

The National Fund for the support of audiovisual production

ANNUAL REPORT 2000

GENERAL

The National Fund for the support of production, which is *under the joint protection* of the Ministers whose duties include responsibility for the audiovisual sector and culture, implements the overall policy of the Government's support for audiovisual production. Thus, it is particularly responsible for the management of selective financial aid, the special temporary fiscal regime for audiovisual investment certificates, European initiatives like Eurimages, as well as all other operations in the field of support for audiovisual production, such as promotion, co-production agreements, certificates on the nationality of works, etc.

The Fund's Administrative Council is made up of representatives of members of the Government having within their functions, the audiovisual sector, culture, finance and the economy as well as a representative from the Tax Department and a personality recognised for his skills in the cinematographic and audiovisual field. The day-to-day running of the Fund is carried out by a team of seven persons (see Annexe 1: the Fund's organisational chart).

If, during 2000, the number of requests for aid submitted has fallen, compared with the figure for the previous year, 57 against 80, the financial volume has, however, shown a steep increase: the total budget for works accepted amounts to 7,256,176,213 luf of which 1,917,786,530 luf (26.43%) represent the total of financing interest in respect of Luxembourg production companies.

The Council bases its decisions, on the one hand, on the opinions of a reading panel which judges artistic quality and, on the other, of an analysis committee which looks at the economic and financial aspects (see Annexe 1: the Fund's organisational chart).

The terms of office of the members of both committees were due to expire on 31st December 2000. The Administrative Council renewed all mandates for a further 2-year period.

1) SELECTIVE FINANCIAL AID

23 projects were given additional financial aid through the mechanism of selective financial aid (advances on receipts) amounting to a total of **70,123,000 luf**. **4,323,000 luf** were intended for the development of projects (aids on writing and development) and **65,350,000 luf** were allocated to the production of audiovisual works. One cinema production benefited from aid on distribution amounting to **450,000 luf**.

AIDS ON DEVELOPMENT

PROJECT	PRODUCTION COMPANY	SUBSIDY (luf)
BEAUTIFUL BLEU	MONIPOLY PRODUCTIONS	2,200,000
L'HOMME AU CIGARE	RATTLESNAKE PICTURES	723,000
STEEL CRAZY AFTER ALL THESE YEARS	IRIS PRODUCTIONS	900,000
LÉZARDS	SAMSA FILM	500,000
TOTAL OF AIDS ON DEVELOPMENT		4,323,000

AIDS ON PRODUCTION

PROJECT	PRODUCTION COMPANY	SUBSIDY (luf)
HISTOIRES DE JEUNESSE	SAMSA FILM	5,000 000
AM ANFANG WAR DER BLICK	MINOTAURUS FILM	600,000
CHARLIE	TARANTULA LUXEMBOURG	2,400,000
BOYS ON THE RUN	RED LION	8,000,000
TISCH UND BETT	MONIPOLY PRODUCTIONS	1,600,000
BUNICA	MINOTAURUS FILM	1,200,000
PETITE MISÈRE	SAMSA FILM	15,000,000
LE VARAN ET LA SORCIÈRE	IRIS PRODUCTIONS	5,000,000
NEBEL	MINOTAURUS FILM	650,000
GLOBI - DER GESTOHLENE SCHATTEN	MONIPOLY PRODUCTIONS	10,000,000
SUR LES CENDRES DU VIEUX MONDE	TARANTULA LUXEMBOURG	900,000
UNE PART DU CIEL	TARANTULA LUXEMBOURG	6,000,000
NHA FALA	SAMSA FILM	9,000,000
TOTAL OF AIDS ON PRODUCTION		65,350,000

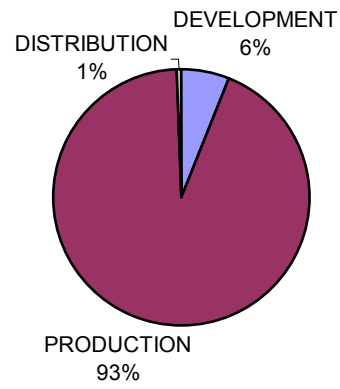
AIDS ON DISTRIBUTION

PROJECT	PRODUCTION COMPANY	SUBSIDY (IuF)
STEICHEN	SAMSA FILM	450,000
TOTAL OF AIDS ON DISTRIBUTION		450,000

Total of selective financial aid granted

70,123,000

Selective financial aid granted in 2000



2) AUDIOVISUAL INVESTMENT CERTIFICATES

As regards audiovisual investment certificates (CIAV), the 15 production companies approved to date (compared with 11 in 1999 - see Annexe 2: list of approved companies) filed 33 applications to enjoy the relief offered by the temporary fiscal regime. 31 projects for audiovisual works were declared eligible.

The total face value of the audiovisual investment certificates issued during the year came to **1,491,468,679 luf.**

LIST OF AUDIOVISUAL WORKS COMPLETED IN 2000

PROJECT	PRODUCTION COMPANY
<i>Short films</i>	
UN JOUR COMME UN AUTRE	DELUX PRODUCTIONS
<i>Animated features</i>	
PETIT POTAM	NEUROPLANET LUX.
<i>Features</i>	
BOYS ON THE RUN	RED LION
CHRISTIE MALRY'S OWN DOUBLE ENTRY	DELUX PRODUCTIONS
ALIAS, ALIAS	DELUX PRODUCTIONS
THE POINTMEN	THE CAROUSEL PICTURE
THE ENEMY	THE CAROUSEL PICTURE
POURQUOI SE MARIER LE JOUR	SAMSA FILM
D'ARTAGNAN	THE CAROUSEL PICTURE
BABS	DELUX PRODUCTIONS
CQ	DELUX PRODUCTIONS
CONFESSIONS OF AN UGLY STEPSISTER	DELUX PRODUCTIONS
DU POIL SOUS LES ROSES	SAMSA FILM
LE BAL DES PANTINS	SAMSA FILM

PROJECT

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Medium-length animated

OREANA

NEUROPLANET LUX.

Animated series (Television)

**NEZ DE FER
CYRANO 2022**

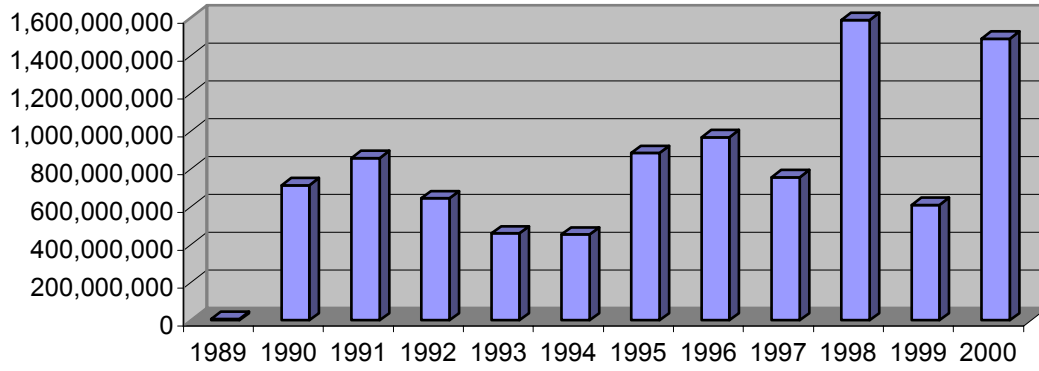
**MELUSINE
NEUROPLANET LUX.**

Miscellaneous

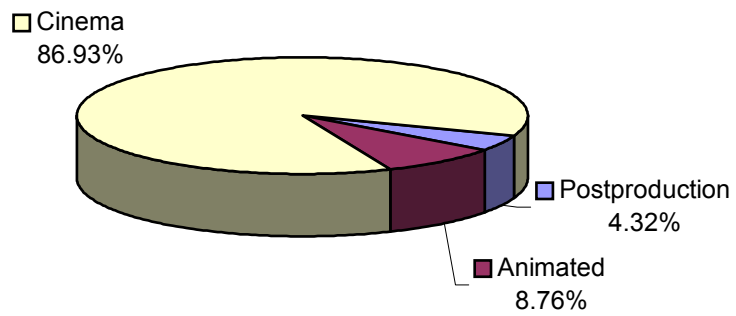
TELESPARKS

CIAV issued 1989-2000

Amount in luf



Breakdown of the CIAVs issued in 2000



3) MISCELLANEOUS SUBSIDIES AND AIDS TO PROMOTION

The Fund granted subsidies (study grants, etc.) amounting to a total 300,000 luf and co-financed the SaarLorLux Film and Video Festival to the tune of 165,004 luf. Promotion subsidies were allocated for a total amount of 364,166 luf.

BENEFICIARIES	ACTIONS	GRANTS (luf)
<i>Subsidies divers</i>		
THIERRY WALTZING	AUS DEM LEBEN DES EUGENE O. FELLER	80,000
YVES BROES	Taking part in the Bilbao Film Festival	40,000
ALEX AACH	PORTRAITS	80,000
MAX JACOBY	BABY SITTING	100,000
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS. SUBSIDIES		300,000
<i>Subsidies for Festivals</i>		
SAARLAND FILM BUREAU	SAARLORLUX FESTIVAL 2000	165,004
TOTAL SUBSIDIES FOR FESTIVALS		165,004
<i>Subsidies on promotion</i>		
MYRIAM MULLER	Participation SHOOTING STAR 2000	82,535
SAMSA FILM	Participation au festival de Punta del Este et au festival du film de Bruxelles	130,000
ULPA	Newsletters	151,631
TOTAL SUBSIDIES ON PROMOTION		364,166

4) PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

With the aim of promoting and providing a framework for a Luxembourg audiovisual industry in full expansion, the Fund has taken part in numerous Festivals and international markets.

In January, a representative of the Fund accompanied the “Jaime” film team to the European cinema Festival of Punta del Este (Uruguay). The organisation of the event was supported by the European Film Promotion, an initiative of the MEDIA programme of the European Union, to which the Fund is affiliated.

On the occasion of the Berlin International Film Festival, the “Berlinale”, the European Film Promotion Association organised its annual “Shooting Star” event, an initiative offering international visibility to a selection of European actors. The young Luxembourg actress Myriam Muller was chosen by the Fund to represent the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg at it.

At the *sine qua non* of Festivals, the Cannes International Film Festival, the Fund provided promotion for the Luxembourg sector of audiovisual production, by taking its own stand at the event. Among the films selected for the Directors’ Fortnight, delegates attending Cannes were able to see “La Chambre obscure” directed by Marie-Christine Questerbert, and produced by the Luxembourg production house, Delux Productions. As regards awards for Luxembourg works, mention must be made of the Junior Cannes 2000 Prize awarded to the Luxembourg co-production “Jaime” [Samsa Film (Luxembourg), Fado Filmes (Portugal)]. This film was also chosen for the European Film Awards in the category of Best Photographic Director. We should also mention the nomination of Willem Dafoe (USA) at the Golden Globes as Best Supporting Actor for his performance in the role of Max Schreck in “The Shadow of the Vampire” [Delux Productions (Luxembourg), Saturn (USA) (Nicolas Cage and Jeff Levine) and Long Shot Films (G.B.).]

The International Fantasy Film Festival Cinénygma Luxembourg provided an opportunity for the Fund to celebrate its tenth anniversary by organising a special evening during which there was a screening of a compilation of film clips taken from the ten years the Luxembourg film industry has been in existence.

Still on the theme of its tenth anniversary, the Fund launched two competitions for draft outlines of audiovisual works, in other words a competition for “treatments”, and one for “film scripts”. There was considerable positive reaction from the audience to these two initiatives. The result of the Jury’s deliberations will be announced during 2001. Let us note that the treatment competition has a First Prize worth 100,000 luf (the winner will also receive a subsidy from the Fund intended to be used to develop the treatment into a script using, if necessary, the help of a professional scriptwriter) and two Second Prizes worth 50,000 luf. The script competition has a First Prize of 500,000 luf and two Second Prizes worth 100,000 luf (see Annexe 3).

The Fund also took part in two promotional assignments in North America: in Quebec in April and the United States in December. In Montreal, the Luxembourg delegation led by his Royal Highness the Crown Prince was made up of the Minister for Communications accompanied by representatives of the Fund and several Luxembourg producers and directors. The visit made it possible to organise a seminar for Canadian and Quebec producers interested in making films in Luxembourg. Similarly, meetings with heads of official Canadian and Quebec bodies provided an opportunity for deepening relations between the public authorities in the two countries and making an initial assessment of the effects generated by the co-production agreements signed, on the one hand, with Quebec in 1994 and, on the other, with Canada in 1996. In New York, the Fund's representatives visited production companies active in multimedia.

From 10 to 17 November 2000, the Luxembourg cinema was featured at the 6th International Film Festival of Calcutta. Twelve Luxembourg feature films, chosen by the National Audiovisual Centre, were screened in a special section entitled Focus on Luxembourg. These were warmly applauded by the public and received positive Press coverage. The Luxembourg delegation, composed of film makers and representatives of the Fund, met the most important producers in West Bengal to discuss possible joint co-operation actions.

The visit not only made it possible to present Luxembourg audiovisual production, its development and its support mechanisms, but also explore the possibility of organising in the Grand Duchy a weekend of West Bengali film - all in a spirit of cultural exchange.

5) PARTICIPATION OF THE FUND IN EURIMAGES

Eurimages is the Council of Europe Fund for aid on co-production, distribution and exploitation of European cinematographic works. Set up in 1989 on the basis of a Partial Agreement, it currently brings together 26 member states: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey.

The aim of Eurimages is to promote European cinema by stimulating the production and circulation of works and fostering co-operation between professionals.

Against this background, three aid programmes have been developed:

- Aid on co-production
- Aid on distribution
- Aid for cinemas

Eurimages is run by a management committee. The National Fund for the support of audiovisual production is a member of this committee. Luxembourg is represented by Monsieur Joy Hoffmann.

The current President of Eurimages is Sig. Gianni Massaro (Italy). The Luxembourg executive secretary, Mireille Paulus-Levy, was replaced at the end of the year by Regine Roginas from Germany.

Since its foundation, Eurimages has supported co-production on over 700 feature films and documentaries, several of which have won prestigious prizes (Oscars, Palme d'Or, Lion d'Or, etc.).

The reform of aid on co-production aiming at two different audiences came into force in 2000. The first is reserved for films with high screening potential, the second for films of so-called “cultural diversity”. The budget is split 50/50 between the two systems. This reform has resulted in greater selectivity on decisions.

Member states pay a statutory contribution, the amount of which is, however, voluntary, freely based on an internal scale.

Taking account of the increasing number of applications from Luxembourg production companies sent in to the European fund Eurimages, the Administrative Council of the National Fund for the support of audiovisual production decided to increase its annual subscription, which goes from 500,000 Fr.f (3,075,000 luf) to 600,000 Fr.f (3,690,000 luf). The contribution from Luxembourg for the financial year 2000 is, therefore, 91,469 euros.

The balance sheet for national co-productions is once again significantly positive with a grant of 161,740 euros to Luxembourg co-productions.

List of aid granted to Luxembourg co-productions by the Eurimages Fund

GLOBI (Monipoly Prod.) November 2000 (Budget: 3,823,840 Euros)

Aid: 320,000 Euros of which 14% = 44,800 Euros for the Luxembourg co-producer.

Co-producing countries:

Germany 54%; Switzerland 32%.

Director: Robi Engler

UNE PART DU CIEL (Tarantula) November 2000 (Budget: 1,916,987 Euros)

Aid: 210,000 Euros of which 23% = 48,300 Euros for the Luxembourg co-producer.

Co-producing countries: Belgium (Tarantula) 28%; France 49%

Director: Bénédicte Liénard

TRISTAN ET YSEULT (Oniria Prod.) November 2000 (Budget: 5,736,113 Euros)

Aid: 132,000 Euros of which 52% = 68,640 Euros for the Luxembourg co-producer.

Co-producing countries: France 48% (Neuroplanet)

Director: Thierry Schiel