



Press release

14 February 2023, Nyon

VdR–Industry future-proofs the VdR–Development Lab, unveiling the 2023 selection

VdR–Industry – Visions du Réel’s flagship platform for cinema professionals – has unveiled the participants of the 2023 VdR–Development Lab. After a pilot edition in 2022, the VdR–Industry team is thrilled to announce that the programme will run until at least 2026. Launched with the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), it is specifically reserved for priority countries in Africa, the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Asia, as part of the Swiss International Cooperation Strategy. The VdR–Development Lab aims to foster creativity, encourage experience sharing and offer long-term support to five feature films in development, tailored to the pace of each project.

The development stage is an initial but pivotal phase in a film’s inception. Yet it often goes overlooked in the professional sections of film festivals today, which tend instead to focus their attention on the challenges around directing, financing and production. With this in mind, VdR–Industry created the VdR–Development Lab to fill the gap and complement the platform’s other activities in a relevant way, focusing on each stage of a film’s creation up to post-production.

With its hybrid format, the VdR–Development Lab aims to prepare these projects for their entrance on the market, prior to the financing stage. It consists of group discussions, tailored advice by experts delivered online (March to December), and a face-to-face workshop in Nyon during the Festival (21 to 30 April 2023). The programme encourages people to share their experiences, hosting both emerging and established directors and producers alike, such as Lebanese filmmaker Corine Shawi and Macedonian director Aneta Lesnikovska. The chosen projects also benefit from a grant of 2,000 Swiss Francs to support research, writing or the production of promotional material. The VdR–Development Lab focuses its efforts on promising projects that require the support and practical tools needed to break into the international market.

VdR–Development Lab 2023

Just Like a Dream by **Corine Shawi**

Production: Nancy Sabbagh
Lebanon

Olympic Rifle by **Manuel Muñoz**

Production: Mauricio S. Burckhardt (Haus Kino)
Honduras, Colombia

The Road Ahead by **Carla Valdés León**

Production: Rosa María Rodríguez (GatoRosa Films) and Carla Valdés León
Cuba

The Birdwatcher by **Sai Kong Kham**
Production: Lin Sun Oo (Tagu Films)
Myanmar

Few Monuments More, Few People Less by **Aneta Lesnikovska**
Production: Kornelija Ristovska, Aneta Lesnikovska (AKA Film)
North Macedonia

The full Visions du Réel and VdR–Industry programme will be announced in detail on 28 March 2023.
Accreditation for professionals will open on 13 March.

Questions from professionals relating to VdR–Industry can be sent to industry@visionsdureel.ch

The VdR–Industry programme is supported by the **Federal Office of Culture (FOC) / MEDIA Desk Switzerland** and the **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)**.

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