



CIRCLE Women Doc Accelerator is an exclusive one-year training program for up to twelve selected female-identifying filmmakers (directors and/or producers) with a strong, creative documentary project in any stage of production (from development to rough cut) who are seeking support to develop their films and further their professional skills. This initiative has emerged from the need to find a new model for a sustainable network, one that enhances professional collaborations and increases their longevity. Now more than ever, we understand the priority to nourish solidarity between (women) filmmakers, both to understand the existing ecosystem and to improve it in order to prepare for the future.

For those selected to participate, the year-round program offers a chance to work with leading experts and successful professionals - analyzing in depth their projects, dramaturgical challenges, production strategies and finally, packaging and presenting the project to a wider audience.

Each year, two participants are awarded by EWA (1000€ in cash) and, starting from 2020, Cineuropa (marketing services).

The program of **CIRCLE 2020** features three tailor-made sessions, each focusing on a different aspect of project development:

1st MODULE: June 2020, Serbia/Croatia (Online)

In-depth analysis of projects

The first module is focused on creative development through an intense in-depth analysis of the projects with expert script writers and producers aiming to expand perceptions of each project, in order to improve the content and their overall potential. A carefully-curated schedule consists of group work, exclusive case studies and one-to-one meetings with successful directors, inspiring producers and other film professionals. All experts are invited with specific needs of selected projects in mind.



2nd MODULE: 27-30 August 2020, Montenegro

Project packaging

The second module is dedicated to developing tailor-made production strategies with the help of leading experts specializing in presentation and marketing in order to raise international visibility and financing potential. The main focus is on strategic planning, communication, marketing and distribution strategy.

3rd MODULE: 27-30 October 2020, DOK Leipzig - Germany (Online)

Pitching and networking

The third module offers an additional introduction to current trends, tools and insights in the documentary industry through a customized program offered by DOK Leipzig Industry. The highlight is on networking and presentation of the projects to the potential partners and decision makers at the DOK Leipzig Co-production market. The final module is organized as a series of exclusive round tables for CIRCLE participants.



CIRCLE 2019 – Two CIRCLE projects awarded by EWA in DOK Leipzig

CIRCLE Women Doc Accelerator is of first of its kind, emerging from a need to empower women documentary filmmakers, build their professional capacities and self-confidence while working to develop their project.

PREVIOUS EXPERTS

Paula Vaccaro - producer, Simona Nobile - script writer, Brigid O'Shea - Head of DOK Leipzig Industry, Tamara Kotevska - director of Oscar nominated "Honeyland", Bernandette Tuza-Riter - director of award winning "A Woman Captured", Joanna Solecka - leading film marketing expert (Alphapanda), Hanna Polak - award winning and Oscar nominated director, Aleksandar Govedarica - Sales agent (Syndicado), Phil Jandaly - senior editor, Jelena Maksimović - award winning editor, Ivana Mladenović - award winning director etc.

ORGANISATION AND PARTNERS

CIRCLE Women Doc Accelerator 2020 is organized by Wake Up Films in partnership with DOK Leipzig Co-Pro Market, EWA, Film Centre of Montenegro, Underhill Fest Montenegro, Film Centre Serbia, HAVC Croatian Audiovisual Centre, MEDIA Desk Serbia, MEDIA Desk Montenegro and City of Novi Sad.

OTHER PARTNERS:

Cannes Docs – Marché du Film, Cineuropa, DAE Documentary Association of Europe, East Doc Platform, Foundation Petrović Njegoš.

CIRCLE@CANNES DOCS

Since 2020, we partnered with Cannes Docs – Marché du Film. Each year four alumnae participants will pitch their docs-in-progress during Marché du Film.



Photo: *Modern Mermaid* by Aet Laigu