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Slovenian President Borut Pahor officially opens the 24th FSF Portorož

The 24th Festival of Slovenian Film Portorož officially opened last night with an opening gala, which saw the attendance of the **honorary patron of the 24th FSF Portorož, the President of the Republic of Slovenia, Mr Borut Pahor**, in addition to the Director of the Slovenian Film Centre, **Nataša Bučar**. The host of the event with live performances by **Dalaj Eegol**, **Katarina Mala**, and **Teo Collori** was **Boris Car**. Before the screening of the opening film – the honour was given to Darko Sinko's debut feature <u>Inventory</u>, which had its world premiere in San Sebastian – the **Metod Badjura Award for lifetime achievement in cinema** was presented to film sound engineer <u>Emilija Soklič</u>. Earlier in the evening, an exhibition celebrating the 2021 Badjura Award laureate was launched in Avditorij's White Hall.

Over a little less than a week, the main Slovenian film event will provide a curated overview of the latest Slovenian cinema, which includes fiction, documentary and animated films of all lengths. A total of **125 films were submitted** to the festival for consideration by the Programming Board, with **87 films** making it into the <u>official selection</u>. Of this, the **Official Competition includes 54 films**: 10 feature-length films, 10 minority co-productions, 2 medium-length films, 20 short films, and 12 student films.

Under its new Director, film director **Bojan Labović**, the 24th FSF Portorož is introducing some changes such as the "<u>cinema euro</u>" and <u>a more environmentally friendly approach</u>. Visitors can also enjoy live music in a strong line-up of <u>concerts</u>.

The festival runs until **Sunday, 17 October**, and closes with the Awards Gala to celebrate the winners of the 2021 Vesna awards, the highest national accolade in cinema.

^{24.} FESTIVAL SLOVENSKEGA FILMA PORTOROŽ 12.—17. OKTOBER 2021