LE LAB
FEMMES DE CINEMA

10 YEARS OF POLICIES FOR GENDER PARITY IN EUROPEAN CINEMA: FUNDING, SAFEGUARDING, TRANSFORMING

2026 REPORT

IN COLLABORATION WITH

Observatoire européen de l'audiovisuel

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

EFAD European Film Agencies

WITH THE SUPPORT OF

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LES ARCS FILM FESTIVAL

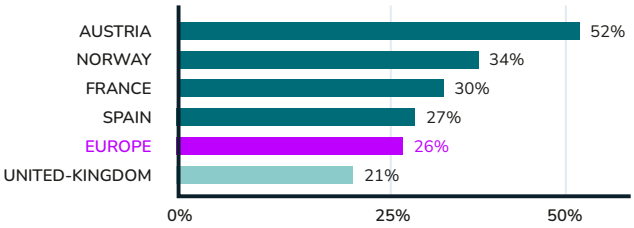
KEY FINDINGS

THE PLACE OF WOMEN DIRECTOR IN EUROPEAN CINEMA

DATA PROVIDED BY THE EUROPEAN AUDIOVISUAL

2025 : THE FIRST COUNTRY TO REACH PARITY

PROPORTION OF FILMS DIRECTED BY WOMEN BY COUNTRY IN 2025



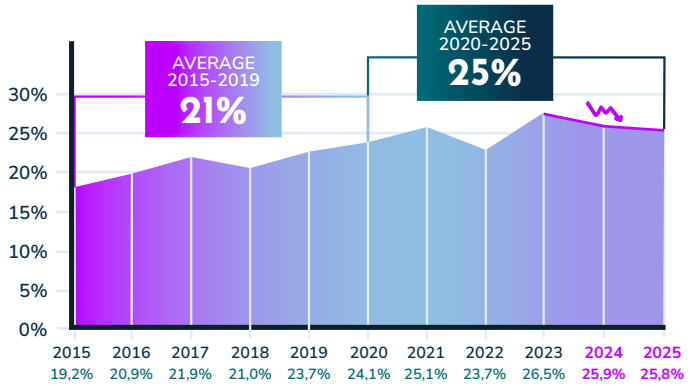
Selection of countries corresponding to those featured in a dedicated focus on their gender parity policies.

In 2025, the share of films directed by women stands at **26% on average across Europe. For the very first time, one country exceeds the 50% threshold**: Austria. Overall, strong year-to-year fluctuations can be observed. An analysis based on a multi-year average is therefore preferred here.

SLOW AND FRAGILE PROGRESS

TRENDS IN THE PROPORTION OF FILMS DIRECTED BY WOMEN* IN EUROPE 2015-2025

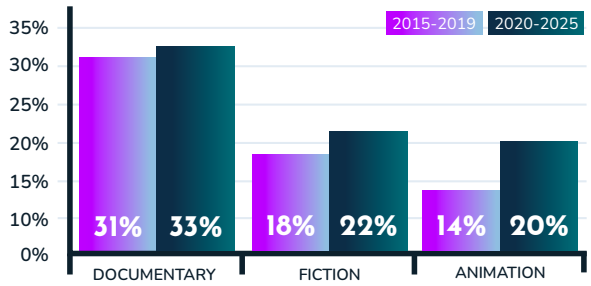
*including co-productions with at least one female director



There has been real progress in the share of films directed by women in Europe on average: **it rose from 19.2% in 2015 to 25.8% in 2025** (+6.6 pts). However, this progress is **not linear**: although a peak of 26.5% was reached in 2023, some years saw declines (2018, 2022, 2024 and 2025). Thus, 2025 shows a drop for the second consecutive year, a first since 2015, a sign that **a glass ceiling seems to be setting in. At the pace observed since 2015, parity would be reached in... 2062!**

WOMEN DIRECTORS BETTER REPRESENTED IN DOCUMENTARY

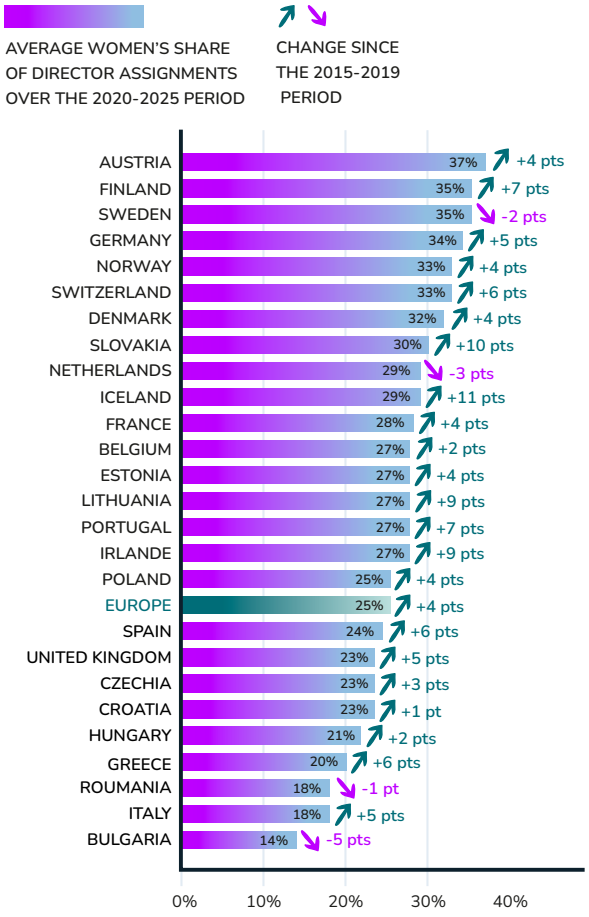
TRENDS IN THE PROPORTION OF WOMEN DIRECTORS IN EUROPE BY FILM GENRE



Between 2015 and 2025, **the share of active women directors increased across all types of films in Europe**. Women directors remain proportionally **more present in documentary**, where the average budget per film is lower than in fiction and animation. For the first time, however, we note that animation, where the percentage of women directors has long been particularly low, now has a share of women directors close to that of fiction.

2020 - 2025 : A MULTI-SPEED EUROPE

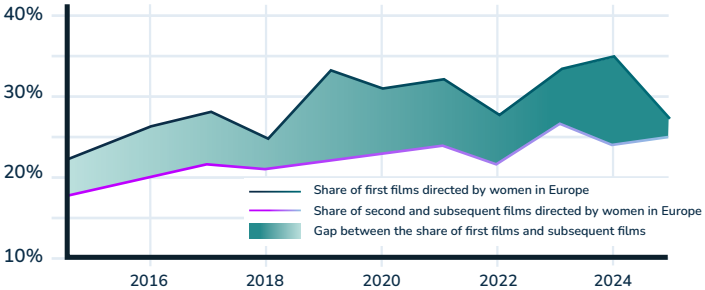
TRENDS IN THE AVERAGE PROPORTION OF FILMS DIRECTED BY WOMEN BY COUNTRY



Comparing the average share of films directed by women over 2015-2019 with 2020-2025, the vast **majority of European countries saw an increase** (shown here in green), while some countries saw a decline (Bulgaria, the Netherlands, Romania, Sweden). The top 5 countries over the 2020-2025 period are: Austria, Finland, Sweden, Germany and Norway.

A GRADUAL DECLINE IN THE PRESENCE OF WOMEN DIRECTORS AS CAREERS PROGRESS

TRENDS IN THE PROPORTION OF FILMS BY WOMEN IN EUROPE FROM FIRST FILMS TO SUBSEQUENT FILMS



Women, who make up on average 50% of film school students (Le Lab, 2019), appear to be gradually driven out of the industry. **The share of first films directed by women in Europe averages 29% over the 2015-2025 period, dropping to 23% for second and subsequent films.** Alarming signal: the share of first films directed by women has never exceeded 35% and is declining again in 2025, to the point of approaching the share of second and subsequent films directed by women, which has historically been lower.

PUBLIC POLICIES FOR GENDER PARITY IN EUROPEAN CINEMA

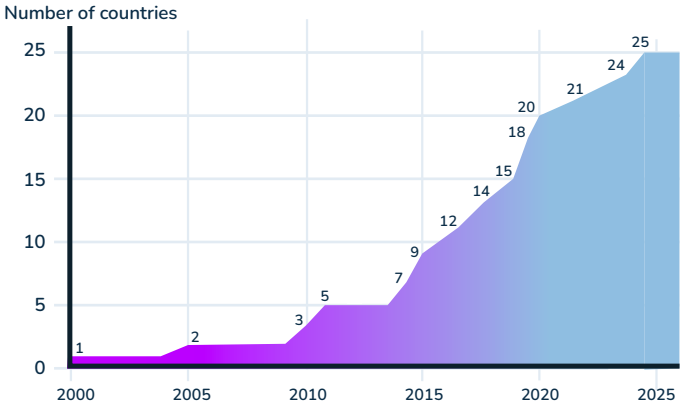
SOURCE: LE LAB FEMMES DE CINÉMA 2026 DATA

METHODOLOGY:

- QUESTIONNAIRE SENT TO NATIONAL FILM INSTITUTES: 33 COUNTRIES RESPONDED IN 2026.
- INTERVIEWS WITH 7 EUROPEAN RESEARCHERS.
- INTERVIEWS WITH 5 NATIONAL FILM INSTITUTES.

A GROWING NUMBER OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IMPLEMENTING MEASURES

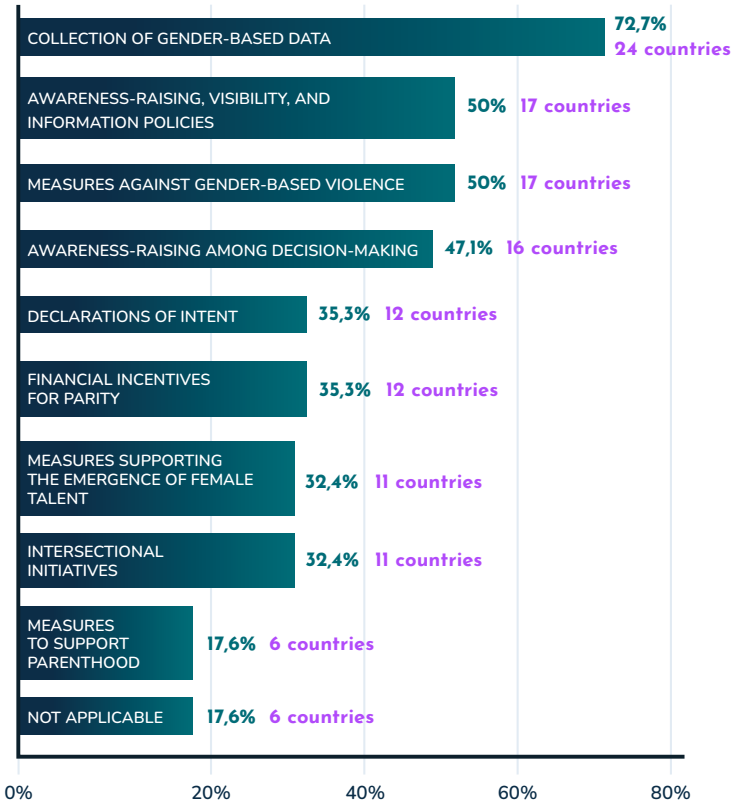
YEAR IN WHICH EUROPEAN COUNTRIES LAUNCHED A GENDER PARITY POLICY



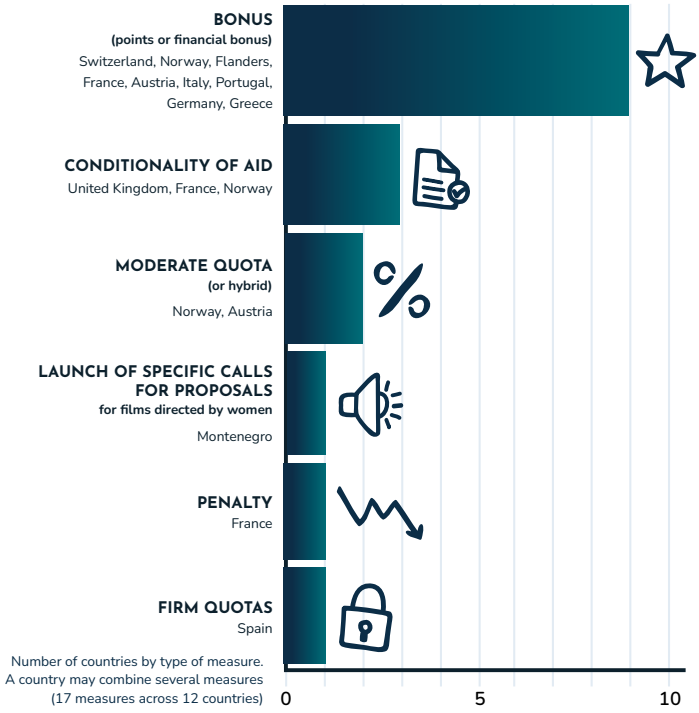
In 2026, the majority of responding European countries are committed, to varying degrees, to gender parity in cinema. This ranges from statements of intent to the adoption of concrete measures. When asked to define the stage their parity policy has reached in 2026, nearly 60% of the 33 responding countries (19) describe themselves as being on a positive trajectory (implementation, strengthening or diversification of measures, mature policy). However, nearly 40% of the countries (13) that responded to our survey have yet to put any concrete measure in place («No policy planned or in place to date» or «Intention stated, but no measures adopted yet»).

THE RANGE OF MEASURES ADOPTED TO PROMOTE GENDER PARITY

X% Share of countries that have implemented this type of measure
X countries Number of countries that have implemented this type of measure



SPOTLIGHT ON FINANCIAL LEVERS



Countries that have implemented a financial lever overwhelmingly favor incentive-based measures: bonuses, in the form of points or financial bonuses, are by far the most widespread (9 countries). One country (Montenegro) stands out with a more targeted mechanism: the launch of specific calls for proposals for women directors. More restrictive measures remain rare: conditionality of aid applies to 3 countries, moderate or hybrid quotas to 2, and the penalty (France) and firm quotas (Spain) are each applied by only one country.

FINANCIAL INCENTIVES AS SEEN BY EUROPEAN FILM INSTITUTES

22 countries

MANY BELIEVE IN IT

22 out of 33 countries (67%) cite financial incentives as an essential lever for achieving parity.

12 countries

TOO FEW DO IT

Only 12 countries (one third) have put them in place.

7 countries

THOSE WHO DO ARE WON OVER

Nearly 60% of the countries that have implemented them (7 out of 12) consider them the most effective

While two thirds of responding countries identify financial incentives as key levers, it is worth noting that **only slightly more than a third report having implemented them**. All the researchers we met also identified the financial lever as the essential ingredient for generating concrete results. The responding national film institutes confirmed this: nearly 60% of the countries that have implemented it cite it as the most effective measure.