

JANUARY 19, 2023

THE EUROPEAN SHORT FILM NETWORK IS EXPANDING: TWO NEWS MEMBERS AND A NEW PERMANENT STREAMING PLATFORM

IndieLisboa and Uppsala Kortfilmfestival join the four ESFN founding members including VIENNA SHORTS—The temporary VOD project THIS IS SHORT will be re-launched as a year-round streaming platform in October 2023—Film programmes by Friedl Kubelka School touring through Europe

The European Short Film Network (ESFN), founded in 2018 by the four European short film festivals VIENNA SHORTS (AT), Internationale Kurzfilmtage Oberhausen (DE), Go Short Festival in Nijmegen (NL) and Short Waves Festival in Poznan (PL), welcomes two new members: The renowned IndieLisboa International Film Festival (PT) and Uppsala Kortfilmfestival (SE) have joined the network.

The ESFN was formed to support and promote European short films and is now active in six countries, with VIENNA SHORTS as the coordinating festival. The festivals follow a collaborative and truly European vision to strengthen the European film and festival landscape by launching online, analog and live projects.

The ESFN is supported by the Creative Europe Program – MEDIA of the European Union with funding until 2024. Only around a dozen European festival networks are funded by the EU MEDIA program, with VIENNA SHORTS being part of two of them. Details on the second venture will be announced soon.

THIS IS SHORT: THE PLACE TO GO FOR EUROPEAN SHORT FILMS

The joint VOD project THIS IS SHORT will be re-launched in October 2023 as a year-round streaming service for audiences and the industry, bundling and displaying the amazing wealth and variety of European short film production. The network's core initiative was successfully launched in 2021 as a three month online platform jointly curated by the member festivals and saw its second three-month round in 2022. The expansion will be coordinated by German project manager and curator Jens Geiger-Kiran, who is known, among other things, for the cinema VOD network CinemaLovers.

ANALOG FILM PROGRAMS AND SUSTAINABILITY AS JOINT FOCUS ACTIVITIES

In addition to the streaming platform, the network will develop on-site film programs to be presented throughout the year at the six member festivals. The focus will be on analog formats, launching in 2023 with two film programs from the Friedl Kubelka School for Independent Film in Vienna. Curated by director Philipp Fleischmann, who heads the school's film department, the programs will travel through Europe between April and November.



Another focus is on sustainable festival organization, which all participating festivals have been committed to for several years. Together, all members of the ESFN have therefore pledged to observe the Code of Sustainability which was developed by the network in 2021 and which can be downloaded at viennashorts.com/downloads.

The **20th anniversary edition of VIENNA SHORTS** will take place from June 1st to 6th, 2023.

Find more information on VIENNA SHORT's fair festival efforts [here](#).

For further questions please contact Angelika Prawda at presse@viennashorts.com or +43 681 104 159 16.