



Press Release  
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## VdR–Industry: It’s a wrap !

**After an intense and fruitful week of meetings, pitchings, showcases, talks, labs and awards, this year’s VdR-Industry activities come to an end today. 703 directors, producers, decision makers and other professionals with 44 projects from 35 countries attended the hybrid event.**

« More than ever, this year’s VdR-Industry activities aimed at supporting independent documentary filmmaking in all its diversity, allowing its stakeholders to work, network and connect to each other despite the current restrictions and the difficulties for many film professionals to travel», Madeline Robert, Head of Industry and Artistic Advisor of Visions du Réel said. «We accredited more than 1670 international industry and film professionals, following us both online and in person. »

### VdR–Industry Awards and Activities

*The Vanishing, Yoga Village, Science Fiction and Transfariana* are among the [winning projects](#) of the Visions du Réel industry awards. The 17 VdR–Pitching and VdR–Work in Progress awards, including three new cash prizes, went to 16 projects. The pitchings, round-table and work-in-progress sessions, live presentations, individual meetings, showcases as well as the Rough Cut Lab run from April 14 to April 22, both in person and online, hosted in a new digital environment created by WYTH.

### Opening Scenes Lab

Opening Scenes Lab is a tailor-made programme for filmmakers presenting their first short film or student film in the Official Selection, inviting them to learn more about the international market and its decision makers. The 2021 activities took place both online and on-site. Teboho Edkins (director, producer and writer) and Wouter Jansen (Square Eyes) were tutoring 18 international and Swiss filmmakers who also participated in numerous talks and professional sessions.

### Industry Talks

Always revolving around the latest burning questions in the field, the Industry talks represent a crucial moment of interaction about the most urgent topics. Replay this year’s Talks on the Festival website:

Talk 1: [Filmmaking and Resistance](#)

Talk 2: [Film Festivals, Distribution and Strategy – One Year Later](#)

Talk 3: [Filmmakers and Producers at Work](#)


### VdR–Film Market

The VdR–Film Market hosted 100 more films this year compared to the last (which amounts to a total of over 500 films) and welcomed films from new institutional and international sales partners. The Film Market is an online platform for key industry professionals, festival programmers and buyers,

Partenaire principal    Partenaire média    Partenaires institutionnels

la Mobilière

SRG SSR

 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Bundesamt für Kultur BAK  
Office fédéral de la culture OFC

Direktion für Entwicklung und Zusammenarbeit DEZA  
Direction du développement et de la coopération DDC

 canton de  
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offering them access to a selection of new creative documentaries. Industry professionals can access the platform until July 25, 2021.

### Switzerland Meets Italy

Switzerland meets... is an opportunity for Swiss producers and representatives of public financing and television to meet a delegation from a country having a co-production treaty with Switzerland, to encourage co-production, networking and collaborations. Following the success of the bilateral meetings with the Fédération Wallonie Bruxelles, Québec and the United Kingdom, resulting in several concrete co-productions, a bilateral co-production meeting between Switzerland and Italy was organised in 2021. All Switzerland Meets Italy activities took place on-site in Nyon, welcoming a group of producers – 6 experienced personalities from Italy and Switzerland respectively – and enabling them to present themselves, their work and their companies. Replays are available [here](#).

### Prix RTS: Perspectives d'un Doc

Prix RTS: Perspectives d'un Doc is a pitching session organised in collaboration with the French Swiss Television aiming to promote projects from French-speaking Switzerland that are in their development stage. Producers and filmmakers pitched the selected projects to a jury of professionals and in an open session that took place on-site. The Prix RTS worth 10,000 Swiss francs will be awarded on Friday April 23. The hybrid award ceremony will be held in attendance of RTS' CEO, Pascal Crittin.

### In Between

In two artists' work sessions, In Between is an event meant for artists, producers and other professionals from both the visual arts and film contexts to meet and work around the development of two projects. Two artists' duos convened in fruitful meetings with a table of 5-6 industry professionals, including producers, curators, film funds and foundations' representatives.

### SWISS FILMS previews

SWISS FILMS Previews presents high-end swiss documentary films at a production stage. In collaboration with Visions du Réel, SWISS FILMS presented promising and upcoming Swiss documentary films in production, which are about to be launched on the festival circuit and for worldwide distribution. The SWISS FILMS Previews offered sales agents, international distributors and festival delegates the opportunity to discover these new documentaries. Each film was presented with a pitch and a moderated Q&A with the producer and/or the director.

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