



Press release

Nyon, 22 April 2026

For immediate release

VdR–Industry 2026: Celebrating This Year’s Award Winners

Following four days of project presentations, curated meetings, and industry conversations, Visions du Réel unveils the award recipients of the 24th edition of VdR–Industry. In a joyful atmosphere, more than CHF 80’000 in cash and in-kind prizes were awarded to 12 projects at the 2026 Visions du Réel Industry Awards Ceremony in Nyon. Among this year’s awards was the third edition of the Eurimages Co-Production Development Award, which grants €20,000 to support international co-productions at an early stage. The ceremony also marked the final edition of the visions sud est Award, which has long encouraged independent film production in countries with low production capacities through a CHF 10’000 prize.

Sabine Fayoux Cantillo, who concluded her first edition as Head of Industry, reflected on the awards: *“Our juries had the exciting, and challenging, task of making decisions that can really have an impact on a project’s trajectory. It has been wonderful to witness the depth, breadth, and range of projects recognized across this year’s awards. Visions du Réel extends its heartfelt congratulations to all the awarded teams, as well as to every project that participated in this year’s edition. We are excited to see these films move into their next stage with the right support and collaborators around them”.*

Eurimages Co-production Development Award

Uganda by **Daniel Mann** and produced by La Bête and Acqua Alta received the **Eurimages Co-production Development Award**. The prize is designed to encourage international co-production from the initial stages of a project. The jury consisted of Karim Aïtouna (Producer, Haut les Mains Productions), Salomé Jashi (Filmmaker and Chairperson of the Documentary Association Georgia) and Ilse Ronteltap (International Officer of the Netherlands Film Fund). In its statement, the jury said: *“In our deliberations, we were particularly drawn to a project that demonstrates a strong and distinctive artistic vision, combined with a thoughtful and coherent approach to form. The filmmaker shows a confident use of irony and subtle, at times absurd humour, building a layered narrative within a complex and delicate structure. We were especially struck by the project’s ability to engage with historical material in a way that feels both inventive and critically aware. It approaches its subject with sensitivity and precision, while opening up meaningful reflections on how the past continues to resonate in the present. The jury also wishes to highlight the strength of the collaboration behind the project, which brings together a clear and proven creative partnership”.*

visions sud est Award

Job 1:21 by **Samuel Suffren** and produced by Kit Films and Les Films du Bilboquet received the **visions sud est Award**. The jury included Sarah Schiesser (Deputy Head of Open Doors at Locarno Film Festival), John Canciani (Artistic Director of Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur) and Stefanie Rusterholz (Co-director of trigon-film). The jury stated: *“The visions sud est jury was moved by the intense impression of different systems of belief, and of parts of stories that are being shaped. We would like to offer this support to a project in the making, which we believe will bring an underrepresented region to the global screens, to find its final form and full potential”.*

A total of 12 projects received awards as part of the 2026 VdR–Industry programme, marking the conclusion of this year’s industry activities. Visions du Réel continues until Sunday, April 26, with the festival awards to be announced on Friday, April 24.

Main partner

la Mobilière

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LOTÉRIE
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The 2026 VdR–Industry Award recipients are:

Eurimages

Co-production Development Award

€20,000 in cash, this award has been created to promote the Fund's role in encouraging international co-production from the initial stages of a project.

[Uganda](#)

Daniel Mann

Production: La Bête, Acqua Alta

France

visions sud est Award

CHF 10'000 in cash awarded to the best project from the South (Africa, Latin America and Asia) or from Eastern Europe ([according to SDC's eligibility country list](#)) presented at either the VdR–Pitching, VdR–Work in Progress or VdR–Rough Cut Lab.

[Job 1:21](#)

Samuel Suffren

Production: Les Films du Bilboquet, Kit Films

France, Haiti

RTS Award

A €10,000 RTS pre-buy of one project pitched at the VdR–Pitching showcase.

[TRADE](#)

Todd Chandler

Production: Spectrascopic, AJNA Films, Breezy Circle

United States

Lightdox Award

€3,000 in cash awarded to the project with highest international potential at the VdR–Pitching showcase.

[TRADE](#)

Todd Chandler

Production: Spectrascopic, AJNA Films, Breezy Circle

United States

The Party Film Sales Award

€3,000 in cash awarded to the project with highest international potential at the VdR–Work in Progress showcase.

[My Skin and I](#)

Milton Guillén & Fiona Guy Hall

Production: Mayana Films, Solaris Films

Germany, United States, Nicaragua

IDA Documentary Culture Award

\$2,000 USD in cash and two passes to Getting Real '26 to a project that embodies a thriving and inclusive documentary culture – in its making, its vision, and its reach.

[Hello ?!](#)

Sofie Benoot

Production: Quetzalcoatl, Altitude100, GROM, guča films

Belgium, Netherlands, Slovakia

Tënk Opening Scenes Award

Purchase of distribution rights for one film of the Opening Scenes section.

[Welcome to Set](#)

Cyan Bae

Production: Pingping Press

Netherlands

Tënk Post-production Award

Sound post-production facilities at Tënk studios (France) including 2 weeks in the mixing studio and 1 week in the Auditorium.

[Stuttering Fluidity – How My Father Became a Sea Creature](#)

Stefan Pavlovic

Production: Serendipity Films, artTrace Foundation

France, Netherlands

Unifrance Doc Award in partnership with TitraFilm

Subtitles creation (to the value of €2,300) sponsored by TitraFilm and one Unifrance membership (value of €1,590) for the French producer attached to the project.

[Tranposition](#)

Vladlena Sandu

Production: Dieptescherpte BV

Netherlands

Masé Studios & Color Grade Award

Creation of a DCP package for one project pitched at the VdR–Work in Progress showcase. DCP made by Color Grade with capacity to screen a projection in the Masé Studios Atmos Cinema-certified auditorium A (Geneva).

[My Skin and I](#)

Milton Guillén & Fiona Guy Hall

Production: Mayana Films, Solaris Films

Germany, United States, Nicaragua

Raggioverde Subtitling Award

Subtitles creation including translation in one language.

[La Linda](#)

Francina Carbonell

Production: María una vez, Gema Films

Chile, Argentina

Cannes Docs Award

Invitation to feature as a Cannes Docs 'Spotlighted Project', including two complimentary Marché du Film – Festival de Cannes badges valid for the 2026 or 2027 edition.

[Stuttering Fluidity – How My Father Became a Sea Creature](#)

Stefan Pavlovic

Production: Serendipity Films, artTrace Foundation

France, Netherlands

No Nation Films Fellowship Award

Six Month Fellowship aimed at giving support, guidance, counsel and mentorship to exceptional documentary film teams from around the globe who find themselves grappling with challenges and in vulnerable circumstances for one project in the VdR–Rough Cut Lab.

[The People Outside](#)

Jewel Maranan
Production: Cinema Is Incomplete
Philippines

DOK Leipzig Award

Two accreditations and four nights accommodation at DOK Leipzig & an observer access to the DOK Co-Pro Market for the filmmaker and producer, valid for the 2026 or 2027 edition.

[Liberal Arts](#)

Pacho Velez
Production: Pachoworks
United States

AIDC Award

Two accreditations to attend the Australian International Documentary Conference (AIDC) and a fee waiver to apply to The FACTory for the 2027 edition.

[Somewhere Over The Rainbow](#)

Koval Bhatia
Production: Bellota Films, What Took You So Long, A Little Anarky Films
France, United States, India

DAE Encouragement Award

Two free consultations with network members tailored to the needs of the project.

[Somewhere Over The Rainbow](#)

Koval Bhatia
Production: Bellota Films, What Took You So Long, A Little Anarky Films
France, United States, India

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