





European Film Study:

a Current and Future Profile of European Film Consumers



David Graham Attentional Ltd.



Arnaud Dupont Headway International



Alejandro Macias Attentional Ltd.



Benoit Landousy Headway International







A Study in Progress...

Study question







'data and knowledge at European, national and international level on audience preferences and ways of marketing and consumption, in particular with young audiences'

Study objectives







What do film consumers like/want?

Which films satisfied their needs?

Which platforms do they favour?

How do they learn about films?







landscaping

(industry data and expertise)

consumer survey

(4,500 Europeans from Es, De, Fr, GB, It, Pl + Cr, Dk, Li, Ro)

film database

(coding films 'viewed and liked': top of mind + assisted)







Landscaping

Landscaping: country profiles







For all countries:

Overview: population, urban population, currency, internet users...

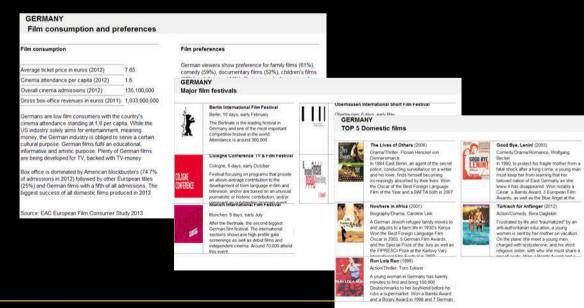
Production & distribution: # films, # cinemas, # screens...

Consumption & preferences: price of a ticket, total admissions...

Top 5 films

Awarded films

National festivals



Landscaping: top 100 films







For the 10 countries in our survey:

Identification of the top 100 films in the yearly box office

Categorisation of these films by:
-Origin (US, National, European, Other)
-Genre (Drama, Comedy, Family...)
-Language of production







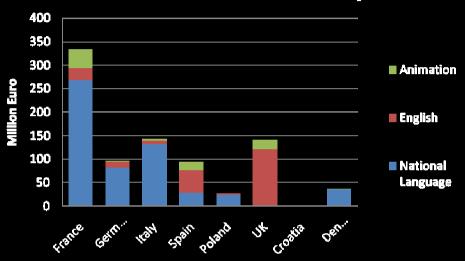
Landscaping: top 100 films



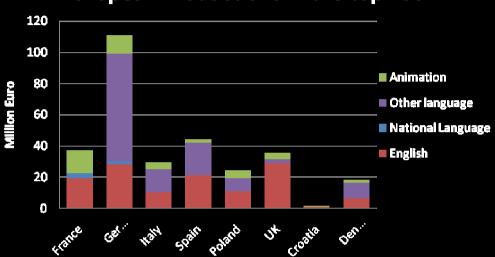








European Productions in the top 100



Most of the successful national cinema is shot in national language, except in some rare cases (like "The Impossible" in Spain)

When considering how European productions travel, it is noticeable that some countries (like Germany) watch cinema shot in another language (mostly French), while countries like France do not watch a lot of European cinema shot in another language.







Consumer Survey

Consumer questionnaire







demographics (age, gender, education, etc.)
equipment (devices, telco/media/film services)
habits (entertainment, film consumption)

editorial preferences (genre, theme, origin, titles)
marketing preferences (distribution and promotion)

opinion (open questions, prospective proposals)

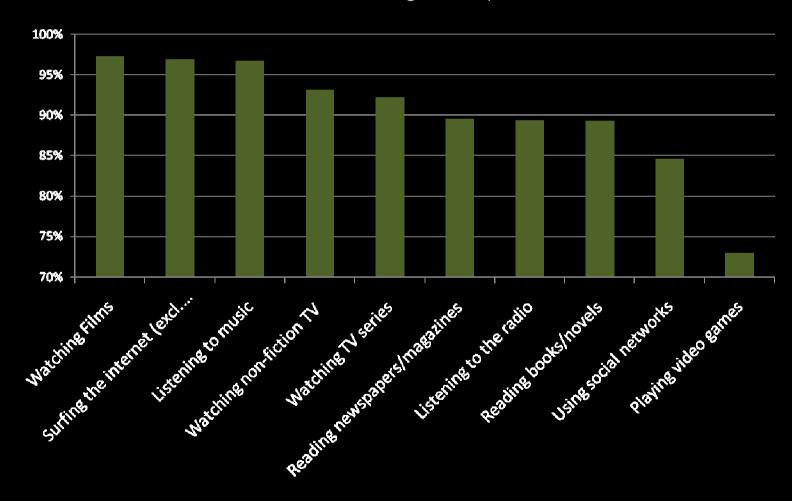
Film #1 media content







- 97% of Europeans <50 y.o. consume films (#1 with music listening and Internet surfing).
- 85% use social networks and 73% video games (the 2 least common activities).



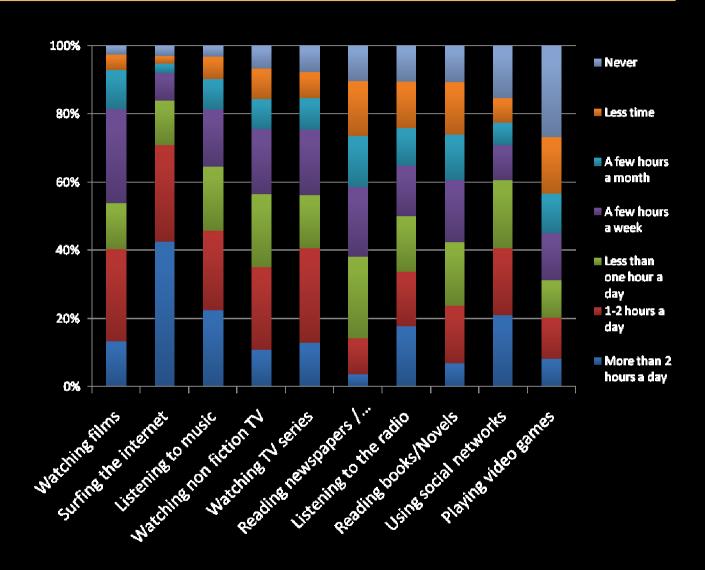
Film in content diet







- Film is as popular as TV non-fiction and TV series: 50-60% consume film, TV series and non-fiction TV on a daily basis.
- Internet-surfing and music are top daily activities: 84% surf at least once a day (42% for > 2 hours) and 64% listen to music (22% for > 2 hours).
- 60% use social networks at least once a day (21% for > 2 hours).



Heavy film consumers

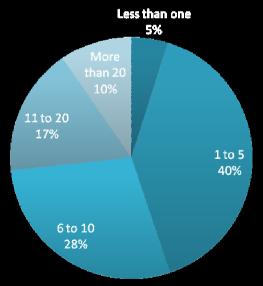




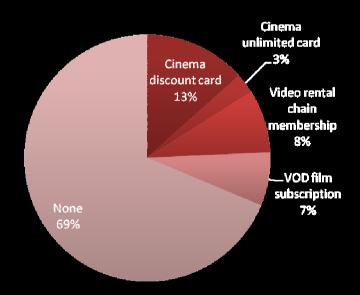


- 27% of Europeans watch > 10 films a month and 55% watch > 6 (> one every 5 days).
 Poland, Lithuania and Romania at the top, the UK, Denmark and Croatia at the bottom.
- 21% subscribe to pay TV cinema/fiction channels (highest genre on Pay TV).
- 27% of Europeans subscribe to film services other than Pay TV. 14% have a cinema discount card (3% have a cinema unlimited card), 9% are members of a video rental chain and 7% subscribe to a film VOD service.





Cinema services



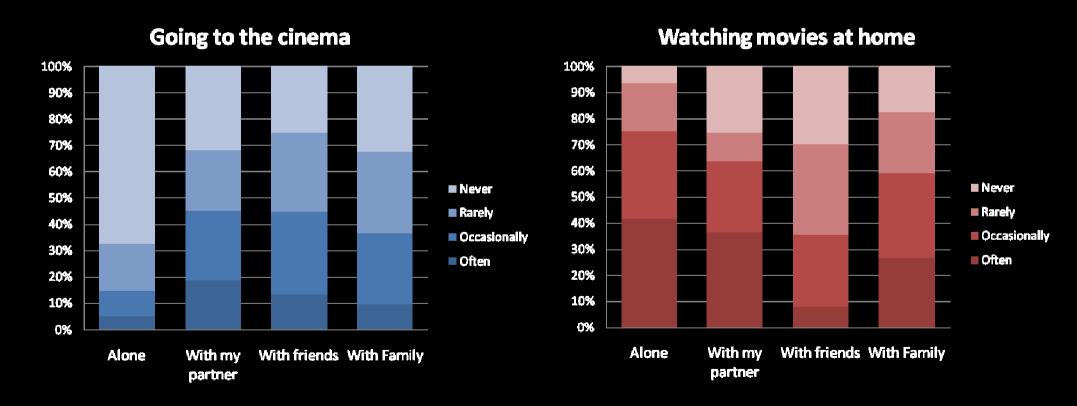
Watching in group and alone







- 91% of Europeans usually go to the cinema in groups (75% with friends and 68% with their family or partner), 33% go alone (half of them do so 'rarely').
- 94% watch films alone at home (41% 'often'). When watching films at home together, this is mostly with the family.



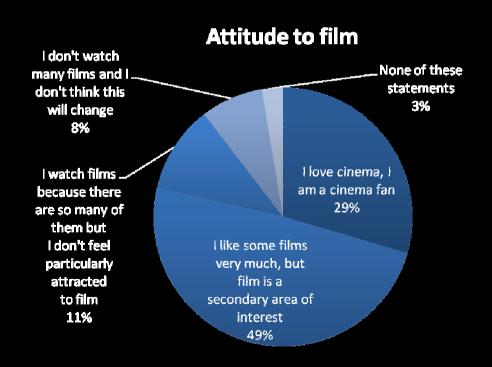
Relationship to film



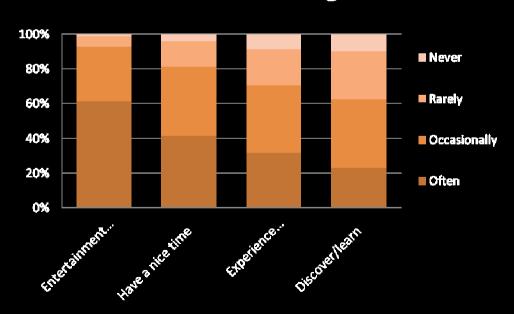




- 29% of Europeans define themselves as 'cinema fans', 49% have cinema as 'a secondary area of interest'. Largest communities of 'cinema fans' are in Spain (40%), UK (36%), Denmark (33%), Germany (32%) and Romania (32%). But only 13% of 'cinema fans' in Lithuania.
- Europeans watch films primarily for 'entertainment and fun' followed by 'have a nice time with family-friends'. 'Discover and learn new things' is the lowest motivation.



Reasons for watching films



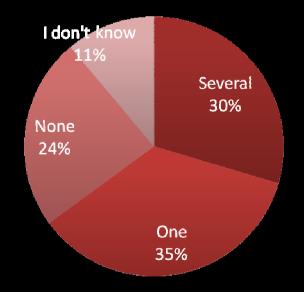




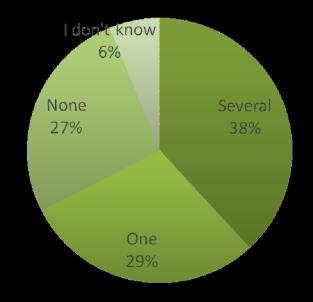


- 86% of Europeans have at least one cinema theatre (1-3 screens) or one multiplex (4+ screens) within 30 min from their home.
- 30% have several cinema theatres, 38% several multiplexes (<30 min from home).
- 14% have no access to cinemas (<30 min from home). This is up to 37% in Romania, 27% in Lithuania, 16% in Croatia and 11% in Denmark (all other countries < 10%).

Theatres: 1-3 screens in 30 min



Multiplexes: 4+ screens in 30 min



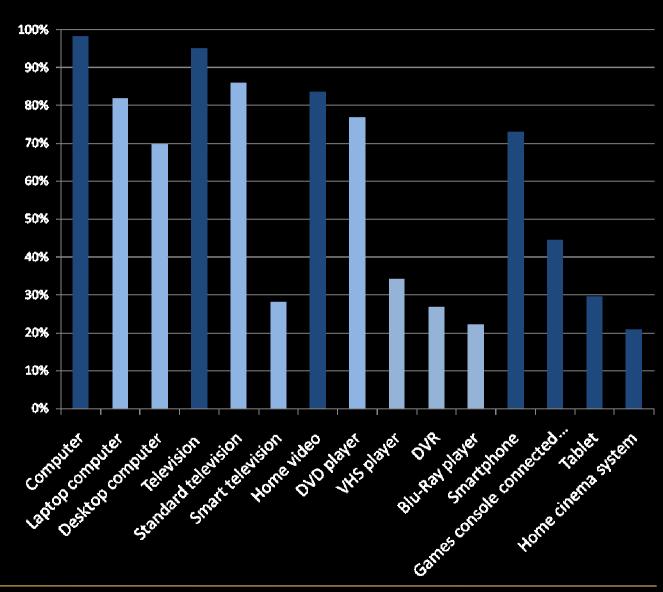
Devices







- 98% Europeans own a computer and 95% a TV (mostly laptops and standard TVs).
- 77% own a DVD player and 1/3 own a VHS, DVR or Blu-Ray player.
- 73% own a smartphone and 45% a game console plugged to their TV.
- 30% own a tablet reach and 20% a home cinema system.

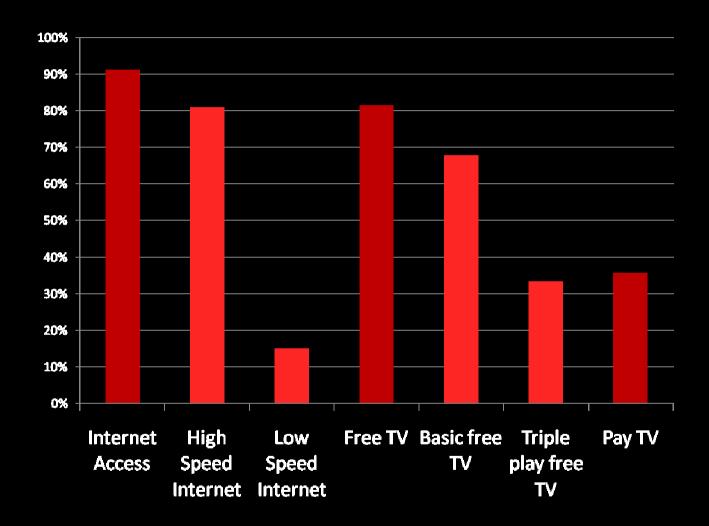


Media services









- 91% of Europeans have internet access (mostly high-speed).
- 82% have access to free TV (mostly through standard free TV with a third through triple play services).
- 36% subscribe to pay TV services (of whom 59% have access to movie and TV series channels, followed by sports channels at 38%, children channels at 26% and VOD channels at 19%).

Film consumption platforms

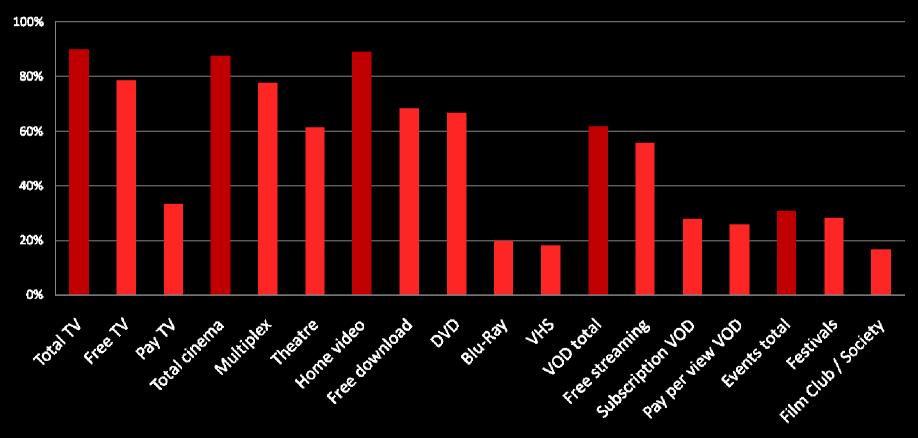






- Europeans watch films on free TV, cinema (mostly multiplexes) and DVDs.
- Piracy seems widespread (through both downloads and free streaming).

Platform used to watch films



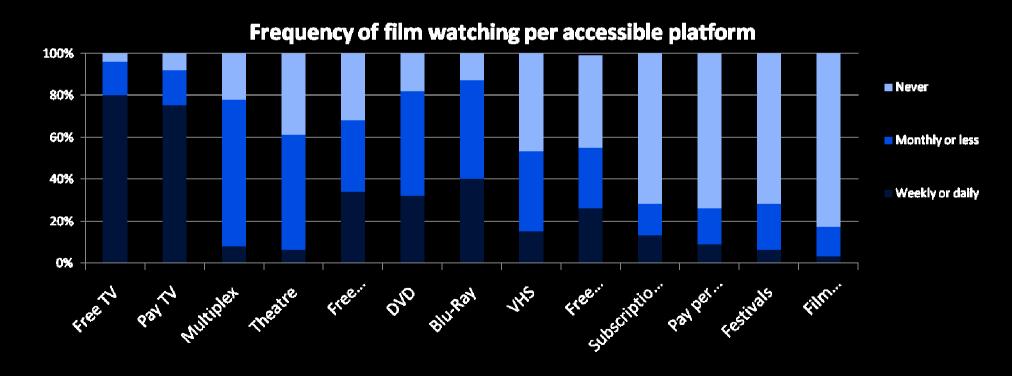
Film consumption platforms







- Free TV is #1 platform for films: 96% watch films on free TV (80% weekly or daily). Pay TV is used in similar frequencies but by 1/3 of people.
- Cinemas are generally attended < once a month (44% for theatres and 49% for multiplexes) or 'never' (39% never go to cinemas and 22% never go to multiplexes).
- DVD, VHS and Blu-Ray are used on a monthly basis or less.

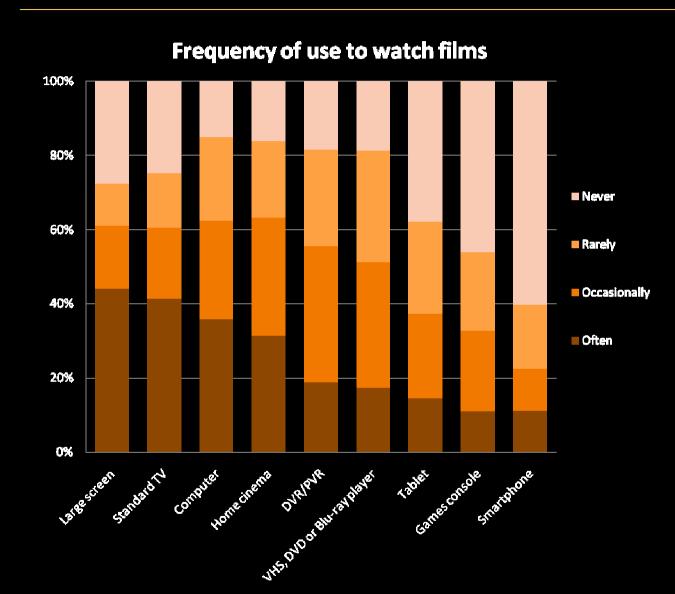


Film consumption devices









- Most film consumption at home happens on the TV, but the computer is used occasionally by most people.
- Devices like home cinema or games console are used regularly (but few people have them).
- Smartphone is rarely used to watch films.

Film piracy







- 55% of respondents admit using piracy sites to watch films (highest in Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Spain, lowest in Germany, UK and Denmark).
- Price is the main reason.
- 55% of 'pirates' watch 'all kinds of films', 34% watch 'mostly US films'. Only 7% pirate 'mostly national films' (higher in UK, Denmark and Italy) and only 4% to watch 'mostly European films'.

Reasons for using piracy

50%	"I can't afford all the films I want to watch"	28%	"films I missed on the cinema and I can't wait for the DVD"
37%	"Some films are interesting but not worth paying for"	27%	"films are too slow to arrive to my country"
31%	"I don't see the point in paying"	23%	"I don't have time to go to the cinema"
30%	"To watch films not released in my country"	11%	"cinemas are too far away from me"

Film education







Film education programmes reach almost half of the European population.

- •43% of respondents have attended courses at schools and universities.
- •25% of respondents take part in or have been involved in an after school film society.
- •Community film making (15%) and film associations (13%) are less popular.

A vast majority of those who have experienced film clubs or training programmes recognise their benefits:

- •86% agree that it raised their curiosity for other types of cinema, 84% agree that it raised their interest in films and that it improved their film culture and 83% think that it helped them better understand films.
- •45% think that it did not change their film culture and habits.

Kids' interest in film training programmes is very strong: among the children who have not attended film clubs or training programmes, 63% say they would like to take part. Main motivation is to watch and discuss films (57% of cinema-uneducated children) and nearly half wish to learn how to make films (44%).

Parental interest is even stronger: 86% of parents would like their kids to attend such programmes whether to watch and discuss films (82%), make films (77%) or learn about European film history (69%).

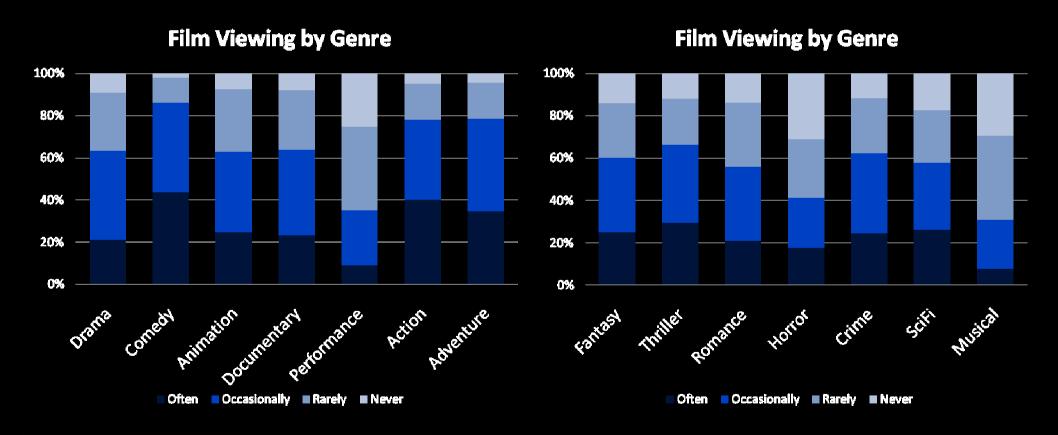
Preferred film genres







- Comedy, action and adventure are the most popular genres: > 95% of film consumers watch such films (around 40% 'often').
- Drama, animation and documentary follow. Horror, performance and musical are less popular.



Preferred film origins

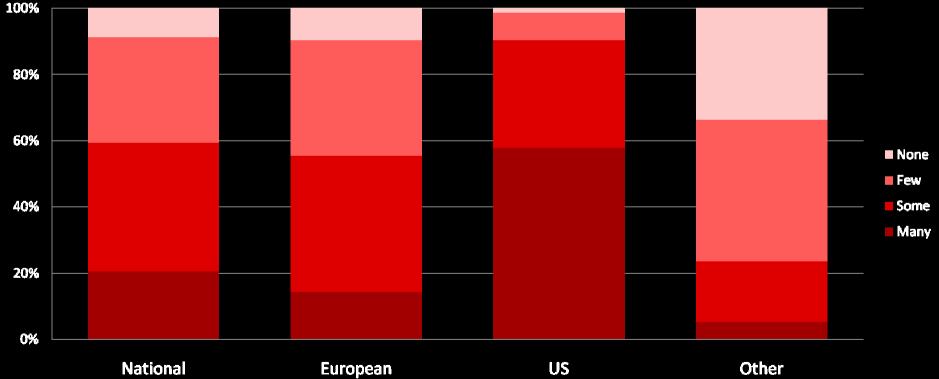






- Europeans favour US films: 98% of film consumers have seen at least one in the last year (58% 'many' and 32% 'some')
- National and European films are watched less frequently.

Films watched by origin



Preferred film types

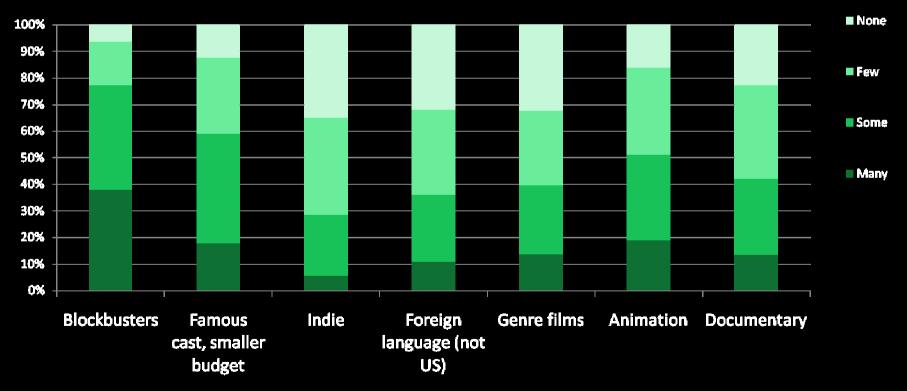






 European film consumers prefer blockbusters with star casts, big budgets and visual effects (93% have seen at least one in the last year) followed by films with famous casts but not necessarily big budgets (87% have seen at least one), animation and lastly documentary.

Films watched by type



Choosing films

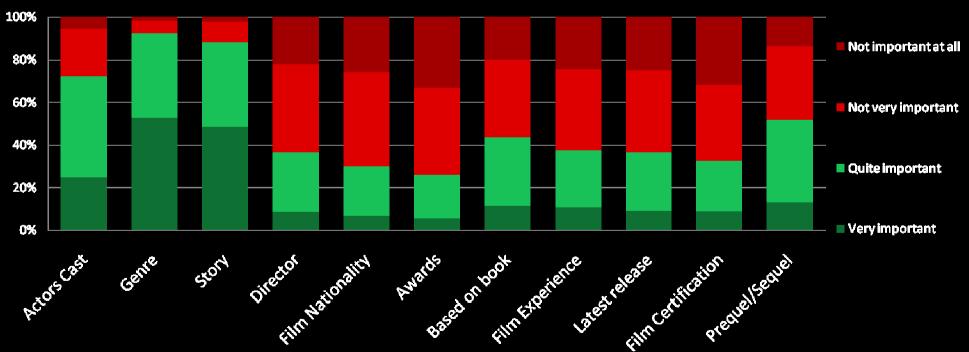






- Genre and the story are top 2 criteria for choosing a film followed by actor cast and familiarity with the film (part of a saga, a prequel/sequel or a book consumers enjoyed).
- They give more limited value to several other criteria, notably the film's technical experience (HD, 3D, Imax, etc.), film ratings (certification for suitable audiences), awards won by the films, film nationality or even the film director.

Criteria for film choice

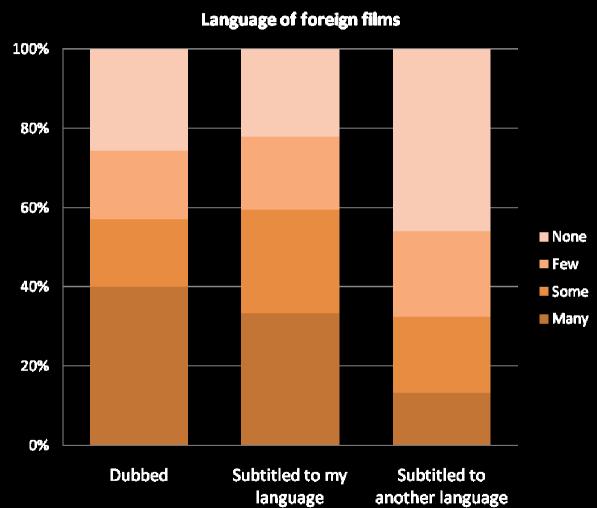


Preferred film languages









- Film consumers most often watch foreign language films dubbed and subtitled. Watching foreign-language films subtitled in a foreign language is much less common.
 - Consumers from larger countries (Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Poland) usually watch films dubbed to their native language. Lithuania falls within this group.
- Consumers from smaller countries watch films in original languages subtitled to their national language: Croatia, Romania and Denmark. The UK falls within this group.

Films on social networks

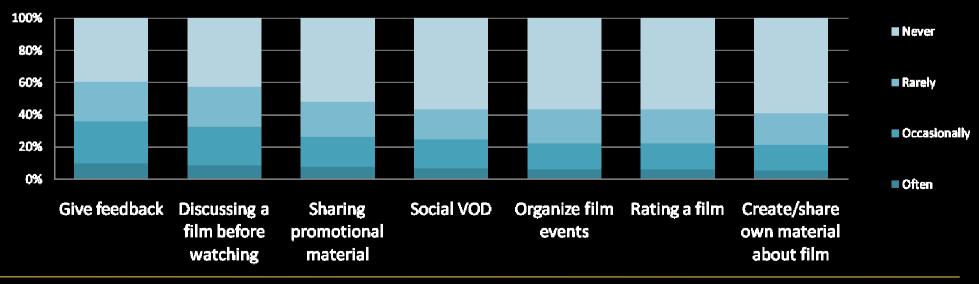






- 45% of European social network users use it to comment on and discuss films: Italians, Poles and Romanians at the top, Lithuanians and French at the bottom.
- 42% follow a Facebook film-related account: mainly film and actor accounts.
- 62% are likely to look at a trailer a friend 'likes' and 55% to search for more info about it.
- 10% often give feedback online after watching a film (60% have done so at least once)
- 57% have discussed a film online at least once before watching it.

Frequency of social network activities



Opinion about European film





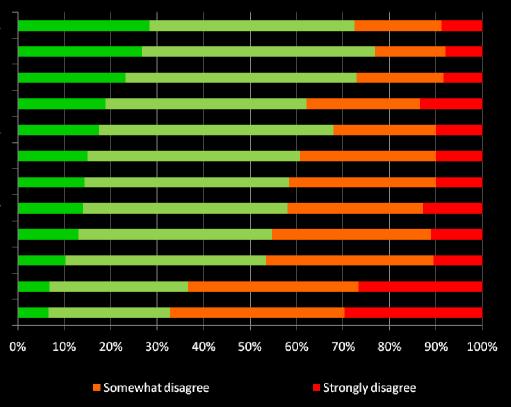


Film consumers value the quality and originality of European films, may find them a bit too
dark and complex, and think they are neither well promoted nor well distributed.

Opinions about European cinema

They are less stereotypical than US films
They feature diverse and complex characters
They are original and thought provoking
They are, on average, as good as US films
They have visual and artistic qualities
They deal with dark characters and issues
They are slow-paced and intimate
They feel close to my world-my reality
They are too focused on social topics
They feature clear plots, easy to follow
They are sufficiently available on screens in my area
They are well promoted in my area

Strongly agree



■ Somewhat agree

European film support

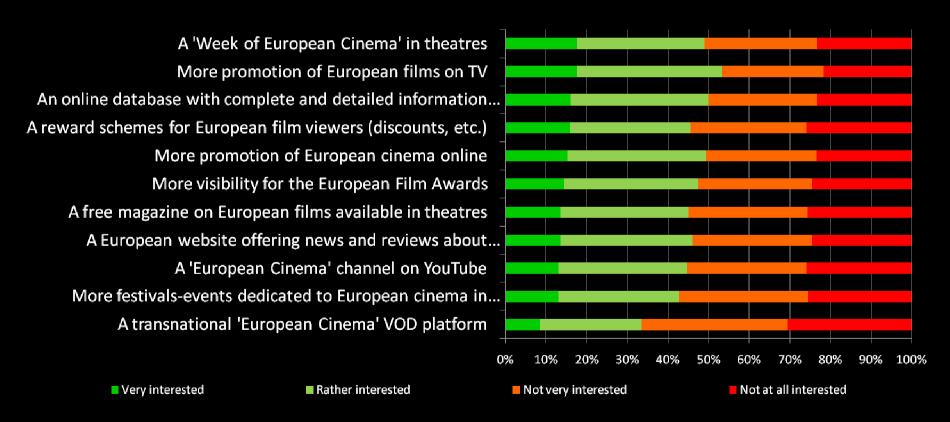






 Europeans would favour traditional tools to support European cinema (week of European cinema, TV promotion or online databases rather than a Youtube channel or a transnational VOD platforms).

Propositions to Support European cinema



Innovative distribution

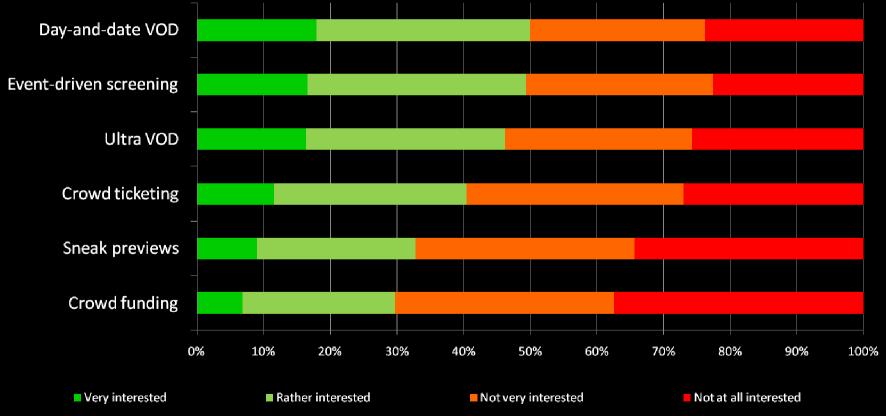






 50% of Europeans support 'day-and-date VOD', 50% support 'event-driven screening' and 46% support 'ultra VOD'.

Alternative cinema distribution



Opinions about National cinema







- I like the actors (9%).
- It is amusing, entertaining and fun (6%).
- The story is close to my reality and speaks to me (5%).
- I want to support the cinema from my country (5%).
- Actors are talented (4%).
- It is realistic (4%).
- It reflects our culture and society (4%).
- It is of good quality, well-made (4%).
- I like our national comedies (4%).

...12% don't like their national cinema in general...

...up to 22% in Croatia and 19% in Spain.

Opinions about US cinema







- They have good special effects (17%).
- They have super-productions with big budgets (11%).
- It is full of action (9%).
- I like the variety of movie genres (8%).
- I like the actors (8%).
- It is of good quality, well-made (6%).
- Actors are talented (5%).
- It is mind-blowing, big, spectacular (3%).

...5% don't like US cinema in general...

...up to 11% in Croatia and 11% in Romania.

Opinions about European cinema







- It is different, quirky (6%).
- It shows other cultures and other countries (6%).
- It is creative, innovative, original (5%).
- It is of good quality, well-made (4%).
- I like the actors (3%).

...9% don't like European cinema in general...

...up to 16% in France and 14% in Italy.







Film Database







National films

US studio films

European films

(BO hits & 'arthouse',

recent & 'old')



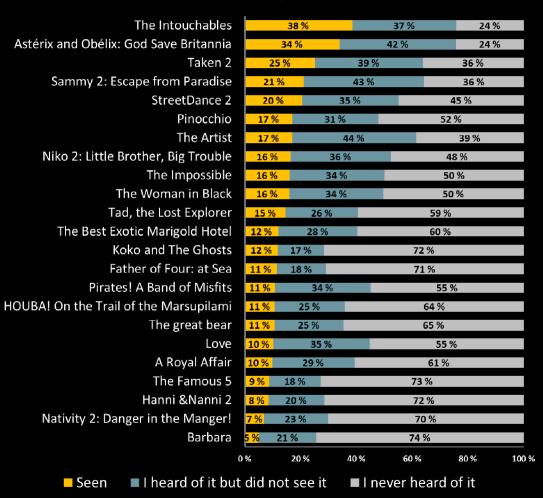
Films I know, I saw and liked



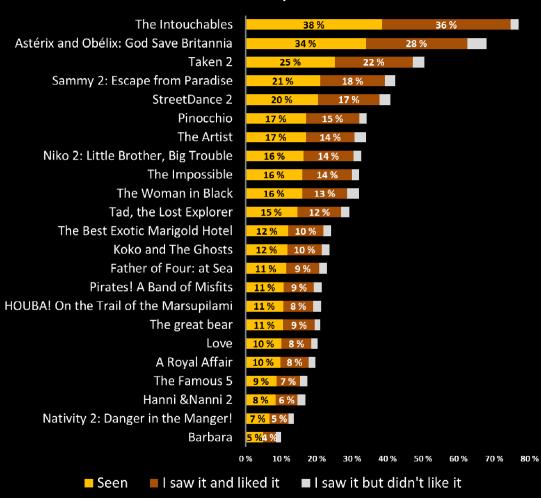




Recent European films



Recent European films



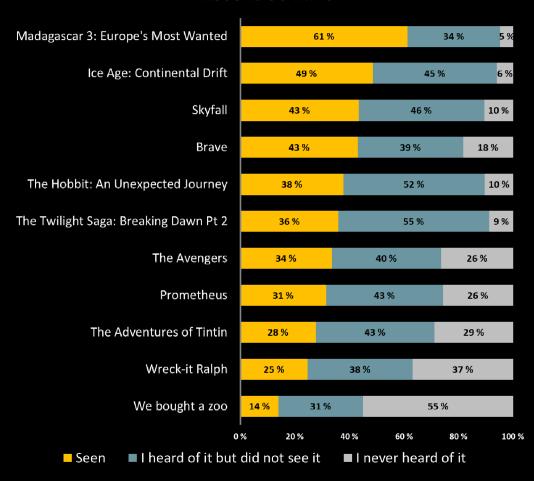
Films I know, I saw and liked



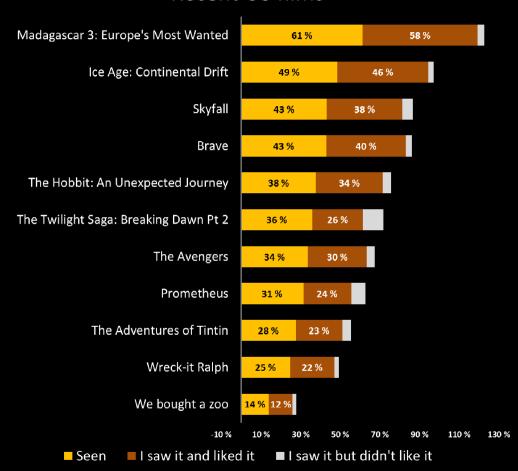




Recent US films



Recent US films



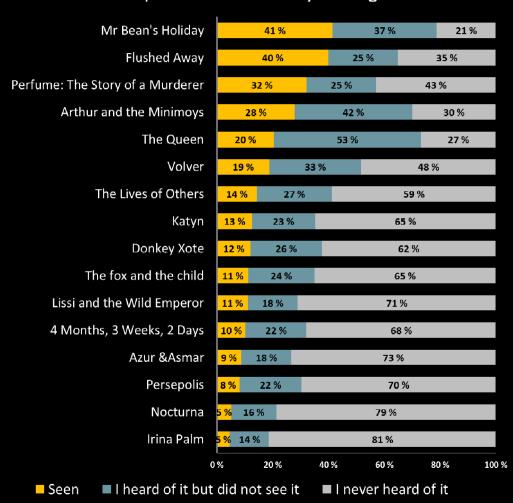
Films I know, I saw and liked



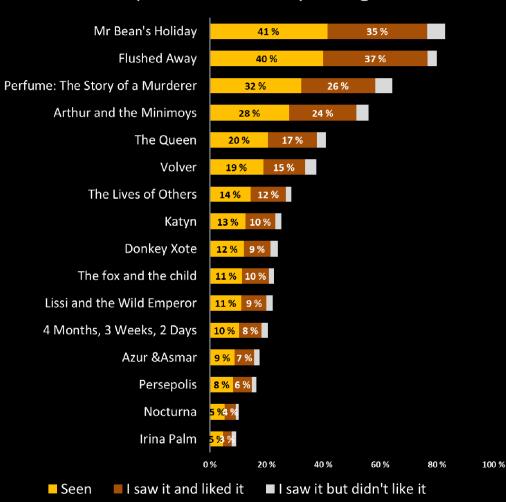




European films from 5 years ago



European films from 5 years ago



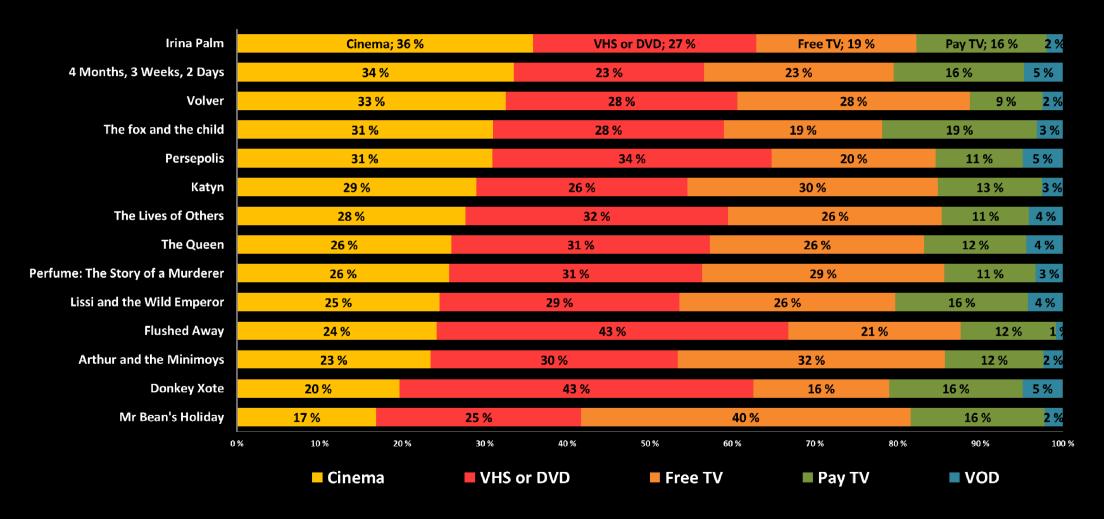
'Old' European film platforms







European films from 5 years ago - On which platform



Film preferences







- In summary:
- Recent European films have been seen by typically 15% of European film consumers. For recent US films in our survey this number is about 35%
- Figures are very similar for 'recent' European films vs. 'older' films
- Around 80% of 'old' European film legal consumption is equally balanced between cinema, home video and free TV
- European children's films travel very well through DVD/VHS

Film awareness







European film consumers are more aware of US films (red) than European films (light blue). National films (light orange) show a lower awareness than US films, but higher than European.

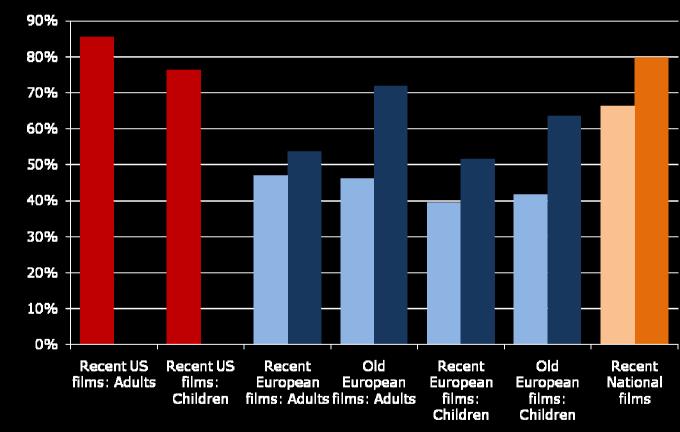
When selecting only the top 40% in budget, awareness increases (dark blue and dark orange), following the pattern US>Nat>Eu

Old films have higher awareness, possibly due to TV distribution

Awareness of films among survey respondents

■Total awareness

Awareness for the top 40% (movies with higher budget)



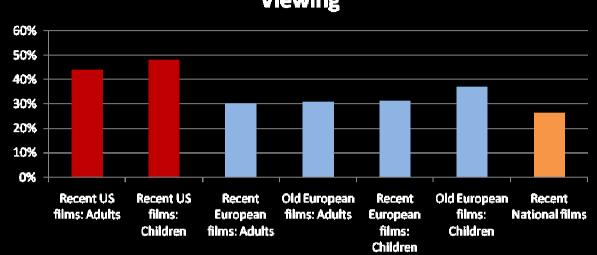
Film viewing and satisfaction







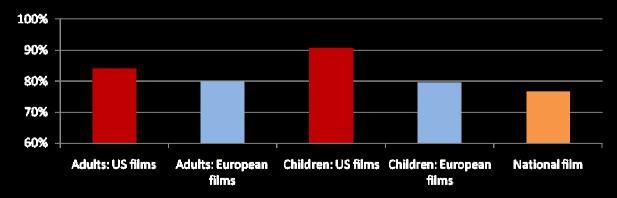




Respondents are more interested in watching US films than European films.

National films rank last, suggesting a bias against national films

Satisfaction



Public find US films more enjoyable than European. National films again rank last.

Survey + database results







More conclusions

Awareness for EU films is higher if they are shot in the respondents' national language.

Viewing and satisfaction are consistent across languages.

Awareness, viewing and satisfaction seem to be consistent among genres.

Survey + database results







Correlations

- The higher the film budget is and the more countries where the film is released, the more aware the public is and the more they want to watch it
- The relationship between strength of release and awareness is weak (possibly due to seasonal factors)
- There is no relationship between the prizes and the awareness of a movie
- The more festivals a movie is in, the less the public seems to be aware of it (falls into specialised niche?)

	Awareness	Viewing
Budget	Strong	Strong
# countries where it's released	Strong	Strong
% of screens over the first weekend	Weak	Weak
# Prizes	None	None
# Festivals where the movie is present	Negative, weak	Negative, weak







A Study in Progress...







To Come:

Portraits of Key Consumer Groups

Analysis of Country Variations

Marketing with the most Impact

More on the key characteristics that enable European films to travel







Merci Beaucoup!







European Film Study:

a Current and Future Profile of European Film Consumers



David Graham Attentional Ltd.



Arnaud Dupont Headway International david.graham@attentional.com arnaud.dupont@headwayinternational.com

alejandro.macias@attentional.com benoit.landousy@headwayinternational.com



Alejandro Macias Attentional Ltd.



Benoit Landousy Headway International