

Women in Film – an informal Polish organization gathering over 3000 women working in the film industry - is organizing a conference entitled “50:50 by 2020” on Friday, 21 September 2018 during the Gdynia Film Festival.

Following the inspiring example of fellow women from all over the world and declarations signed in Venice, Toronto, and Locarno, Polish Women in Film have decided to propose a similar approach to Gdynia Film Festival management.

The Polish film industry is indisputably filled with remarkable female talent, such as: Agnieszka Holland, Małgośka Szumowska, and Jagoda Szalc. However, recent research conducted by dr Monika Talarczyk from Łódź Film School, which was commissioned by Krytyka Polityczna (Political Critique) on the basis of data analysed from the Polish Film Institute, leads to a damning conclusion: only 13% of the Polish Film Institute’s budget was allocated to female filmmakers in the last 12 years, which means that 87% of it was given to male directors. Women in Film has therefore decided to host a conference announcing these research findings as well as taking a comparative look at gender equality in film industry funding across Europe. Attendees include Iris Zappe Heller (Deputy Director of the Austrian Film Institute), Madelaine Ekman (Swedish Film Institute expert) and Peter Carpentier (Member Executive Committee of the Federation of European Audiovisual Directors).

Alongside international experts, dr Monika Talarczyk from Łódź Film School is going to present key findings from her analysis of data from the Polish Film Institute.

The management of Gdynia Film Festival will be presented with a pledge similar to those already made at international festivals and its signing is going to be considered a positive move towards greater gender parity in the sector. After the conference, the pledge to promote 50:50 parity at various commissions, juries and other organizations deciding on film funding in Poland will be sent to decision-making bodies, including the Polish Film Institute, the Ministry of Culture, and broadcasting agencies.

On 21 September 2018 at 2 p.m., once the conference concludes, a photo of Women in Film will be taken.

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The conference is supported by: Agnieszka Holland, Jagoda Szalc, Małgośka Szumowska, Klara-Kochańska-Bajon, Julia Kijowska, Anna Radwan, Sonia Bohosiewicz, Gabriela Muskała, Agnieszka Smoczyńska, Kasia Adamik, Olga Chajdas, Ewa Bukowska.