**3rd Forum Without Barriers: Accesible Cinema**

February 24th ‒ 26th, 2026

ZAMEK Culture Centre in Poznań

**The third edition of Forum Without Barriers: Accessible Cinema is an international event dedicated to cinema accessibility, and represents the next stage in the Cinema Without Barriers project launched in Poznań. The Forum brings together representatives of the film industry, public institutions, the research community, and decision-makers so as to jointly explore accessibility as a strategic direction for development in audiovisual culture.**

**This year’s edition focuses on the future of cinema and the role it will play over the next decade, in the context of streaming platforms, hybrid distribution and changing models of participation in culture. In a world of ageing societies, accessibility is becoming indispensable for full participation in culture, with cinemas serving as local, inclusive community centres.**

**The programme of the Forum prioritizes scaling accessibility, as it shows how local social innovations, such as Cinema Without Barriers, can be transformed into systemic solutions at the national and European level. The programme includes panel discussions and expert talks, hands-on and foresight workshops, presentations of good practices selected in the Open Call, as well as one-to-one meeting with experts.**

**The Forum covers a range of issues, such as public policies and financing accessibility, film education for children and young people, representation of persons with disabilities in cinema, designing accessible and safe film events, or the use of new technologies. A number of accompanying events are scheduled as well: a pre-release screening of the film There Are No Ghosts in the Apartment on Dobra Street and meeting with the filmmakers, networking events, as well as a ceremony recognizing distributors with awards and incentives, combined with a review of films from the ReelAbilities festival in New York.**

**Forum Without Barriers is a space for genuine dialogue and cooperation, aimed at supporting systemic changes in Polish and European cinematography—with a view to creating accessible, inclusive cinema that is ready for the challenges of the future.**

**Who is it for?**

**Forum Without Barriers: Accessible Cinema is a meeting place for people involved in the broadly understood film industry.**

**During the three-day meeting at ZAMEK Culture Centre in Poznań, representatives of cinemas, festivals, distributors, producers, public institutions, as well as researchers and decision-makers will work together exploring the directions of development in film culture in which accessibility is one of the vital components.**

**The third edition of Forum without Barriers: Accessible Cinema is an international event. It represents the next stage in the Cinema Without Barriers project which launched in Poznań and, since 2024, has been carried out with European partners in Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary and Romania.**

**Main premises**

**In the third edition, our attention focuses on the future. We are asking questions about the role of cinemas in the next 10 years, in a world of streaming platforms, hybrid distribution and increasingly individualized modes of participating in culture. With the ageing societies, accessibility is no longer an optional extra, but a prerequisite of full participation in cultural life, in which cinemas may play a key role as local, inclusive venues that bring together various audiences and help build a community.**

**The programme**

**Scaling accessibility is the core element of the Forum’s programme this year. We show how social innovations such as Cinema Without Barriers can transition from local practices to sustainable systemic solutions implemented at the national and European level. Among others, our themes include public policies, financing mechanisms, technological development and the need to change the work culture within the film sector.**

**Presentation of good practices selected in the Open Call is another important part of the programme. Examples from Poland and abroad will show various models of accessibility: from festivals and accessible film screenings, through film education, to projects relying on new technologies. The presentations will offer a starting point for discussions on sustainability, scalability and further development of such initiatives.**

**The programme puts great emphasis on accessible film education and activities aimed at children and young people, in which film becomes a tool for integration, building cultural competence and strengthening the agency of young audiences, including those with disabilities. One of the key thematic areas concerns representation in cinema, so that we may discuss who tells film stories, how people with disabilities are present on and off screen, and what role self-advocacy and allyship play in making the film industry inclusive.**

**Further sections in the programme are devoted to designing accessible film events and creating safe, mindful and inclusive spaces for audiences.**

**The programme also includes one-to-one expert meetings, enabling direct consultations with the representatives of funding institutions and experts in accessibility and technology.**

**Finally, there will be a series of various workshops, an accessible pre-release screening of the film There Are No Ghosts in the Apartment on Dobra Street, followed by a meeting with the filmmakers, networking events, as well as an a ceremony recognizing distributors with awards and incentives, combined with a review of films from the ReelAbilities festival in New York.**

**As part of the third edition of the Forum, the participants will have the opportunity to:**

**● exchange knowledge and experience in an international milieu,**

**● discuss accessibility as a tool for social change and a business model,**

**● engage in workshops and foresight activities devoted to the future of cinema,**

**● develop specific recommendations for institutions, producers, distributors and decision-makers.**

**The organizer**

**The Forum is organized by ZAMEK Culture Centre in Poznań, which for several years has consistently strove to animate the film industry’s expert community with accessibility in mind, conduct research and develop long-term implementation programmes. Forum Without Barriers has a real impact on the sector—its first edition received an award from the Polish Film Institute, which attests to the importance and significance of the undertaking. The Forum also gave rise to Film For All—an initiative which, in cooperation with the Polish Film Institute, led to specific changes in operational programmes and serves today as a starting point for further work on systemic solutions, including legislative changes applicable to cinematography.**

**Conclusions**

**Forum Without Barriers: Accessible Cinema is not intended solely as a venue where knowledge may be exchanged. It is also a platform for building long-term collaboration and driving systemic change in Polish and European cinematography, with a view to creating accessible, inclusive cinema that is ready for the challenges of the future.**

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ZAMEK Culture Centre in Poznań

Accreditation Form: <https://3-forum-bez-barier-o-kinie-dostepnym.gridaly.com/registration>

Więcej informacji: <https://ps.ckzamek.pl/podstrony/10786-forum-bez-barier/>

Program: <https://ckzamek.pl/wydarzenia/13789-ogaszamy-program-czas-start-akredytacji/>

**Organizatorzy: ZAMEK Culture Centre in Poznań**

**Partners: Katarynka Foundation, Culture Without Barriers Foundation, Art. House Cinema Association, Typhoteque, ReelAbilities, National Chamber od Audiovisual Producers**

**Media Patrons: *Magazyn Kino, Film&TV Kamera, Magazyn Kinowy***

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