers” Festival, was dedicated to the delicate art of collective work of director, production designer and cinematographer on envisioning the future film. During the 4-days workshop, the participants worked on developing the personal visual style for their projects, helped with case studies, discussions, group and individual meetings with the internationally acclaimed professionals. The tutors were Oscar winning production designer Allan Starski (“Schindler’s List”, “The Pianist”, “Man of Marble”) and Slovenian avant-garde cinema icon, director/cinematographer Karpo Godina (“The Medusa Raft”, “Artificial Paradise”, “Early Works”). Also, Gabriele Brunnenmeyer as tutor worked with participants on developing their scripts.

### LIM, Less is More (Through North Macedonia Film Agency and ICFF Manaki Brothers)

North Macedonia Film Agency signed a one-year partnership with the training programme Less Is More and will organise the Pre-Writing Workshop for the local film professionals. It is the first workshop of this kind that will be organised in North Macedonia. Within the partnership signed within the 39th International Cinematographers’ Film Festival Manaki Brothers in Bitola on 26 September 2018, a number of activities were held, of which the Pre-Writing Workshop is the most important.

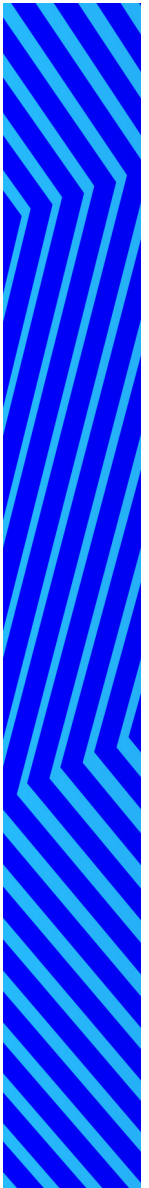
Less Is More is a training programme created by France’s Le Groupe Ouest, aimed at helping film professionals to make films with a limited budget from the development stage. It is supported by Creative Europe – MEDIA Programme of the European Union.

### Conference of Balkan Cinematographers in Bitola

Each year since 2012 the Balkan Cinematographers Conference takes place in September in Bitola, in organization of the European Federation of Cinematographers IMAGO, and the help of both the ICFF “Manaki Brothers” and the Macedonian Society of Cinematographers with the aim to encourage a greater understanding between the ten participating countries: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia and Romania.

## GA of the European Federation of Cinematographers – IMAGO

In 2016 IMAGO Annual General Assembly was held in Bitola in September during ICFF Manaki Brothers Film Festival. Forty-seven IMAGO delegates participated, representing international cinematographic societies from as far afield as Australia, New Zealand and Japan in the east, to Canada and Mexico in the west. The new president of the IMAGO, Paul Rene Roestad, and General secretary of IMAGO, Louis Philippe – Capelle, were present at the press-conference in Bitola. New president Roestad had succeeded Nigel Walters, a long-time collaborator of the “Manaki Brothers” festival. IMAGO has 4000 individual members through 49 associations that participate in the association.



# 2015

At the end of 2015, the first regional fund Balkan Cinema Cities was founded in Bitola. The BCC Film Fund was conceived as an association of countries and cities whose main objective is to build a system that promotes and supports film activities. Seven cities among which Bitola and Sofia as members of UNESCO Creative Cities of film along with Korçë, Blagoevgrad, Tirana, Plovdiv and Skopje signed Memorandum of collaboration in the field of film production, distribution, fosterage of film audiences and the stimulation of local creative potential and industries and founded BCC. The project aims to tap the potential of creative industries through exchange of experience and knowledge between partners. The purpose is to promote innovation and growth in the local industry, and improve the region's competitiveness. The objective of the BCC Regional Film Fund is to unite the cities from the region and to promote cultural development on the basis of culturally significant films, development of creativity, innovation and sustainability in the film industry.

# 2017

In June 2017 Film Center Bitola representative Dimitar Nikolov participated in the Asia Media Summit in the eastern Chinese city of Qingdao, than candidate for UNESCO Creative City of film, with more than 450 government officials, media professionals, scholars and stakeholders from across the world among which a number of representatives from the UNESCO Creative Cities Network. Organized by the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) and jointly hosted by China's State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television and the Qingdao municipal government, the annual event attracted high-level decision makers from Asia-Pacific, Africa, Europe, the Middle East and North America.

The three-day event featured discussions on many issues related to the theme, "Media on the Frontline of Global Development". This included events on topics such as "How Media can Shape the Development Agenda", "Media Responsibility and Global Issues: Activism or Neutrality?", "Media for No Poverty: Creating Public Awareness and Engagement" and "Strategies for High-Quality Programming: Concept, Content and Formats".

# 2018

In April/May 2018 Bitola director Sasha Stanishik participated in the Intercity Film Festival & Film Production Residency Project organized by the Creative City of Film of Busan (Republic of Korea). The theme was “Our City – Faces of the Cities We Live in”. The aim of the event was to strengthen and expand cooperation between UNESCO Creative Cities of Film, reason why a Film Production Residency Project is twinned with the event.

The Residency was organized as a double round-residency. During the film festival, films produced during the residency project as well as local films from Creative Cities of Film were presented. Various events including a seminar, a special focus programme and an exhibition was also organized in the margins of the festival.

The films produced during the residency program in Busan were screened in Bitola also in 2019 within the first Forum of UNESCO Creative Cities of Film: The Role of Innovation and Education in the Local Development of Cities.



# 2019

In 2019, North Macedonia hosted a Forum of UNESCO Creative Cities of Film: The Role of Innovation and Education in the Local Development of Cities for the first time. It took place on 4th and 5th of July with the participation of UNESCO Film Cities from Rome, Lodz, Bradford, Bristol and Galway as well as professionals from organizations and companies in the field of the creative industries. The event was a great opportunity to compare achievements between the countries - members of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network as well as inspiration for future cooperation between the Cities and to improve the situation in the film industry in them.

Participants at the forum were: Natalie Moore, Senior Film Officer, Bristol City Council, Alan Dugan, Manager of Galway Film Center, Maria Colletti, Distributor and Programmer at Cultural Distribution Office at CSC – National Film Archive (Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia-Cineteca Nazionale), Piotr Kulesza, historian, art historian, museum custodian, Head of the Exhibitions and Collections Department, National Center for Film Culture, Lodz, Poland, Rachel Bottomley, production coordinator at Bradford UNESCO City of Film, Arthur Le Gall, director at KEA European Affairs, Brussels, an international policy design research center specialized in culture and creative industry as well as sport, Vladimir Angelov, Director of Cinematheque of North Macedonia, Petar Kotevski, founder and developer of KAMAi Media (kamaikamai.com) and founder of Macedonian Game Developers Association – MAGDA, Sasha Stanishik, director, manager, and professor at the Department of Film and Digital Media of the University of Audiovisual Arts EFTA Skopje, Mimi Gjorgoska-Ilievska, M.A., Advisor for Film, Library and Phonograph Heritage, Directorate for Protection of Cultural Heritage, Bilyana Genova, Director of the Department of Culture of Sofia Municipality, Dr. Diana Andreeva – Popyordanova, director of the Observatory of Cultural Economics in Sofia, Bulgaria, Marija Dimova, Macedonian Association for Game Development MAGDA-Bitola and Ljupco Smilev, advisor for planning of regional and multilateral cultural coopera-

tion in the Department for International Cooperation and Cooperation with UNESCO within the Department for Multilateral Cooperation and Cooperation with UNESCO at the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Northern Macedonia.

At the Forum there were presentations of the film cities - members of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network and panel discussion on “Technological Innovations and Education in the Local Development of Cities”. As part of the presentation of Macedonian Success Stories Day 2, case studies were presented by Arthur Le Gall (KEA European Affairs, Brussels), Vladimir Angelov, Director of Cinematheque of North Macedonia, Petar Kotevski, KAMAi Media from Bitola, Maria Dimova, Macedonian Association for Game Development MAGDA-Bitola, Sasa Stanisic, Faculty of Film and Digital Media EFTA-Skopje and Mimi Gjorgoska-Ilievska (Directorate for Protection of Cultural Heritage).

As a part of the Forum there were screenings of several films. The opening featured the restored film “A Special Day” by Ettore Scola in collaboration with CSC (Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia) from Rome. The second night was reserved for screenings of the first Macedonian film in color “Macedonia in Pictures” by Arsenij Jovkov, the documentary film “Manaki, Story in Pictures” by Robert Jankuloski and films from the Lodz Film School Archive in Poland. Between the case studies, were screened three short films from the Busan Intercity Film Festival, South Korea.

At the forum were discussed the ways of cooperation between the cities and were established foundations for joint projects in different fields, cooperation around the world, which will contribute to a positive impact on the further development of culture, tourism, and thus advance the local economy.

The project is an initiative of the Bitola Film Center, and aimed to discuss the various ways in which creative cities progress by embracing innovation and culture in their local policies to achieve the UNESCO Sustainable Development Program by 2030.

The Forum was intended to contribute to the effective development and promotion of the film industry by conducting a full assessment, improving national capacities and organizing promotional events in the field, namely to make the Forum a platform through which members can advance their partnerships and bring new ideas and collaborations.

The forum, should in the longer term have the potential to improve institutional support and strengthen entrepreneurial skills, thereby enhancing the growth opportunities of developing countries through the creative industries sector.

The forum has also attracted a great public interest with numerous media releases thanks to the big marketing campaign and of course the fact that this is the first forum of the film cities - members of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network and event of particular significance for the city of Bitola as a Film City of UNESCO.



# PROPOSED ACTION PLAN.

Following a proposal on activities in December 2019, Film Center Bitola made several plans for the upcoming years involving key partners and institutions. It was concluded that in today's digital age, there is no longer a solid boundary between the media. The various arts and media are closely intertwined. In this sense, the film cannot be talked about without the involvement of other media. Any sustainable strategy for the development of film art must also take into account other arts and media that enter the thermal creative industries.



41st edition of International Cinematographers Film Festival Manaki Brothers (September 2020 and year long activities)

ICFF Manaki Brothers is the country's biggest film festival. It is dedicated to the work of cinematographers and is held under the auspices of the President of Republic of Macedonia and supported by Municipality of Bitola and Macedonian Film Agency. It attracts national and international cinematographers, directors, actors, producers, and audiences of all generations and cultural backgrounds. It has both competitive and non-competitive programs. The festival also runs highly successful industry events (conferences, workshops, panel discussions, presentations, conferences) which offer a unique opportunity to learn from great film cinematographers and film professionals and in collaboration with IMAGO networking among cinematographers. It provides a showcase for the best national and international cinematography works in different genres. Provides opportunities for young and emerging scriptwriters and directors through various events. European Association of Cinematographers IMAGO holds its annual Balkan conference within the festival through which the camera students can get familiar with new trends and the issues that cinematographers face. Also, through presentations of the latest cameras and technology learn more about what is used in the world today. It will continue to develop its output to ensure a diverse and meaningful contribution to the cultural life of the city.

Education - Department for digital media arts and technologies

With initiative of Film Center Bitola it is planned to create an educational program within the public university St. Clement of Ohrid University of Bitola. It will be the first comprehensive, multidisciplinary program of study in the country and the region that blends media arts, design, creative expression and technology. It will provide opportunity for aspiring storytellers, designers, filmmakers, photographers, artists and technologists to exercise creativity through technology. Through individual and team design and media-creation projects, students engage the public in innovative ways, with media and technology, endeavoring to solve human problems and ultimately shape culture in positive, socially responsible ways. Students create culturally relevant artifacts and experiences in the form of exhibits, films and documentaries, interactive user experiences, journals, radio and television programs, human-technology interfaces, and websites for cultural, business and commercial, educational, and social contexts.

This is an ambitious program. The goal is to collaborate with other institutions, universities, companies etc. from Europe and the world so that the students would acquire new skills and tools.

## Video game development and programming

With the support from the Ministry of Culture in 2019 a series of workshops for children for game development and programming - Video playroom, organized by The Union of Macedonian Professional Associations in the Creative Industries UMPAKI – Skopje, the only organization of its kind in the country (which includes various associations in the field of creative industries), dedicated to the promotion and development of all segments of the creative industries. The workshops were held by members of MAGDA (“Macedonian Video Game Development Association” from Bitola dedicated to the promotion and development of the video game development industry in North Macedonia) who are renowned professionals in the areas of Video Game development. For seven years they organize the Global Game Jam Macedonia with more than 200 participants and 30 games. There is an initiative in the upcoming year to found a game development and programming academy.

## UNESCO Network of Creative Cities Forum: Creating a City of the Future 2020

Following the 1st edition in 2019, the next forum event will be held in July 2020 in Bitola and will focus on concrete ideas for cooperation. The theme will be: Creating the City of the Future, following the UNESCO 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

The forum is one of the projects that in the long run has the potential to improve institutional support and enhance entrepreneurial skills, thereby increasing the opportunities for developing countries to grow through the creative industries sector. The program should promote and support the sustainability of projects embedded in transnational networks by sharing good practices on how to organize and ensure the transnational nature of domestic projects. Therefore, the transfer of methods and concepts between transnational partners, as well as the exchange of experience and the common development of knowledge concepts, are seen as a major added value of the transnational approach.

To enhance the degree of transnational co-operation within projects, measures such as joint project meetings, joint project communication and project results, a clear focus on the transnational dimension of project results, joint preparation and attendance with stakeholders, as well as peer reviews among partners are most useful.

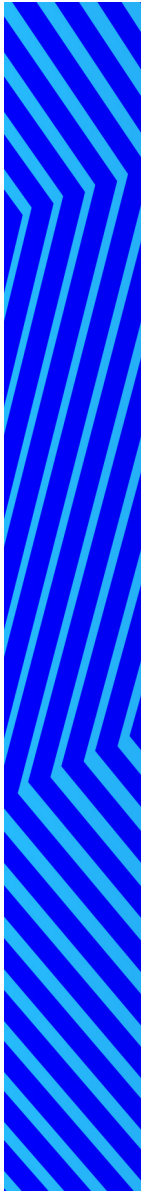


## Other initiatives:

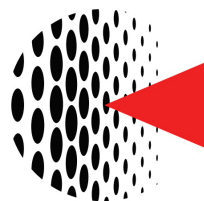
- Continue to support professional film and TV production in the region.
- Continue to support new talent and further develop showcase opportunities.
- Encourage more film related businesses to settle in Bitola.
- Encourage international exchange of creative people and ideas.
- Encourage more national and international visitors to the city for film festivals and film related events. --Encourage further development of cultural tourism across UCCN members.



Film Center Bitola is a small ngo which relies on partnerships and collaborations and doesn't have an annual budget, neither support from the Municipality of Bitola. We would like to acknowledge the support of The Ministry of culture in the past two years and the Balkan Cinema Cities fund as well as other Bitola based organizations and companies. The majority of activity undertaken by the organisation is as a result of partnerships and collaborations which we hope to continue in the upcoming years. Several of the projects and programmes listed in the above sections we hope to be funded by national funds and institutions and international grants, including: Ministry of Culture, University St. Clement of Ohrid University of Bitola, Creative Europe Programme, Foreign embassies etc.



Film Center Bitola has a dedicated website [bfc.mk](http://bfc.mk) which will be updated of everything it does. Upcoming activities, news, events, changes in legislation, get involved etc. The social media presence will be upgraded and communicated more. The team also use a number of other established networks to regularly talk about the work of the organisations and more general issues via email and other channels such as Viber and WhatsApp. The team also appears on TV stations and radio stations as well in the media addressing important issues and events. In addition to all of the above, team, members regularly speak at a range of events across the city and wider the country and the region. They also regularly attend UNESCO annual meetings and cluster meetings.



Здружение на филмска уметност  
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