



# GENDER BALANCE IN EUROPEAN ART HOUSE FILMS

AN UPDATE ON CREATIVE AND TECHNICAL ROLES

**EQUAL VOICES**  
*for*  
**EQUAL TALENT**

***Annual Seminar on Gender Equality and  
Inclusivity in the Film Industry***

**Venice - 2 September 2025**

eurimages



Contact: [eurimages.equity@coe.int](mailto:eurimages.equity@coe.int)

# eurimages *in a nutshell*

## MISSION

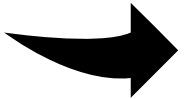
- Supporting the **European film industry** (and beyond)
- Fostering **cross-border cooperation**
- Promoting the **co-production model**

## FOUR SUPPORT PROGRAMMES

1. Cinematographic co-production
2. Promotion of co-productions
3. Exhibition
4. Film marketing & audience development

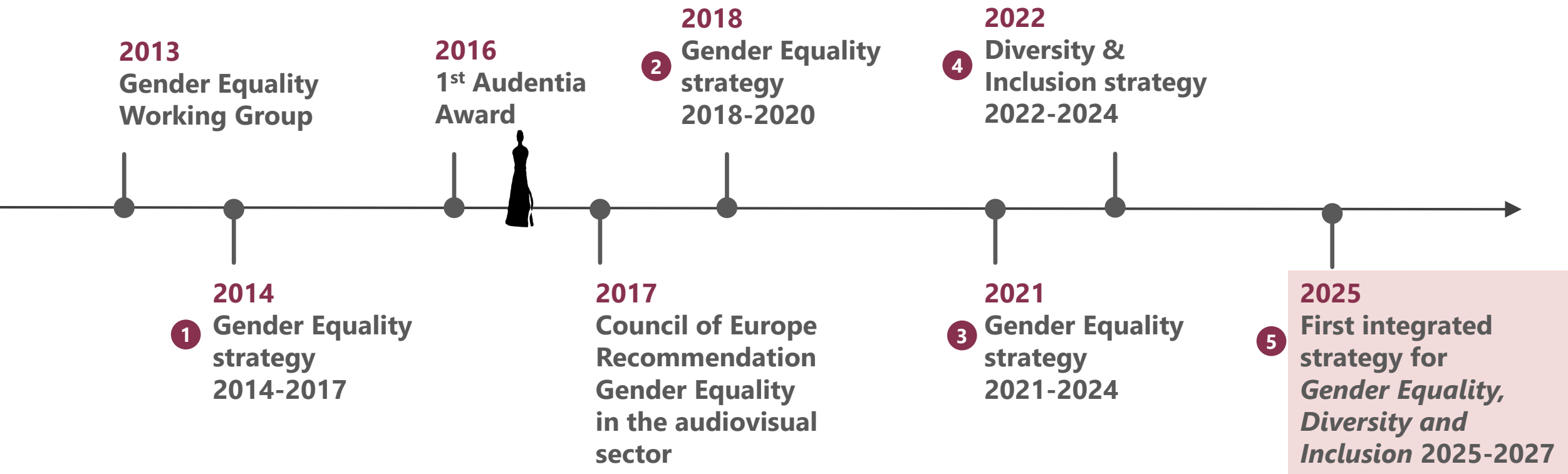
## STRATEGIES

- ✓ *Gender Equality & Diversity*
- ✓ Sustainable Development



# GENDER EQUALITY:

## WHAT HAS BEEN DONE IN THE LAST 10 YEARS?



### Aiming at 50/50:

Since 2022, projects directed by women can apply for support covering up to **25%** of total budget, for all film types.

# Women still under-represented in the film industry

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**26%**  
*of active professionals  
in the European film industry  
are female*

*2023 figures, source: European Audiovisual Observatory*

# **KEY FIGURES:**

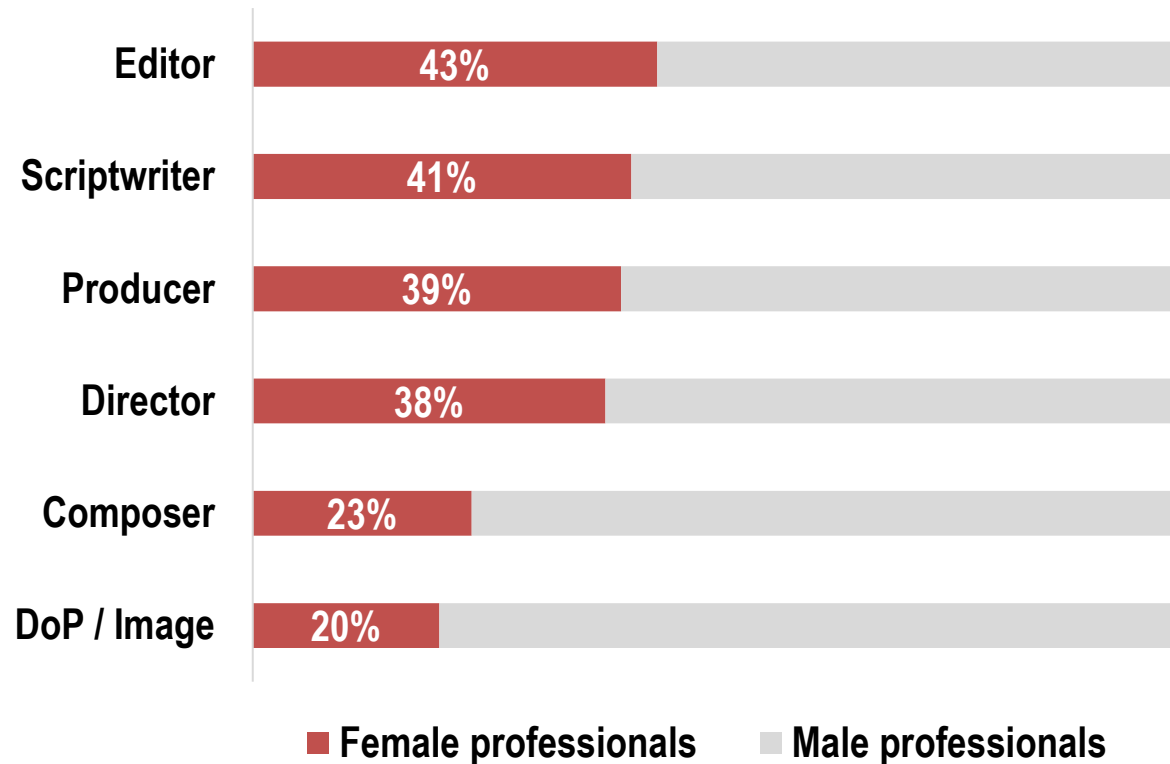
**GENDER BALANCE IN  
CREATIVE AND TECHNICAL TEAMS  
(ELIGIBLE PROJECTS)**

# ARTISTIC ROLES

## ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

*Significant differences in the % of professional assignments covered by women*

% of work assignments by role, by gender of professional (2020-2024)

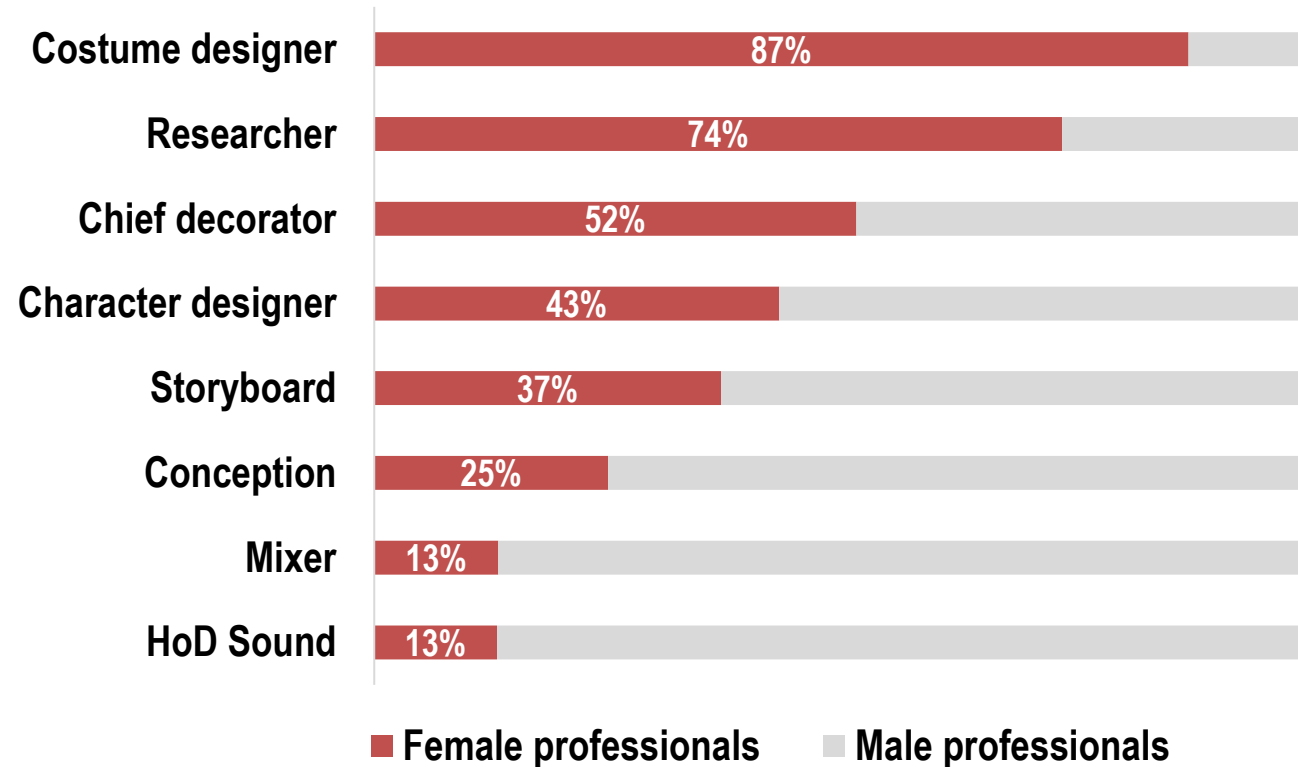


# TECHNICAL ROLES

## ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

*The gender gap is more pronounced among technical roles*

% of work assignments by role, by gender of professional (2020-2024)



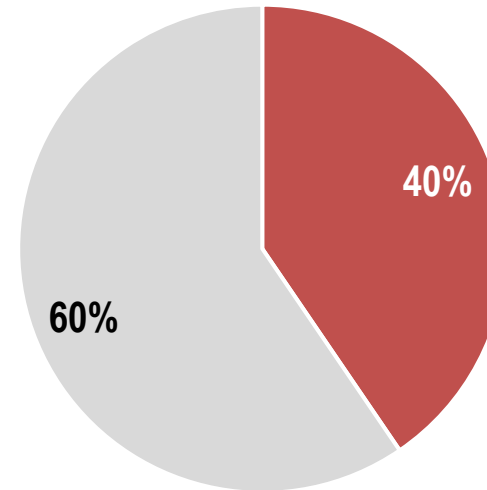
# OVERALL FEMALE PRESENCE #1

## ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

% of work assignments by gender of professional (2020-2024)

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Overall, female professionals hold  
**40%**  
of all work assignments



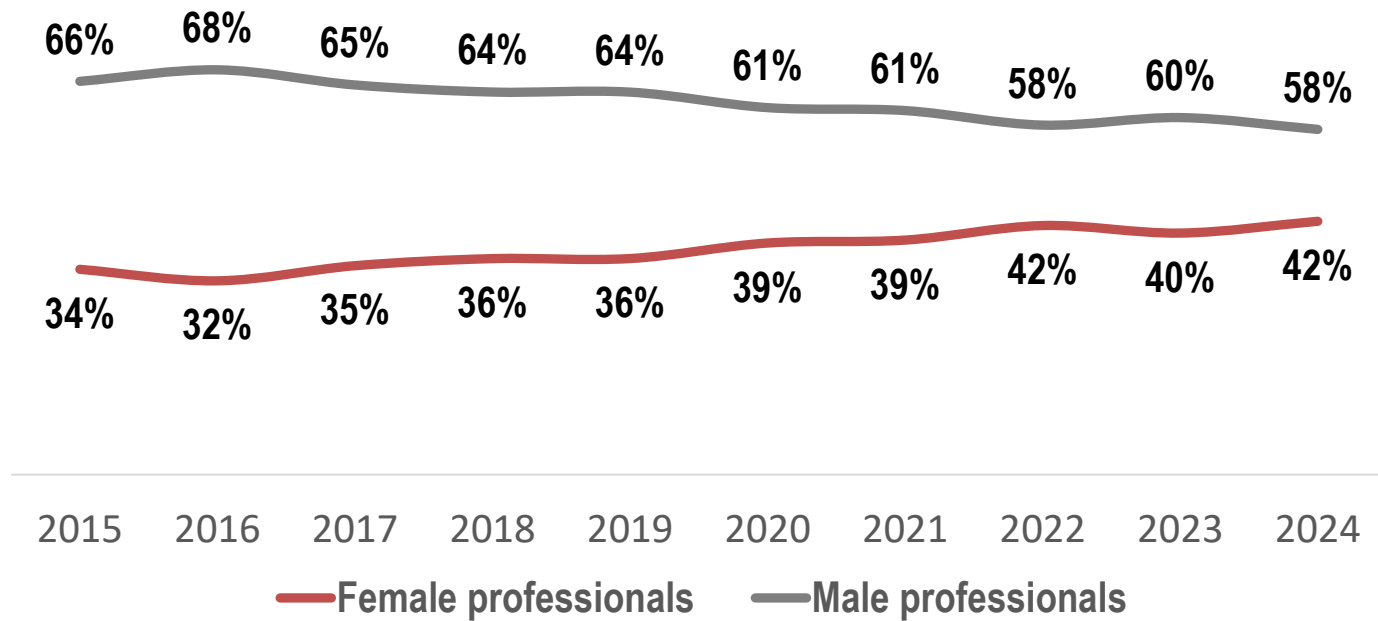
■ Female professionals    ■ Male professionals

# OVERALL FEMALE PRESENCE #2

## ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

*The % of work assignments entrusted to women has steadily increased over time*

% of work assignments, by gender of professional, by year (2015-2024)



# HOW MANY PROJECTS HAVE A MAJORITY OF WOMEN IN THE TEAM?

**More than 60%  
of female roles**



**Female-driven  
projects**



**Between 40% and 60%  
of female roles**



**Balanced  
projects**



**Less than 40%  
of female roles**



**Male-driven  
projects**

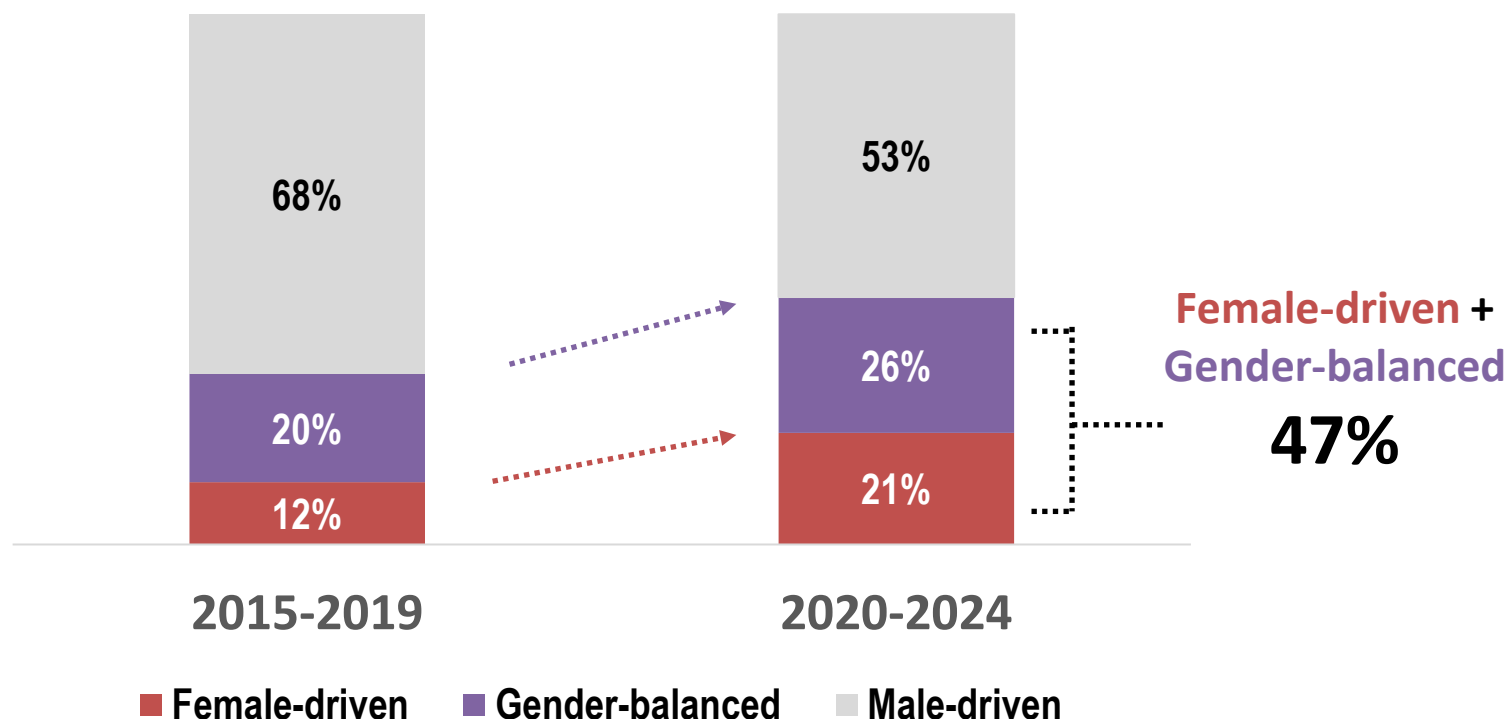


# GENDER OF THE PROJECTS #1

## ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Breakdown of eligible films by gender of the project\* (2015-2019 vs. 2020-2024)  
*In % of projects*

Almost half of the projects were female-driven or gender-balanced over the last 5 years



\* Based on gender composition of cast and crew

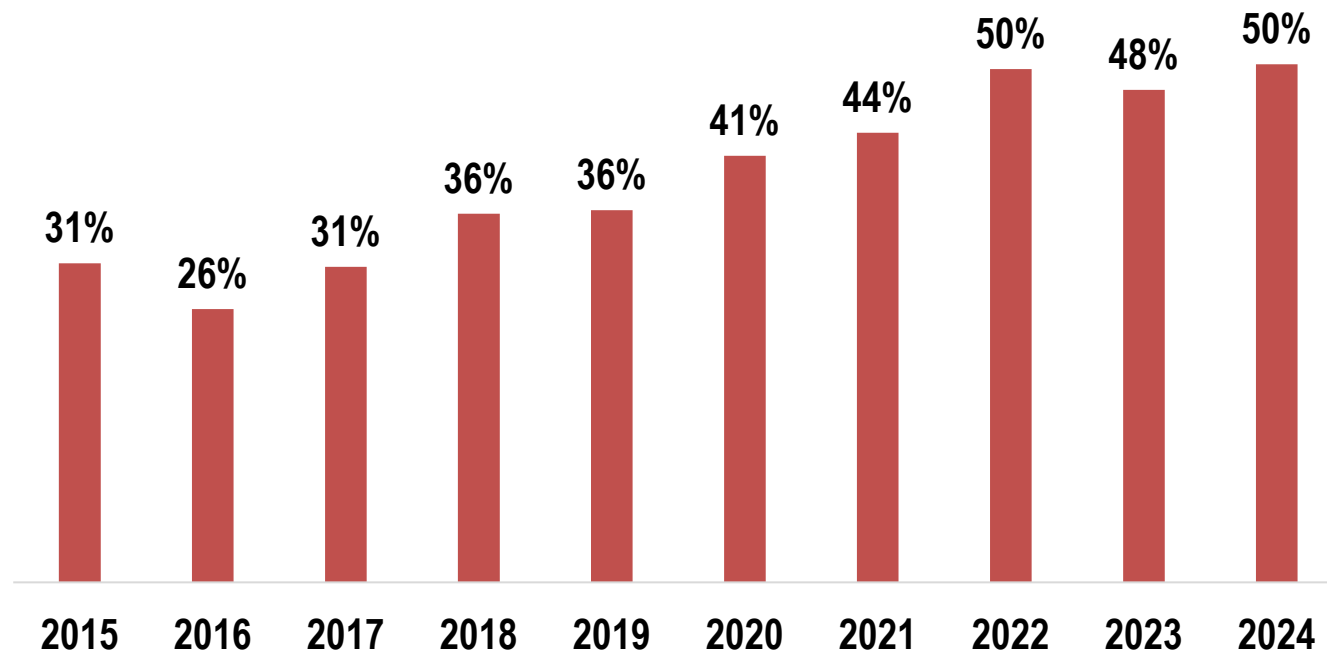
Source: Eurimages

# GENDER OF THE PROJECT #2

## ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

% of gender-balanced and female-driven projects, out of all eligible projects\*  
(2015-2024)

*The % of  
female-driven and  
gender-balanced  
projects has  
consistently grown  
over time*



\* Based on gender composition of cast and crew

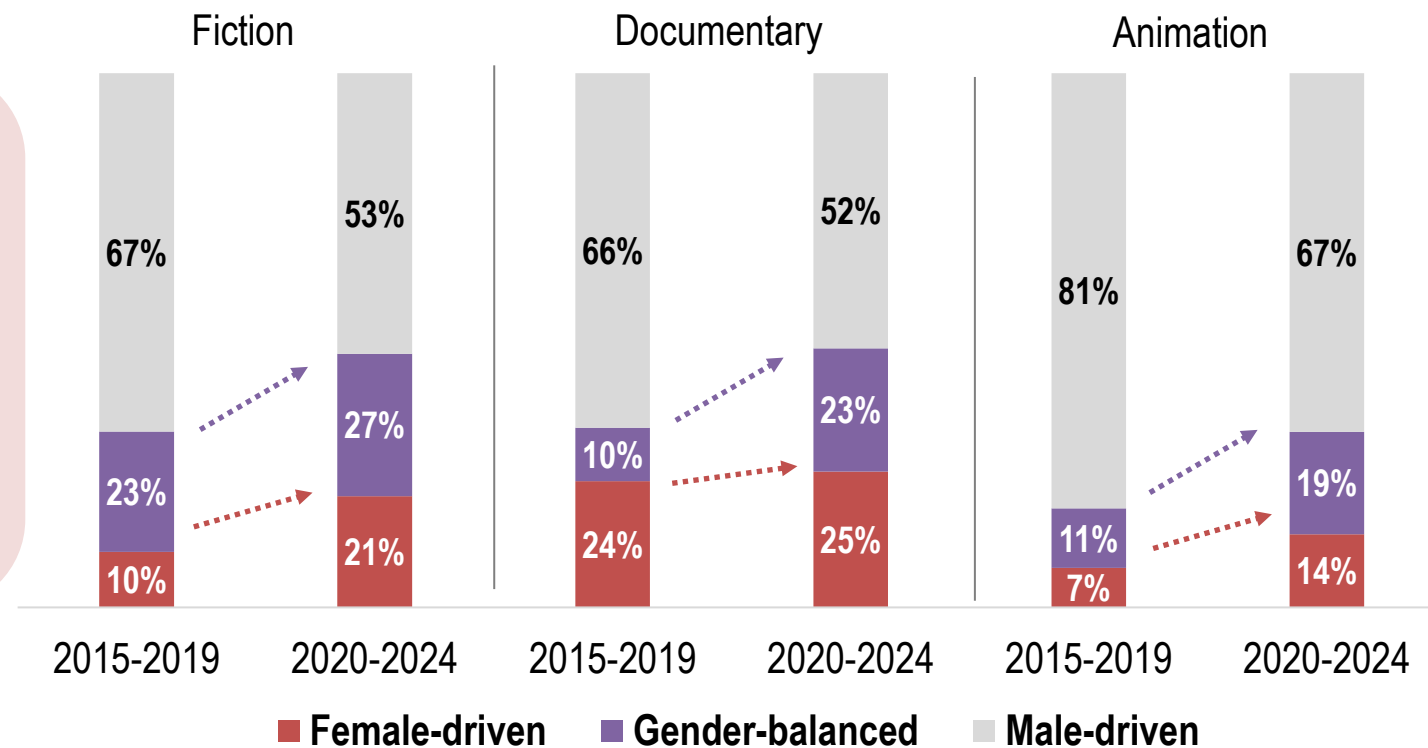
Source: Eurimages

# GENDER OF THE PROJECT #3

## ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

% of eligible films by gender of the projects, by film type\*  
(2015-2019 vs 2020-2024)

*The % of female-driven and gender-balanced projects is higher in documentaries than in other film types*



\* Based on gender composition of cast and crew

# **KEY FIGURES:**

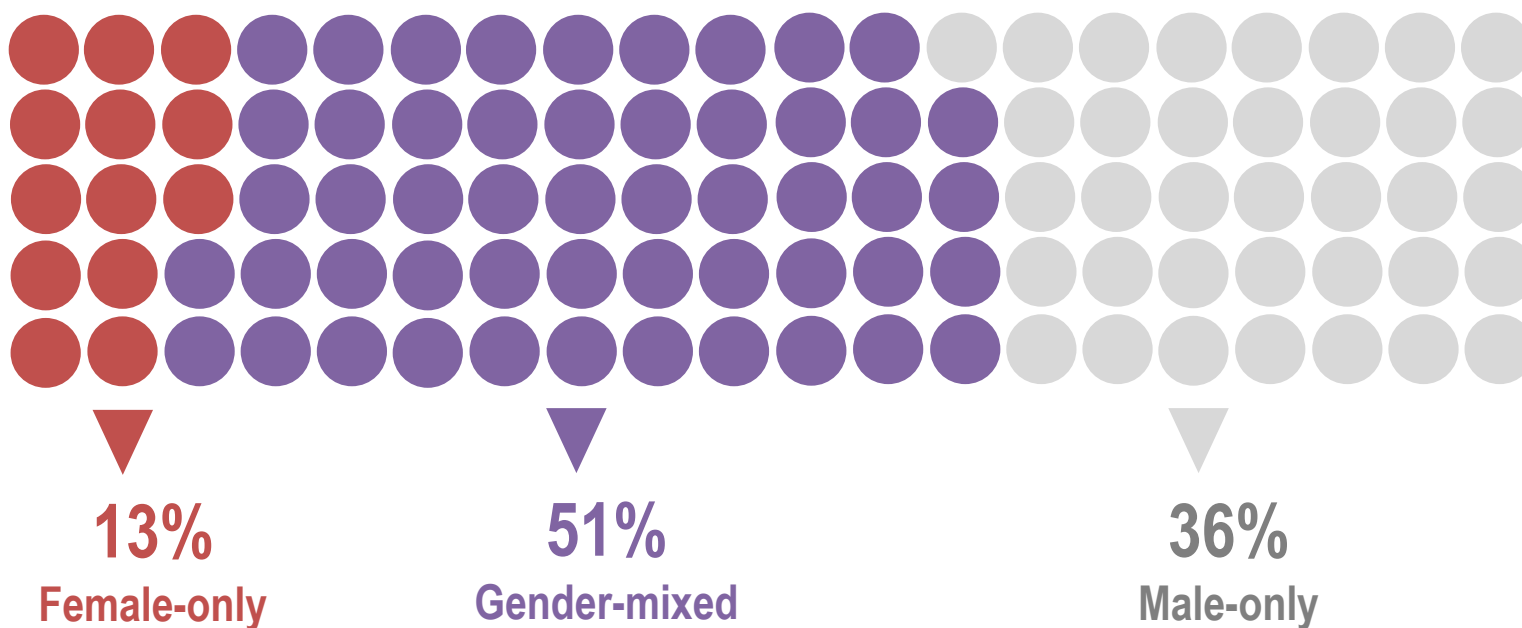
**FOCUS ON PRODUCERS  
(ELIGIBLE PROJECTS)**

# PRODUCERS #1

## ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

**Breakdown of eligible projects by gender composition of producers' teams**  
(2015-2024) - Gender of the representatives of each co-producing company involved in the film.

*Half of eligible  
films had  
gender-mixed  
producers' teams*

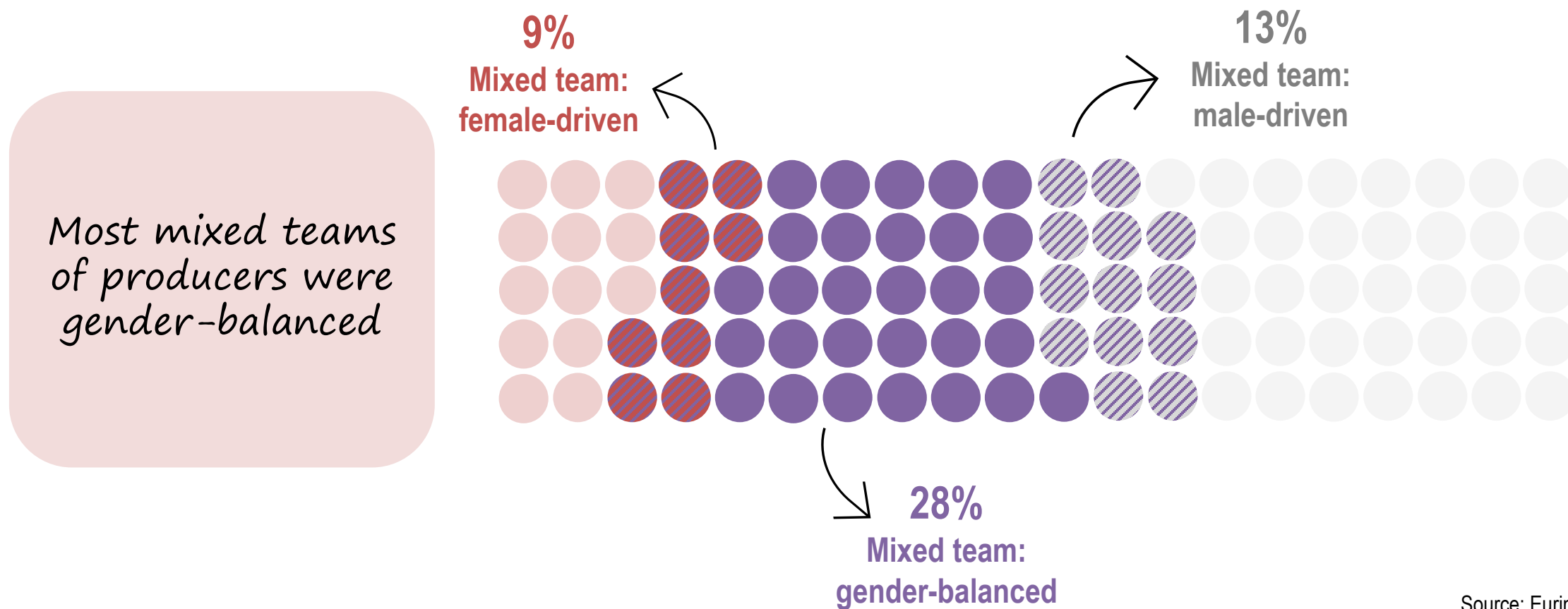


Source: Eurimages

# PRODUCERS #2

## ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

**Breakdown of eligible projects by gender composition of producers' teams**  
(2015-2024) - Gender of the representatives of each co-producing company involved in the film.

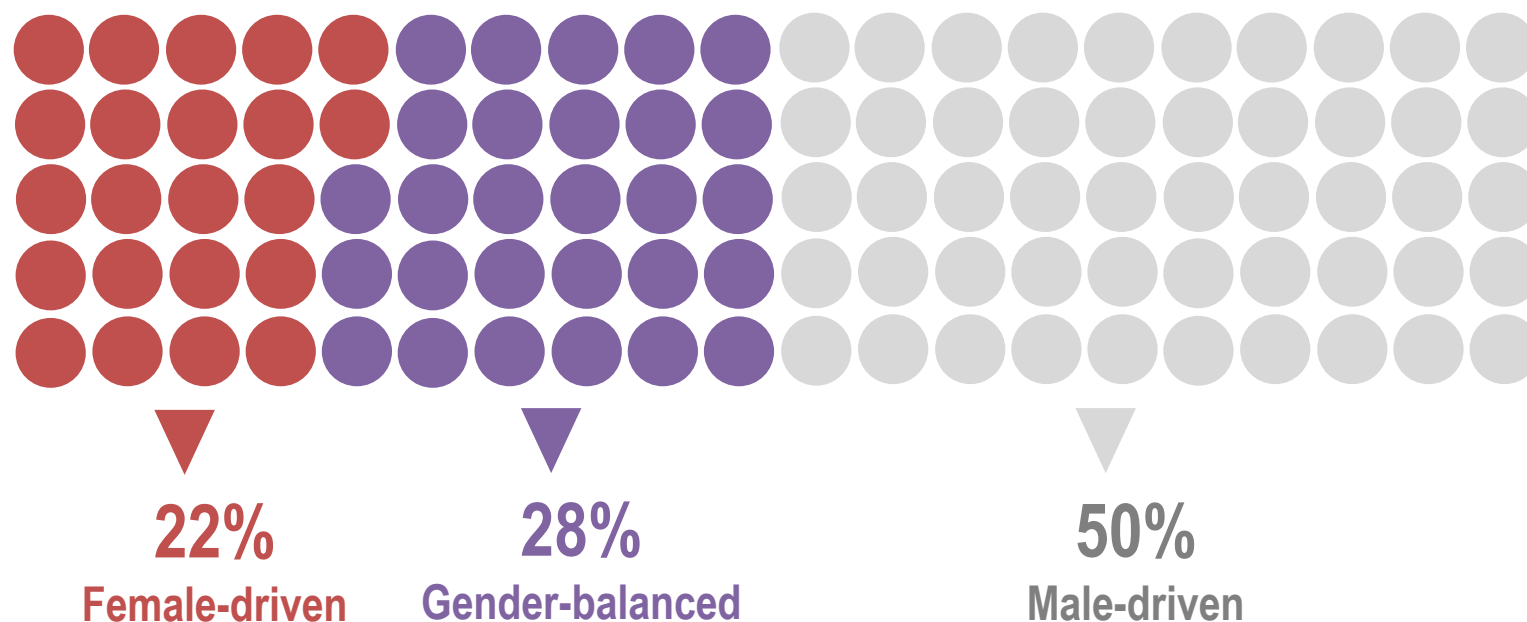


# PRODUCERS 3

## ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

**Breakdown of eligible projects by gender composition of producers' teams  
(2015-2024)** - Gender of the representatives of each co-producing company involved in the film.

*... but, overall, half  
of the projects  
were made by  
male-driven teams  
of producers*

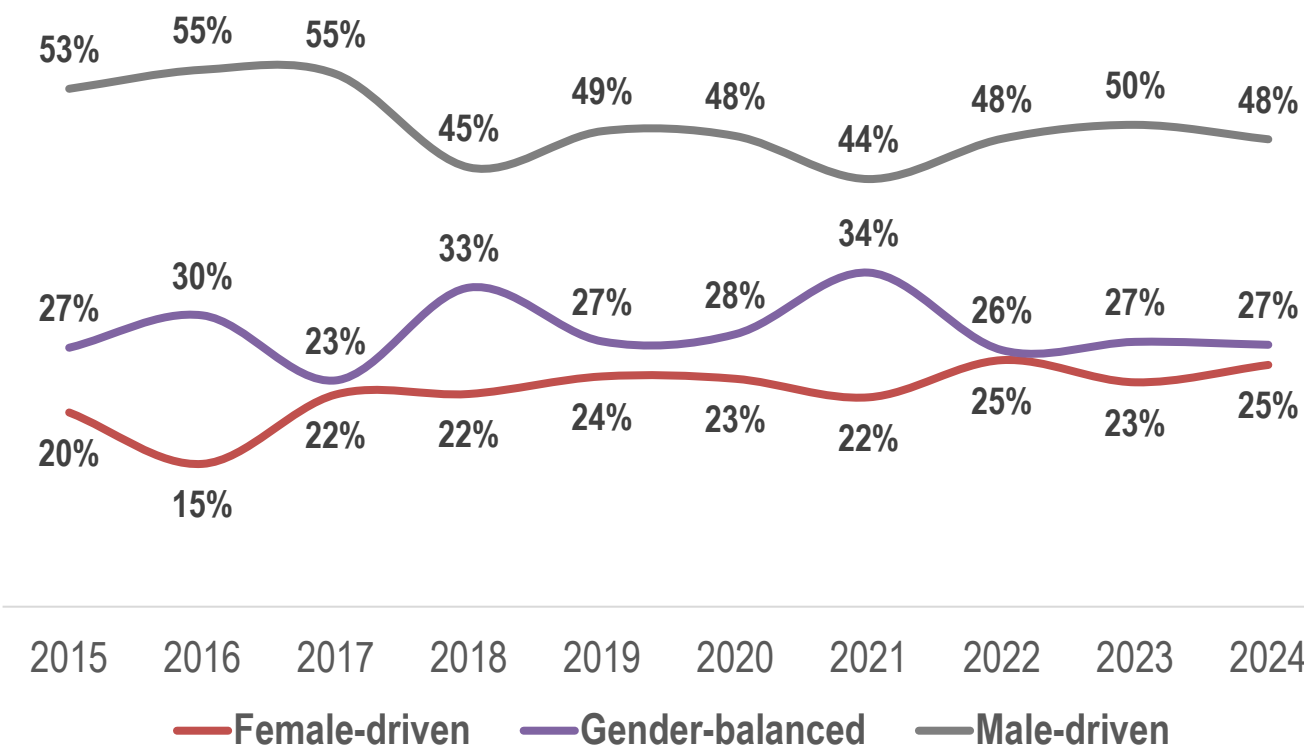


# PRODUCERS 4

## ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

*These percentages have slightly fluctuated over the years*

**Breakdown of eligible projects by gender composition of producers' teams, by year (2015-2024)** - Gender of the representatives of each co-producing company involved in the film.



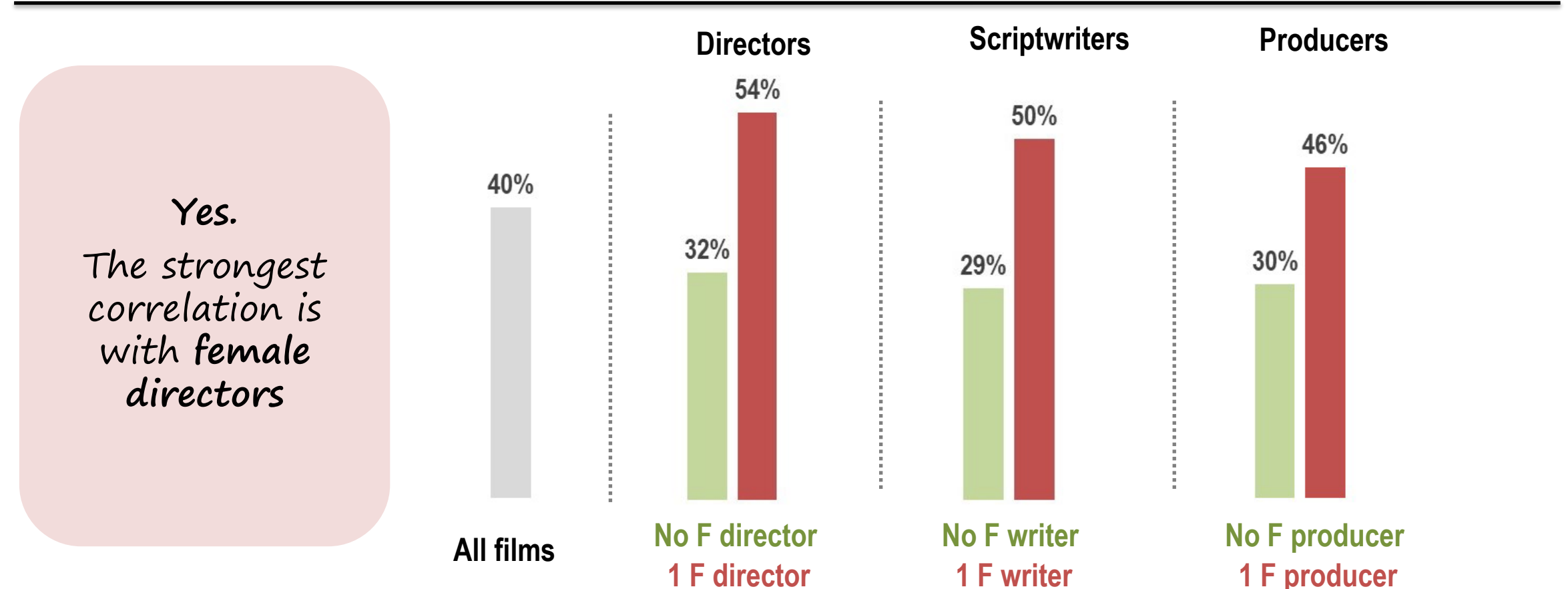
**DOES HAVING A FEMALE  
*DIRECTOR / PRODUCER / SCRIPTWRITER*  
BOOST OVERALL FEMALE PRESENCE?**

# CORRELATION #1

## ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

% of professional assignments covered by women:

All films vs. films by a at least one female director / producer / scriptwriter (2020-2024)



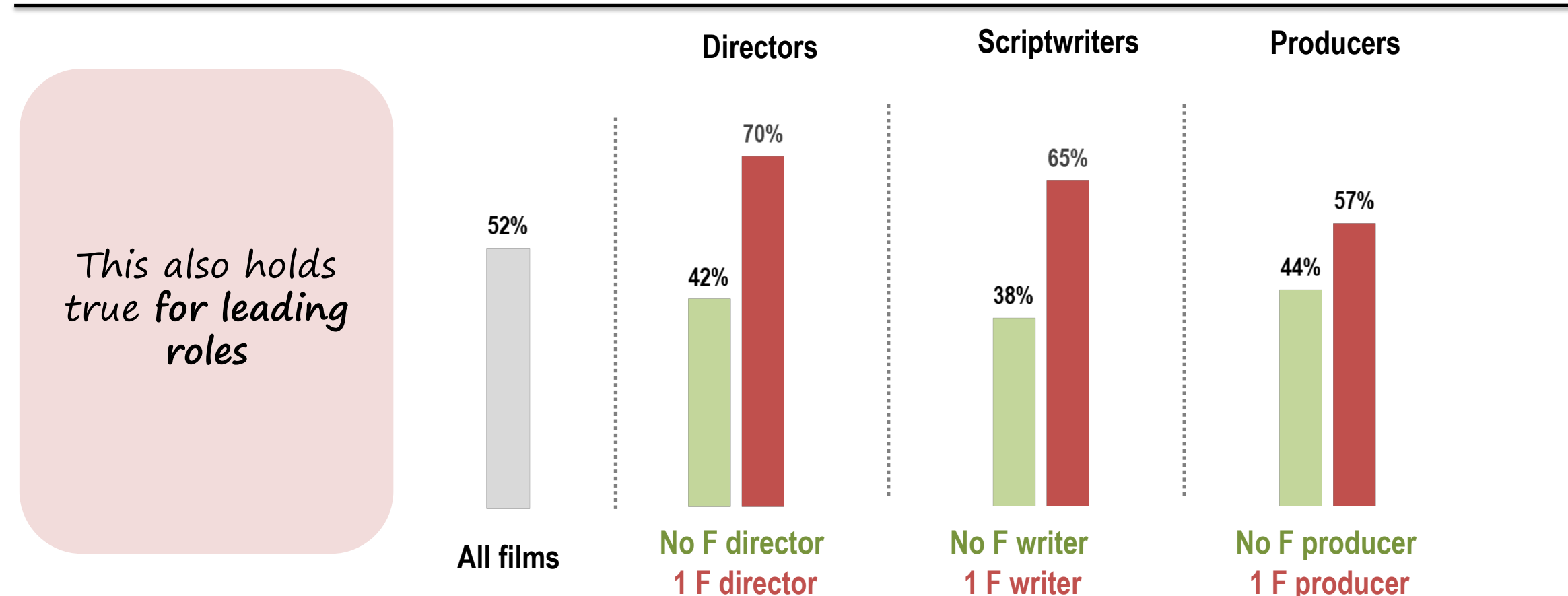
Source: Eurimages

# CORRELATION #2

## ELIGIBLE PROJECTS – LEADING ROLES

% of professional assignments covered by actresses in leading roles:

All films vs. films by a at least one female director / producer / scriptwriter (2020-2024)



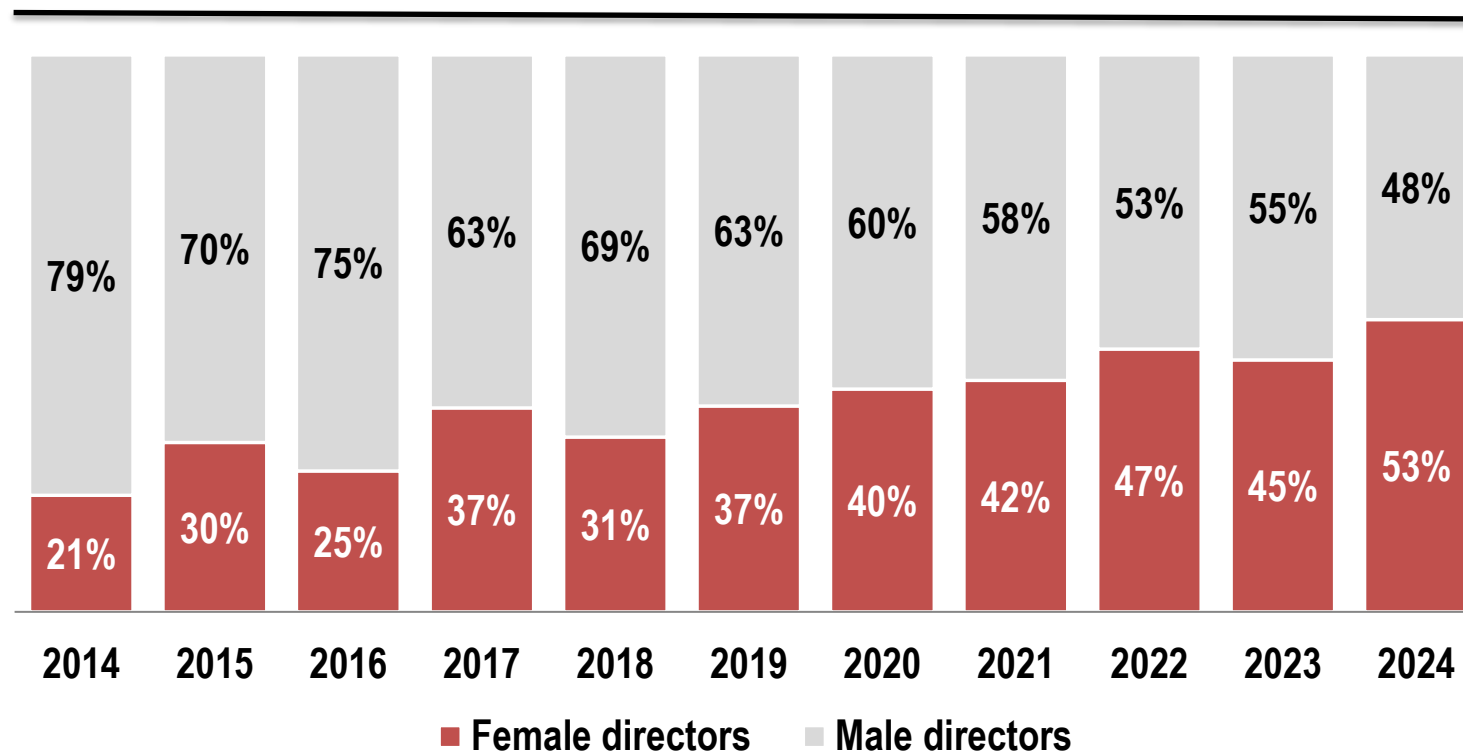
Source: Eurimages

**GENDER EQUALITY  
STRAGIES:  
HAVE THEY MADE  
MADE A DIFFERENCE?**

# DIRECTORS SUPPORTED PROJECTS

*In 2024, for the first time, women directed the majority of funded projects: 53% (or 42 films)*

% of projects supported by Eurimages, by gender of director, by year (2014-2024)



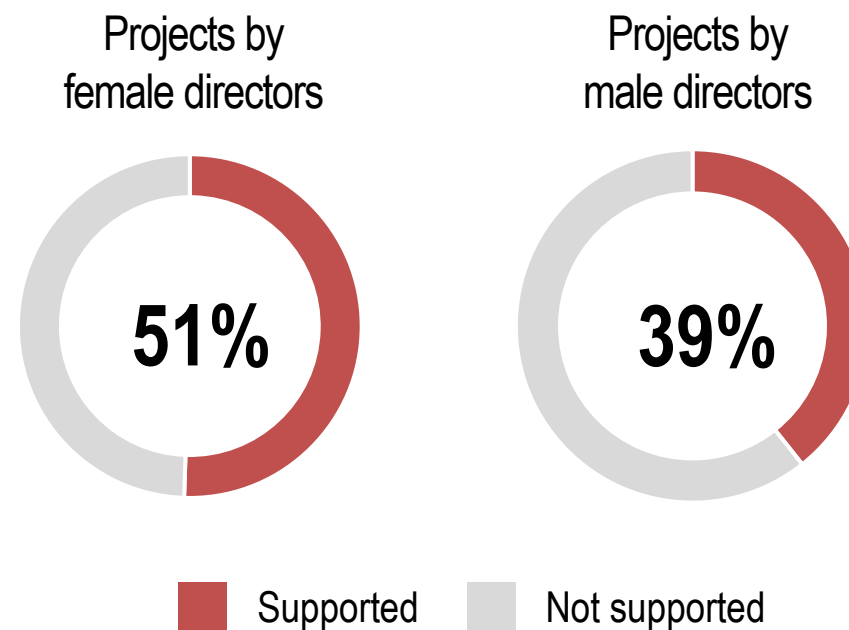
Source: Eurimages

# DIRECTORS

## SELECTION RATE

*On average, films by female directors are more likely to be supported than films by male directors*

% of eligible projects selected for funding, by gender of director (2015-2024)



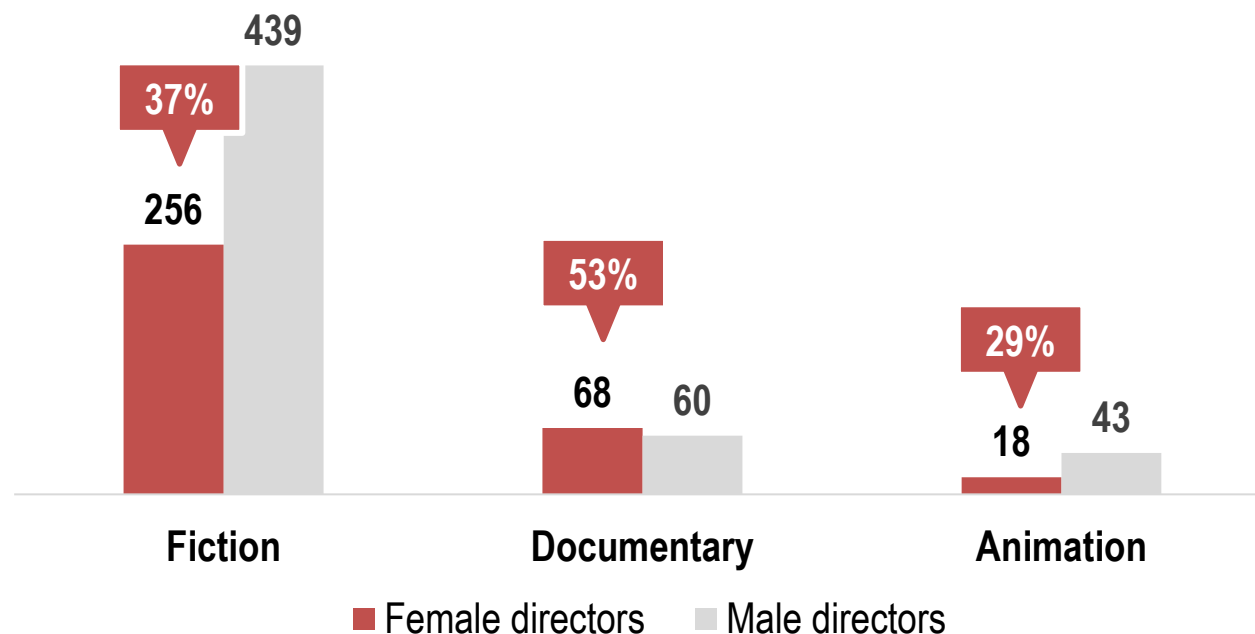
Source: Eurimages

# DIRECTORS

## FILM TYPES SUPPORTED

*Documentary  
Is the film type with  
the highest % of  
female directors*

Number of projects supported by Eurimages, by gender of director, by film type (2015-2024)



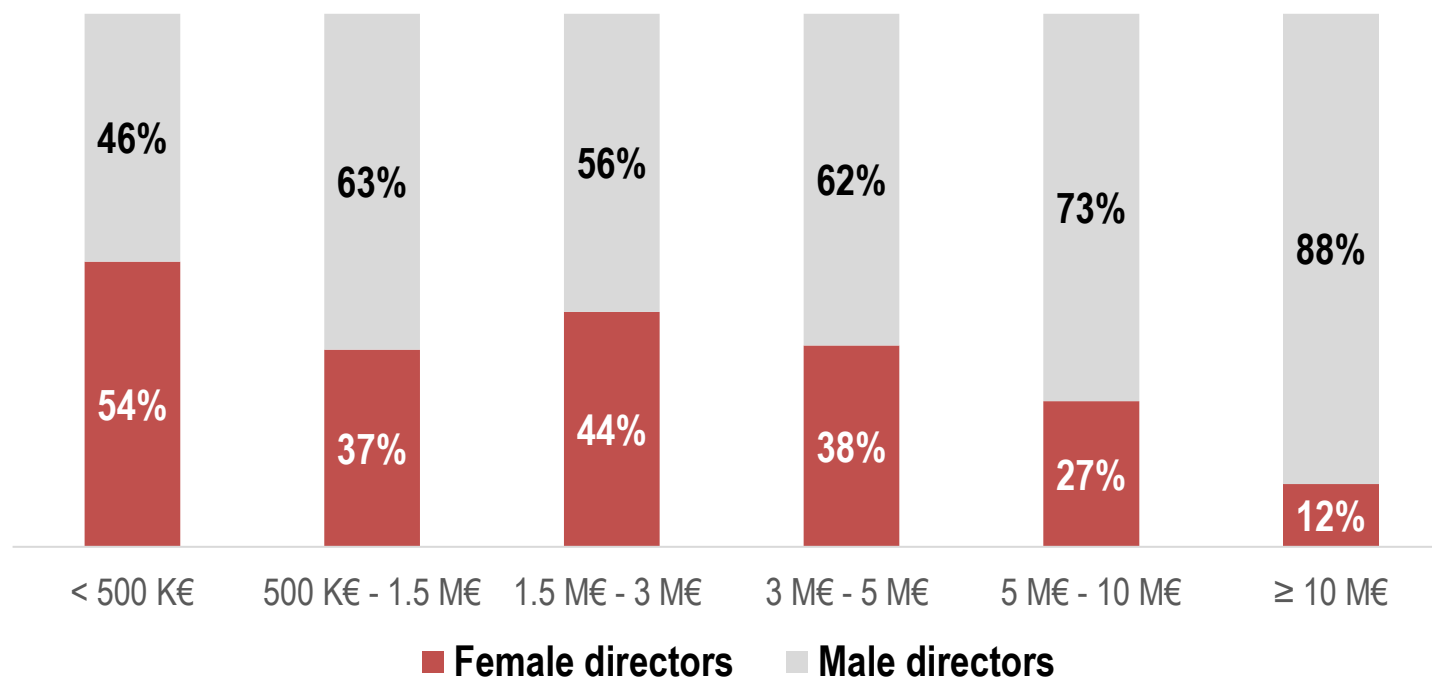
Source: Eurimages

# DIRECTORS

## FILM BUDGETS (SUPPORTED PROJECTS)

Breakdown of projects supported by Eurimages, by gender of director, by budget bracket (2015-2024)

Women still direct fewer high-budget features than to their male counterparts



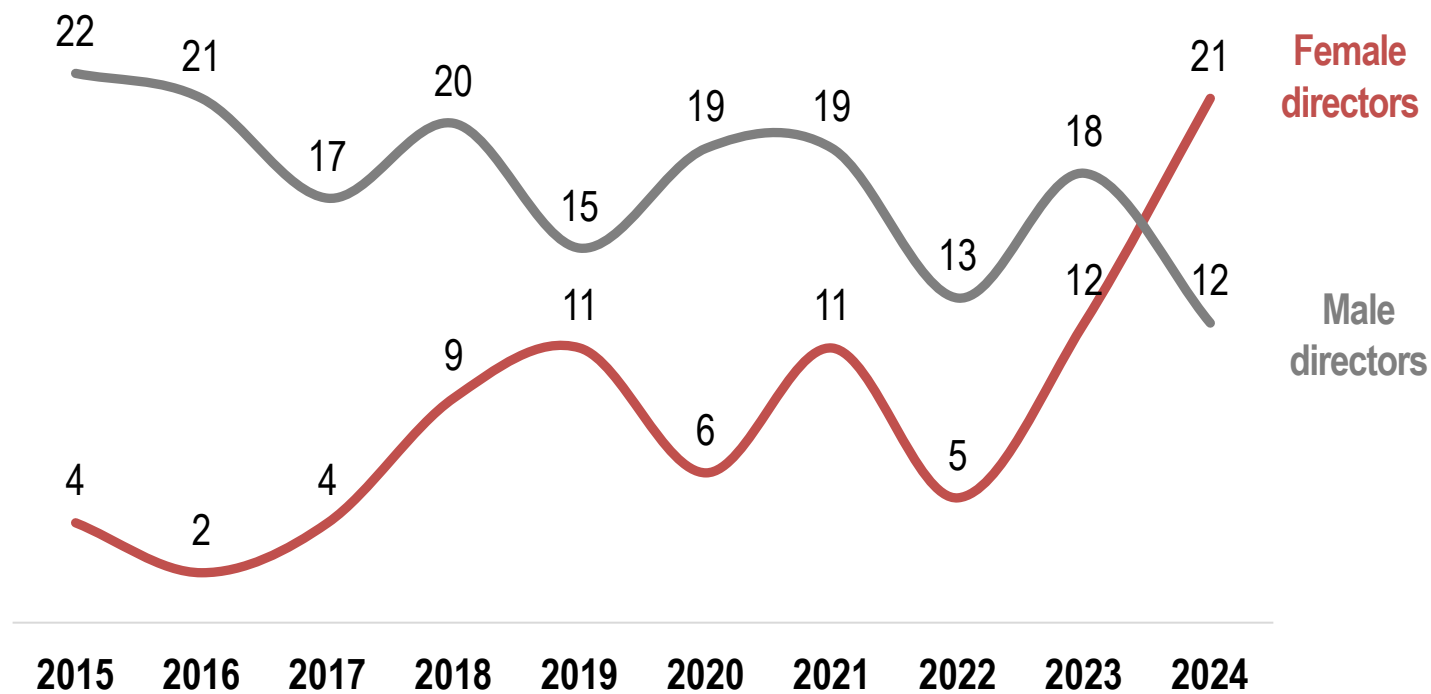
Source: Eurimages

# DIRECTORS

## HIGH-BUDGET FILMS (SUPPORTED PROJECTS)

Number of high-budget projects ( $\geq$  € 3 M) supported by Eurimages,  
by gender of director (2015-2024)

*However, the number  
of high-budget films  
directed by women  
is growing*



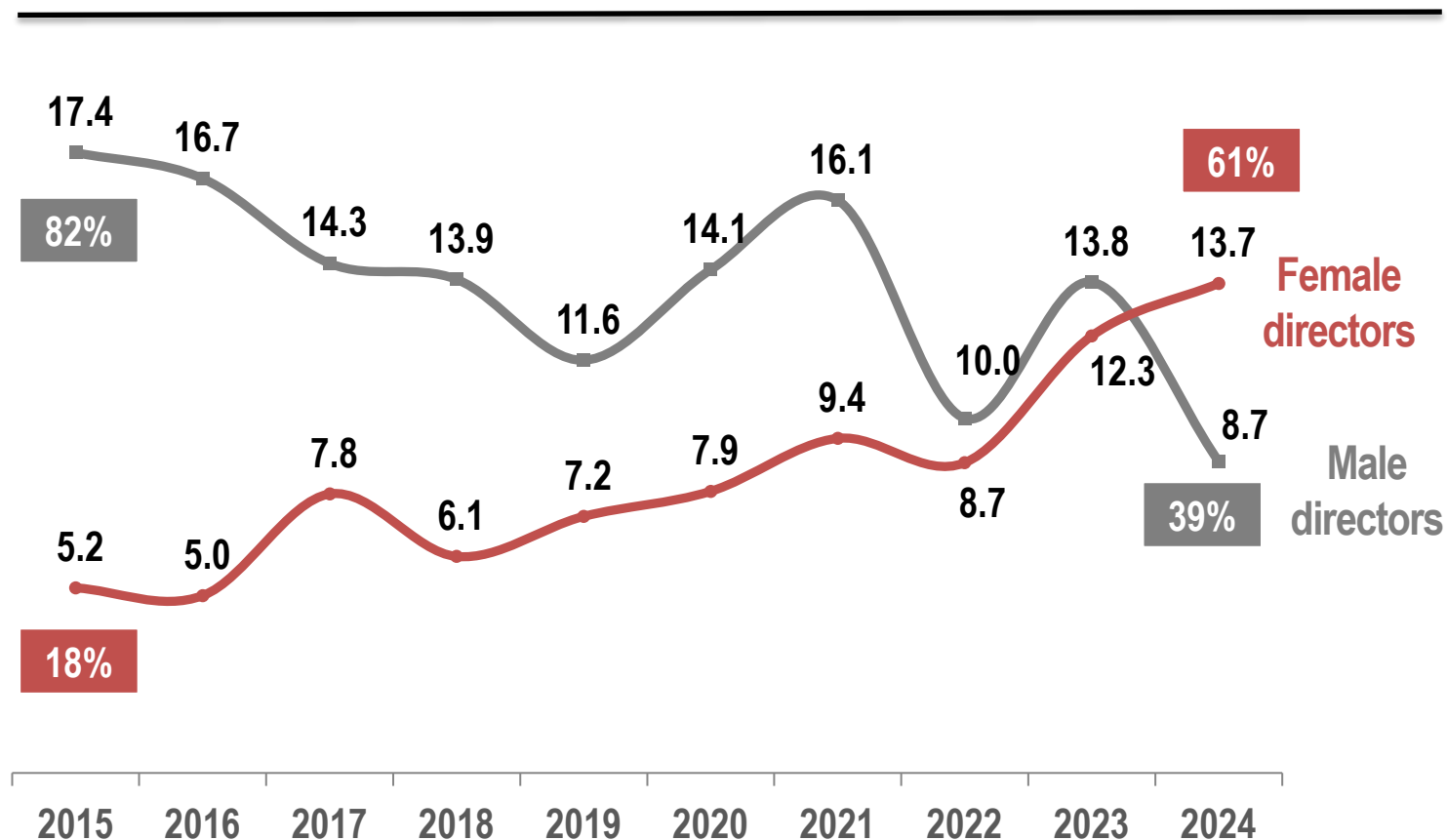
Source: Eurimages

# DIRECTORS

## AMOUNTS AWARDED

61%  
of total support  
was awarded to  
female directors  
in 2024  
(up from 18% in  
2015)

Eurimages support awarded, by gender of director, by year (2015-2024)  
*In € million*



Source: Eurimages

**EURIMAGES  
GENDER EQUALITY,  
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION  
STRATEGY  
2025-2027**

**EURIMAGES  
GEDI  
ACTION PLAN  
2025-2027**

## **5 KEY ACTION AREAS**

- 1. Increasing female presence in creative and technical roles**
- 2. Raise awareness about inequalities off-screen and on-screen**
- 3. Sponsorship and research**
- 4. Data monitoring**
- 5. GEDI mainstreaming**

**EURIMAGES  
GEDI  
ACTION PLAN  
2025-2027**

## **1. Increasing female presence in creative and technical roles**

*Attracting more female-driven applications  
and increase the presence of female crew  
members in underrepresented positions*

*Focus on:*

- ▶ *Increased support for films by female-directors (25% incentive)*
- ▶ *Director's gender taken into account in experts' recommendations for support*
- ▶ *Audentia Award*

**EURIMAGES  
GEDI  
ACTION PLAN  
2025-2027**

## **2. Raising awareness about inequalities**

*Considering on-screen and off-screen representations of women and minorities*

*Focus on:*

- ▶ *Encouraging producers to provide relevant information in their application for funding (e.g. previous collaborations, awards, current work on diversity and inclusion, Bechdel-Wallace test)*
- ▶ *Maximising visibility for initiatives and best practices*

**EURIMAGES  
GEDI  
ACTION PLAN  
2025-2027**

### **3. Sponsorship and research**

*Expanding the scope of gender equality sponsorship and patronage activities to include diversity and inclusion*

*What's next:*

► *Call for proposals for renewable sponsorship agreements, covering a maximum period of 3 years*

**EURIMAGES  
GEDI  
ACTION PLAN  
2025-2027**

## 4. Data monitoring

*CoE Recommendation on Gender Equality in the Audiovisual Sector (2017)*

*Focus on:*

- ▶ *Monitoring the impact of the 25% incentive for projects by female directors*
- ▶ *Exploring data collection methodologies on GEDI indicators*

**EURIMAGES**  
**GEDI**  
**ACTION PLAN**  
**2025-2027**

## **5. GEDI mainstreaming**

*Identifying barriers to inclusion and exploring opportunities for improving accessibility within the Fund*

*Focus on:*

- ▶ *Gender-sensitive language*
- ▶ *Fostering a more inclusive organisational culture*



**EQUAL VOICES**  
for  
**EQUAL TALENT**



**MORE INFORMATION**  
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