



OBSERVATOIRE EUROPÉEN DE L'AUDIOVISUEL  
EUROPEAN AUDIOVISUAL OBSERVATORY  
EUROPÄISCHE AUDIOVISUELLE INFORMATIONSTELLE

# **Analysis of European films by female directors**

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***Cannes Film Festival  
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# Basis of the study

- Figures extracted from the OBS's **LUMIERE** Database:

<http://lumiere.obs.coe.int>

- Over a 10 year period (2003-2012)
- 9 349 European films (with more than 1 000 admissions)
- Produced and released in 36 European countries
- 3.34 trillion admissions

# Methodology

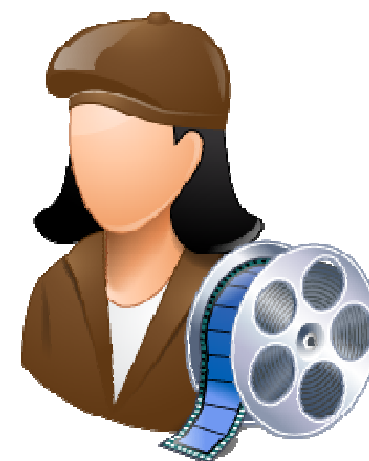
- Analysis of the number of films and admissions:
  - By year
  - By territory
  - By gender
  - Market of release (domestic vs foreign)
  - Kind of production (fully national vs international co-production)
- Each film and its admissions have been calculated as a proportion of the gender of its directors.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{I.e.: 1 film by } & \text{male icon} + \text{female icon} + \text{female icon} = \\ & 0.66 \times \text{female icon directed film} \\ & + \\ & 0.33 \times \text{male icon directed film} \end{aligned}$$

# The average director in Europe



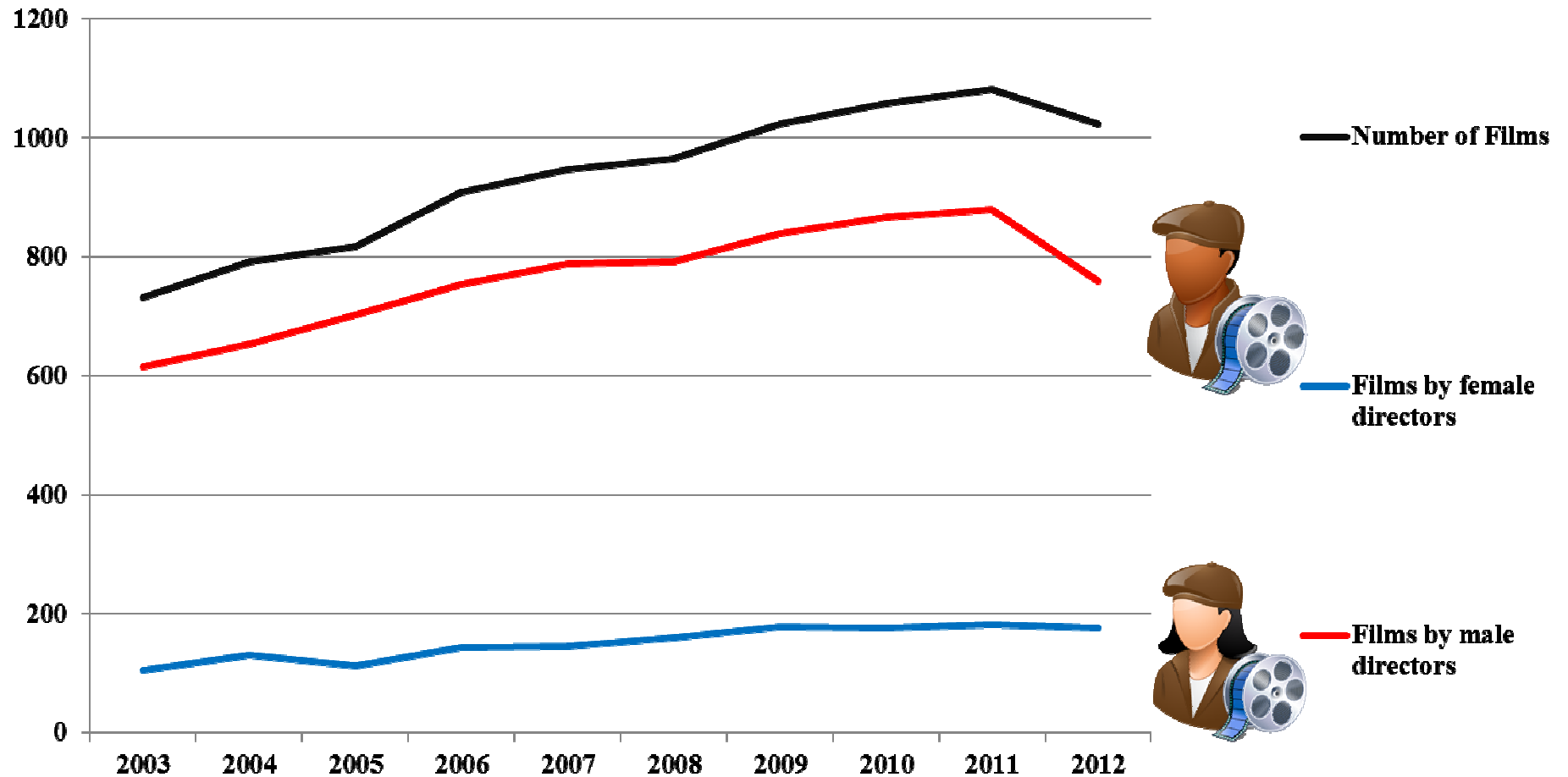
**John**



**Alice**

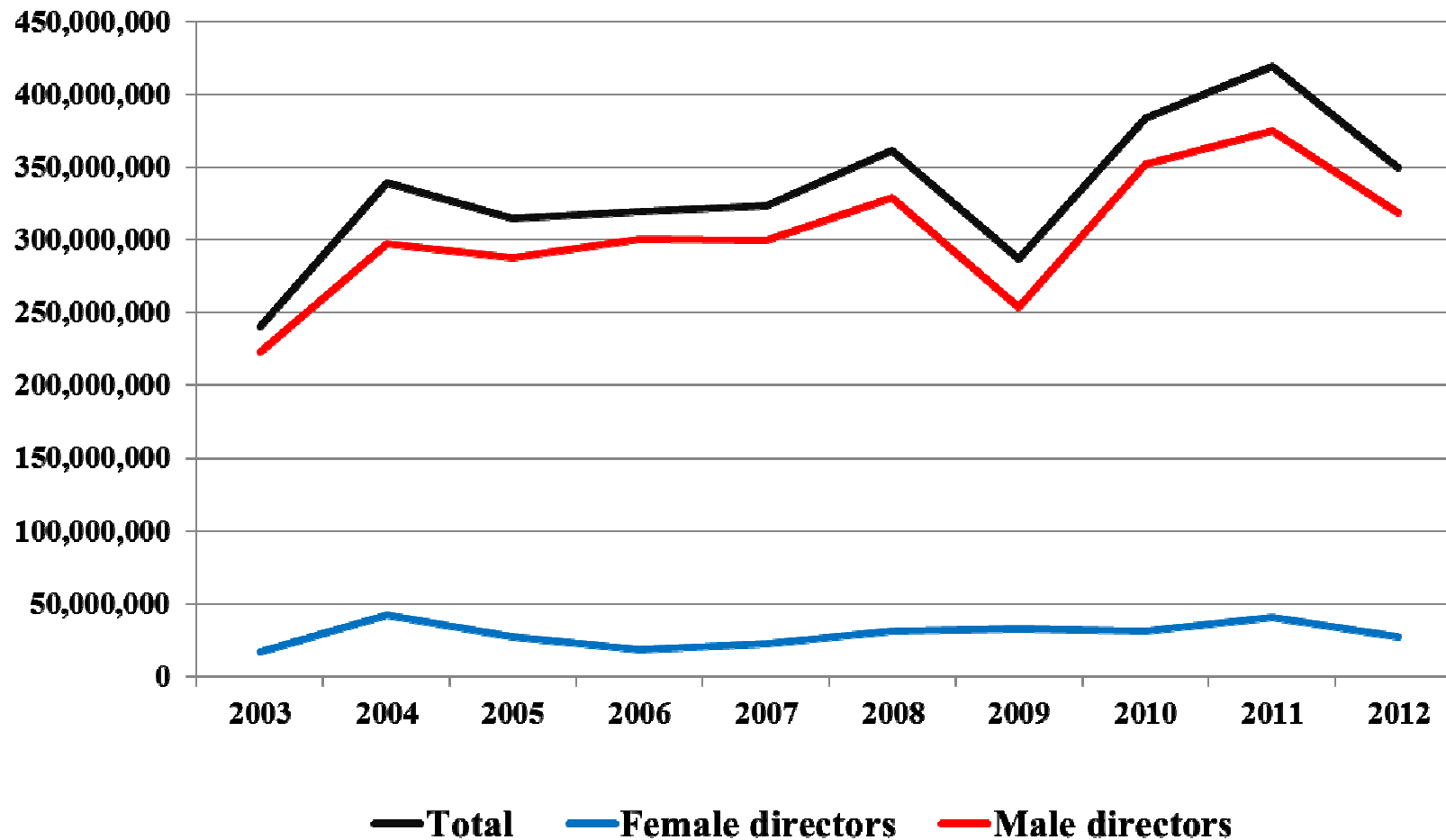
# The film industry: a male bastion?

Number of European films produced in Europe by gender of the director



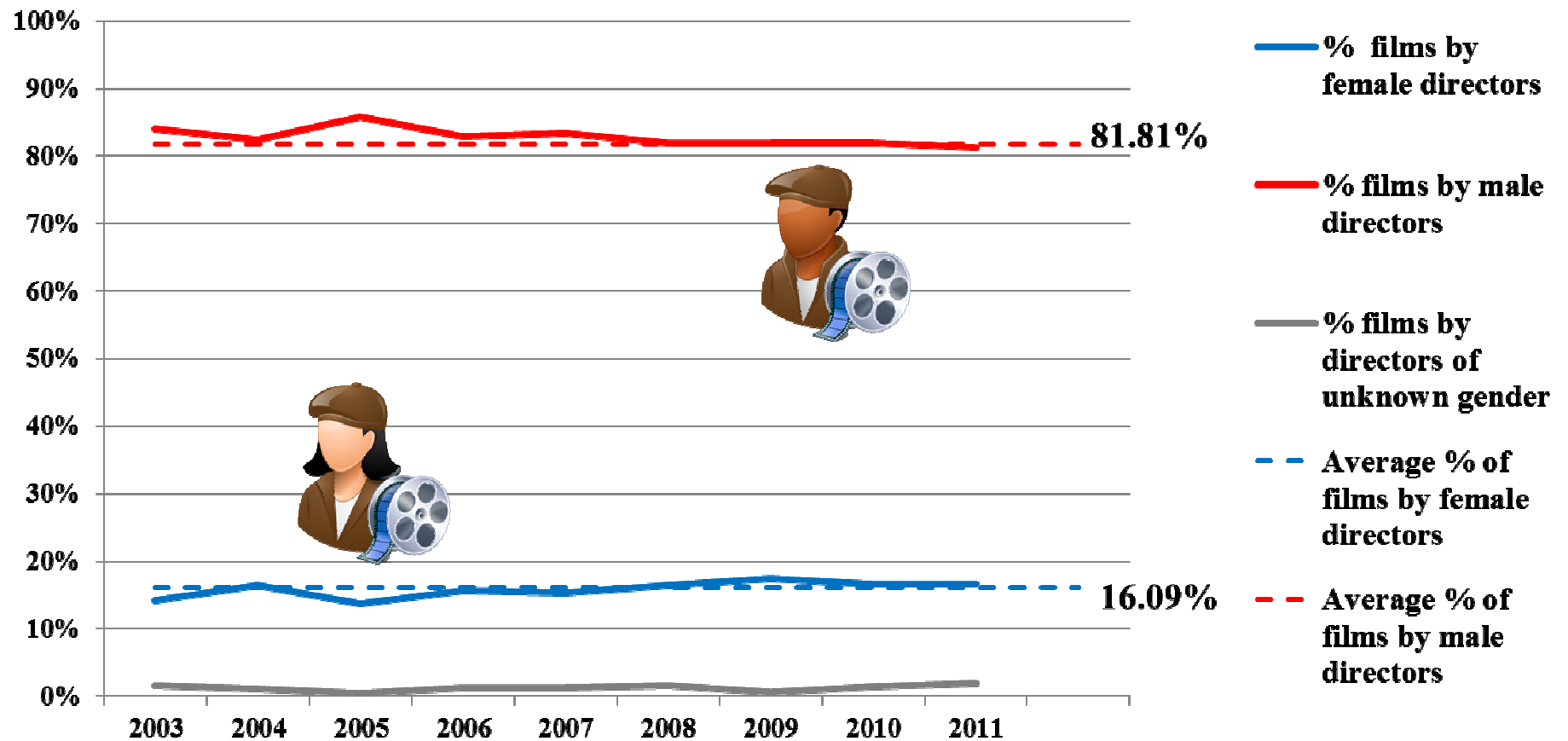
# Performance and gender

## Admissions to European films by gender of the director



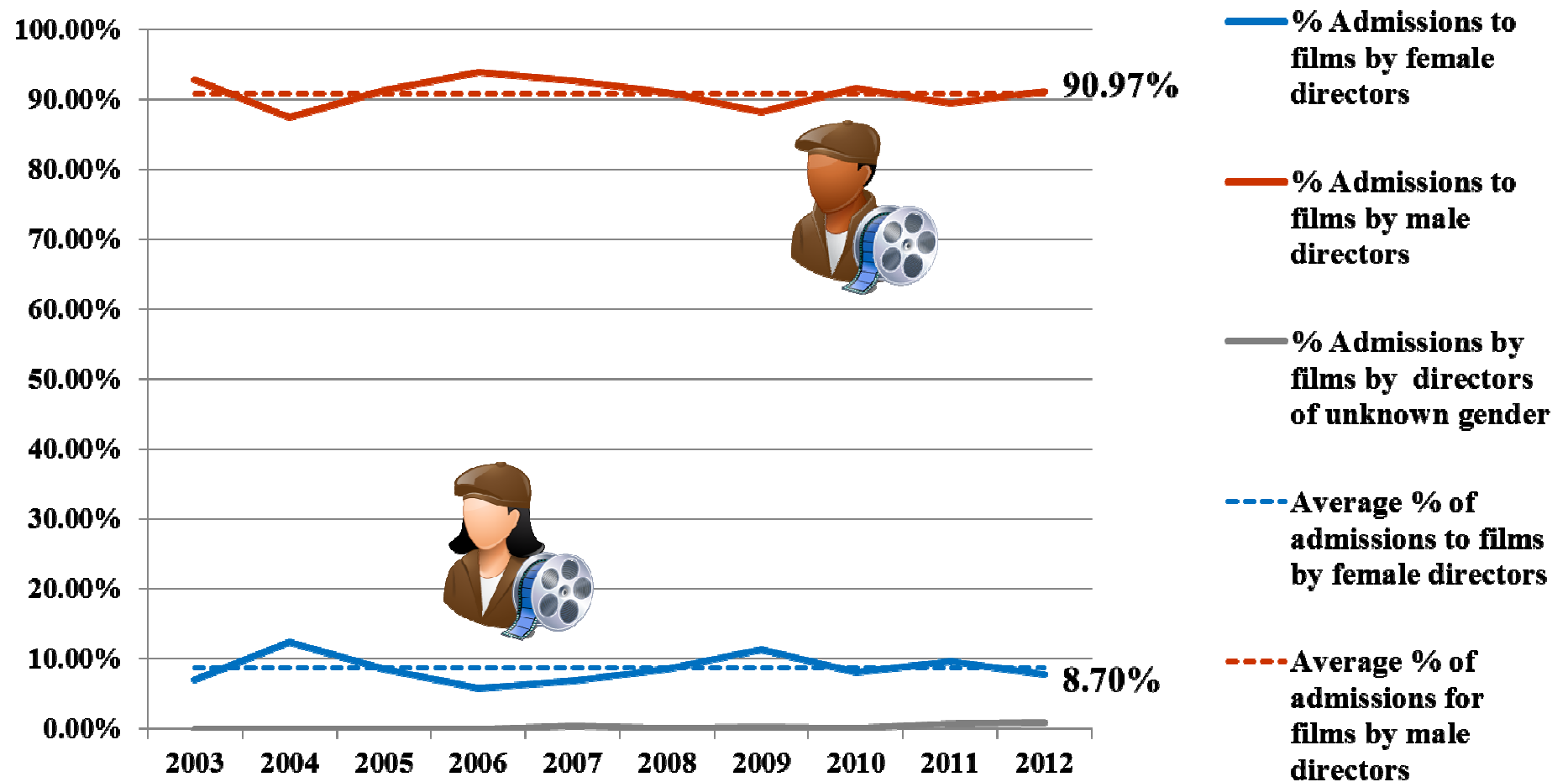
# Evolution of the status quo by gender (I)

Percentage of European films by gender of the director



# Evolution of the status quo by gender (II)

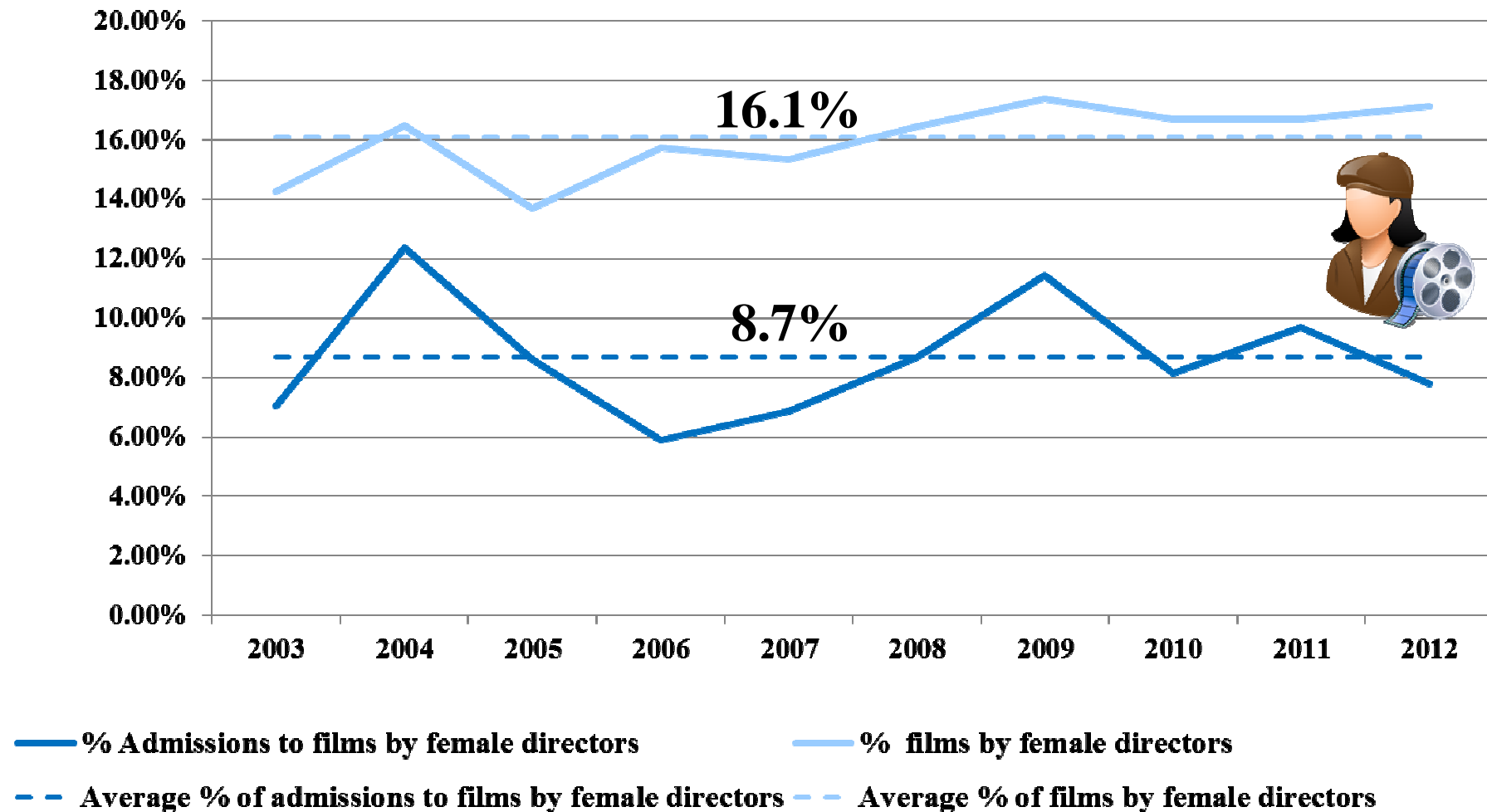
Percentage of admissions to European films by gender of the director





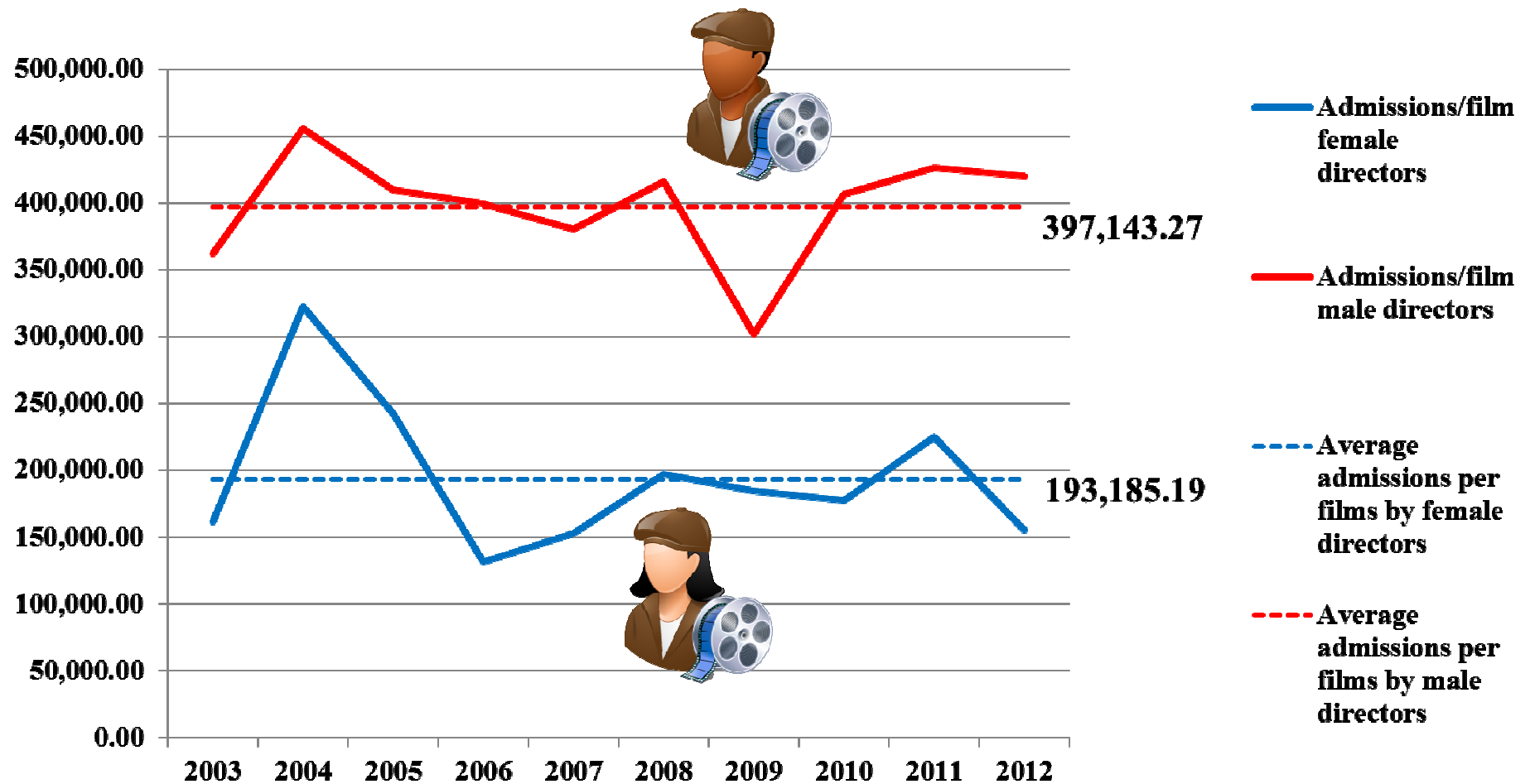
# Close-up on female directors

Percentage of films and admissions to works by female directors



# Performance and gender

Average admissions to European films by gender of the director

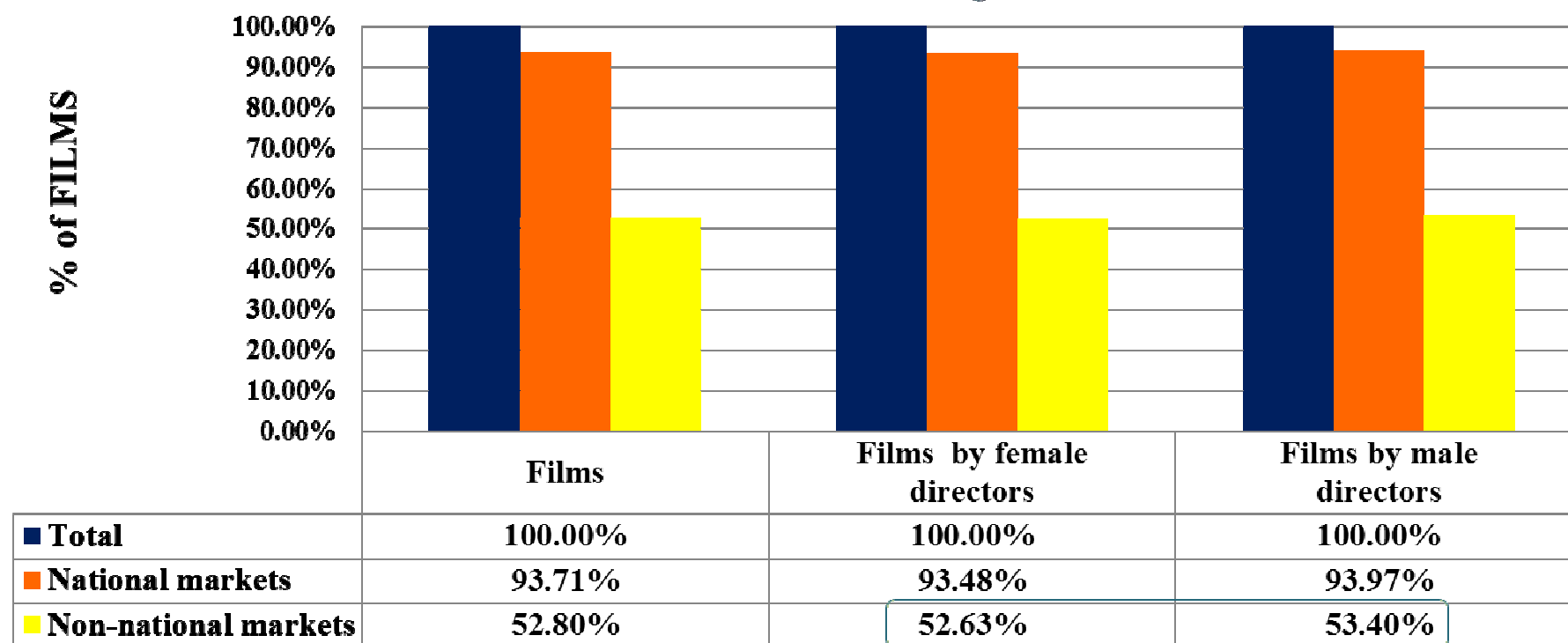




Performance  
≠  
Success

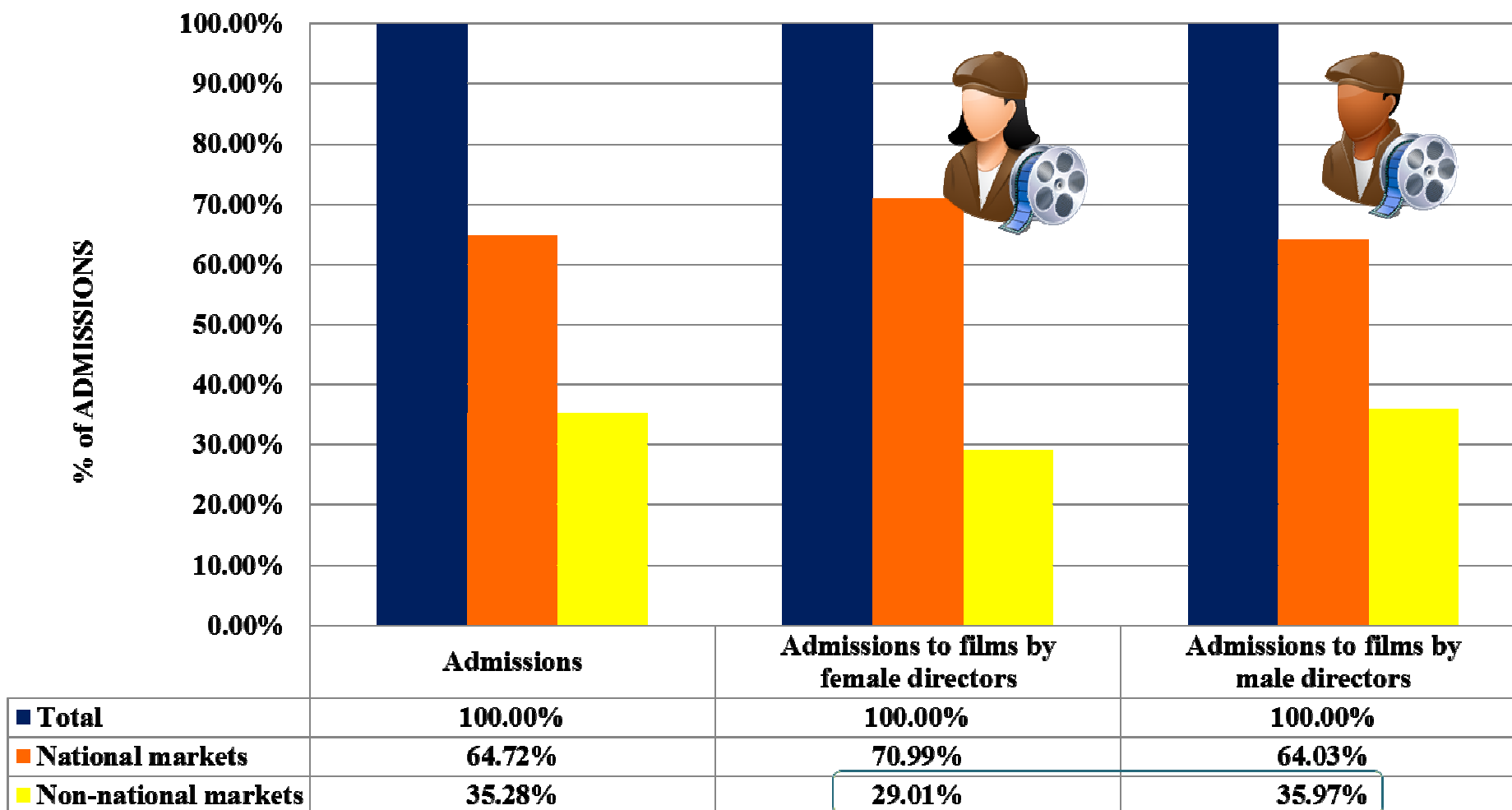
# What percentage of films by directors of either gender gets a release abroad?

% of European films released in national and foreign markets by gender of the director

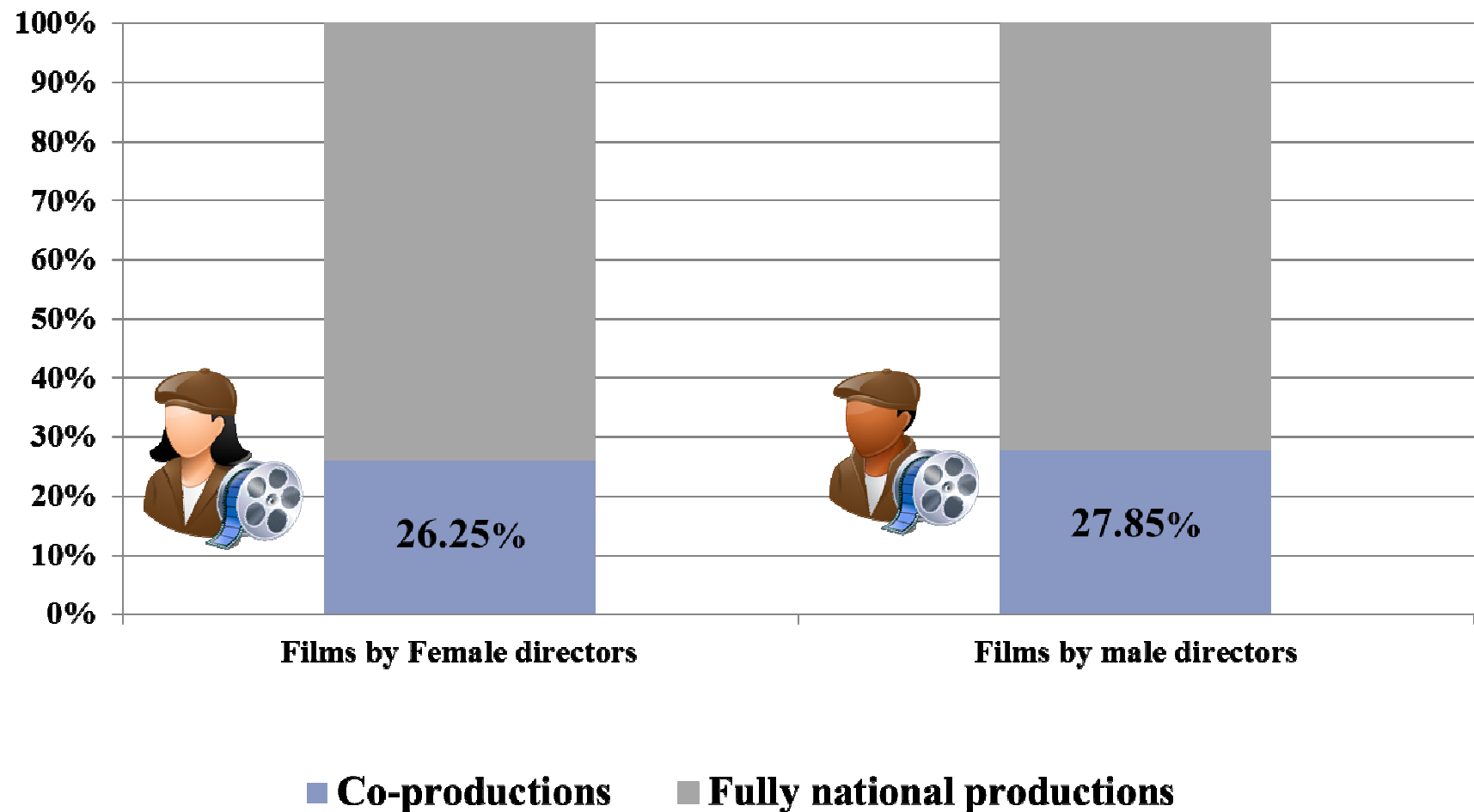


# How do films by female directors perform abroad?

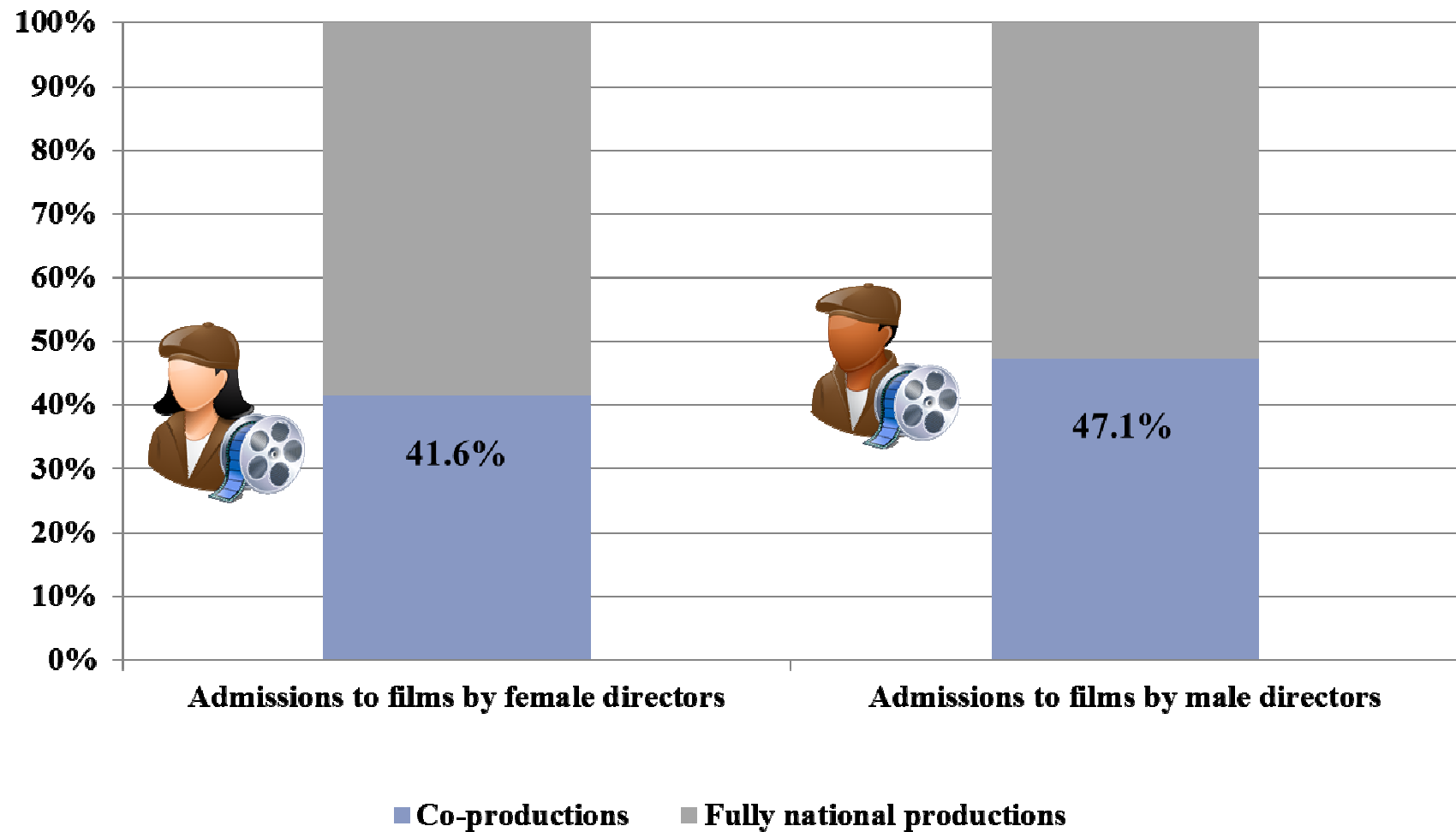
**% of admissions to European films released in national and foreign markets by gender of the director**



# What are the chances for a woman to shoot an international co-production?

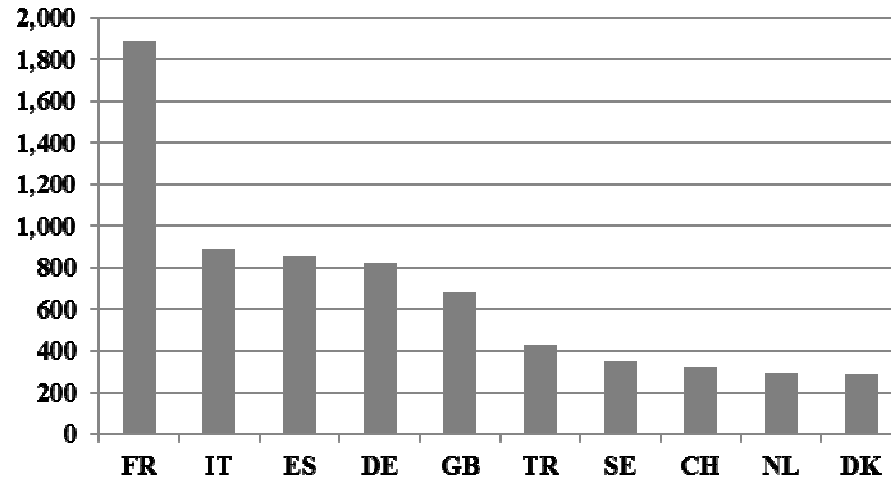


# And how will they perform?

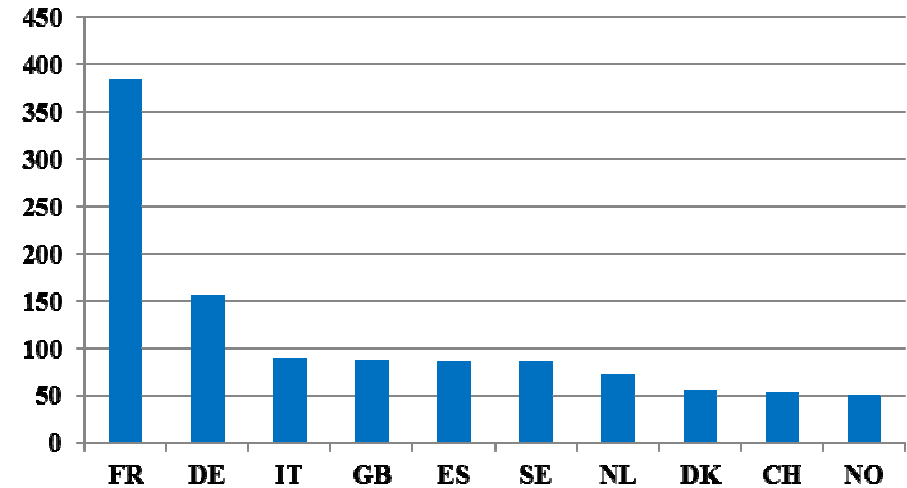


# Ranking by number of films

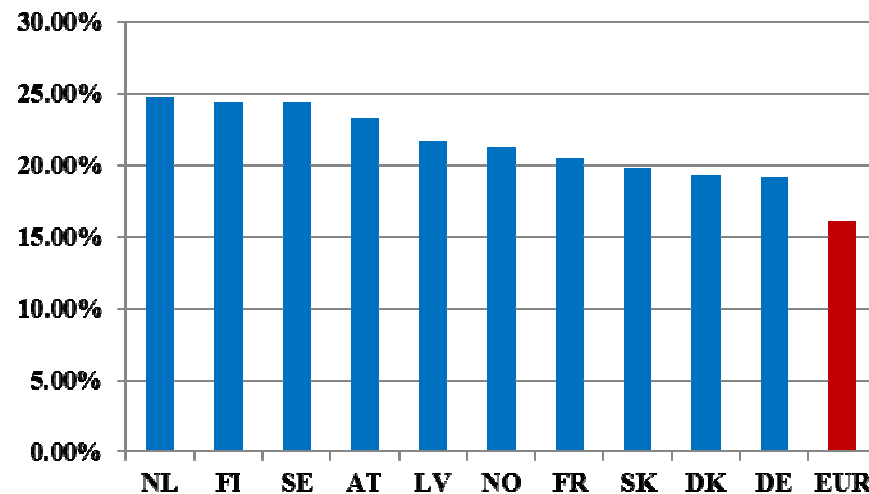
Countries by number of films produced



Countries by number of films by female directors



Countries by share of films by female directors

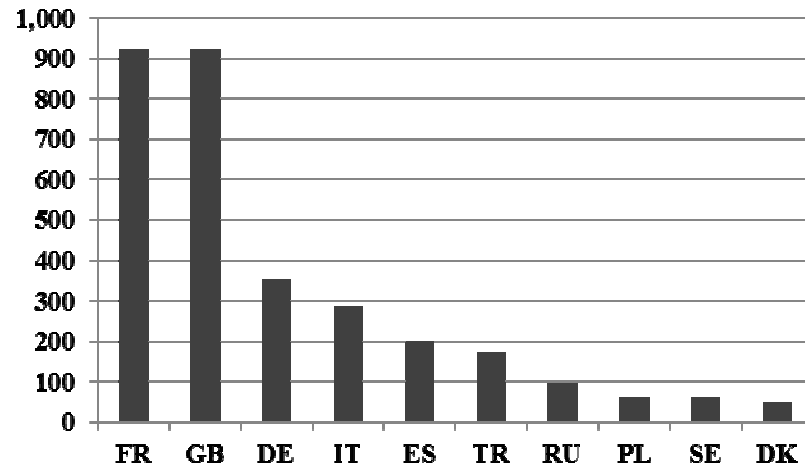


**EUROPE: 16.1%**

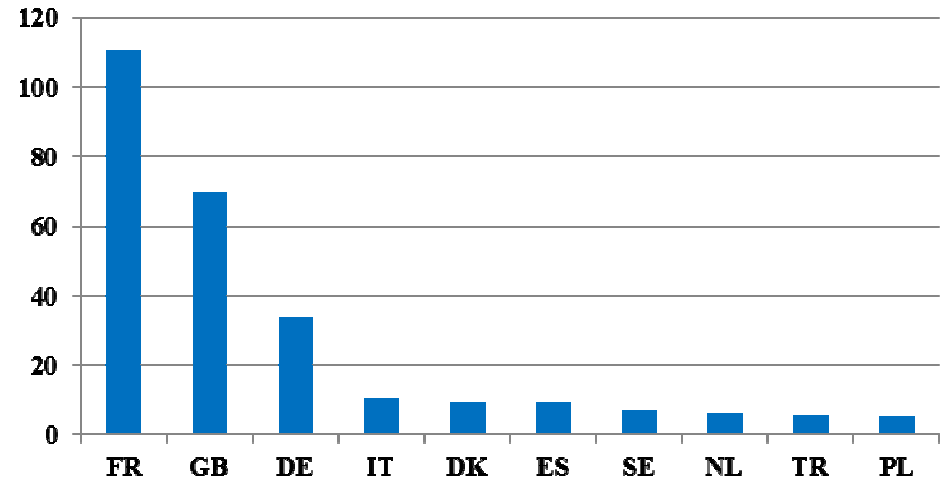


# Ranking by number of admissions

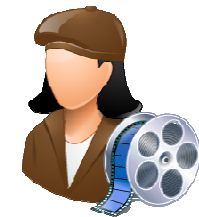
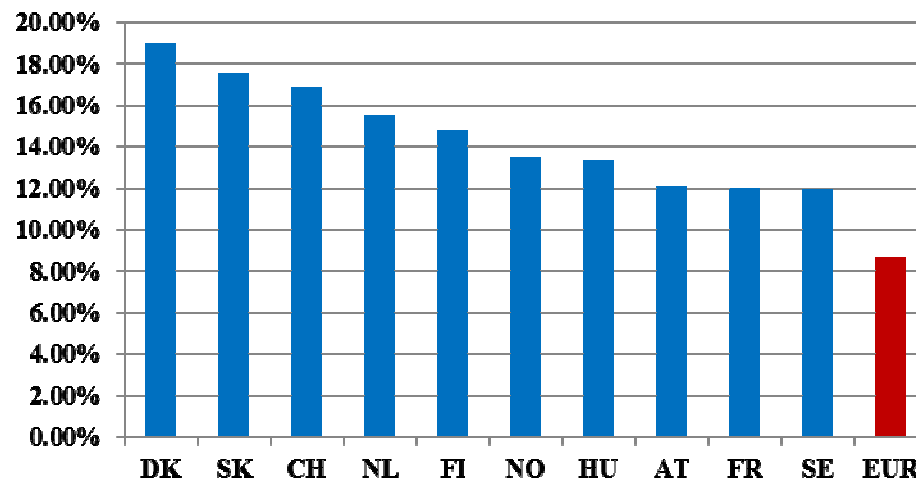
Countries by admissions (in million)



Countries by admissions to films by female directors



Countries by share of admissions to films by female directors



**EUROPE: 8.7%**



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# Thank you!



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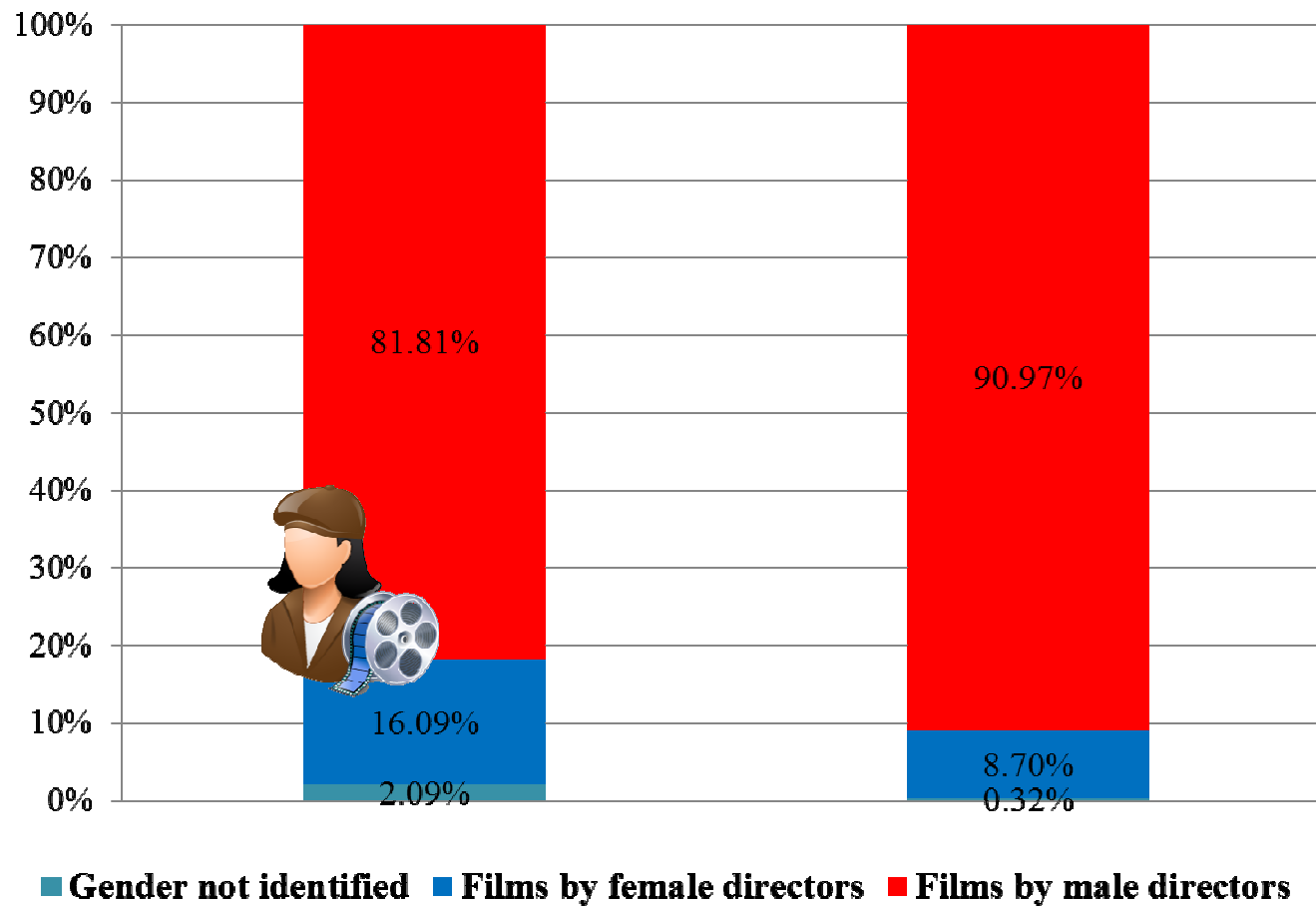
# Top 20 films by admissions by female directors

## (European films in European markets in the 21<sup>st</sup> century)

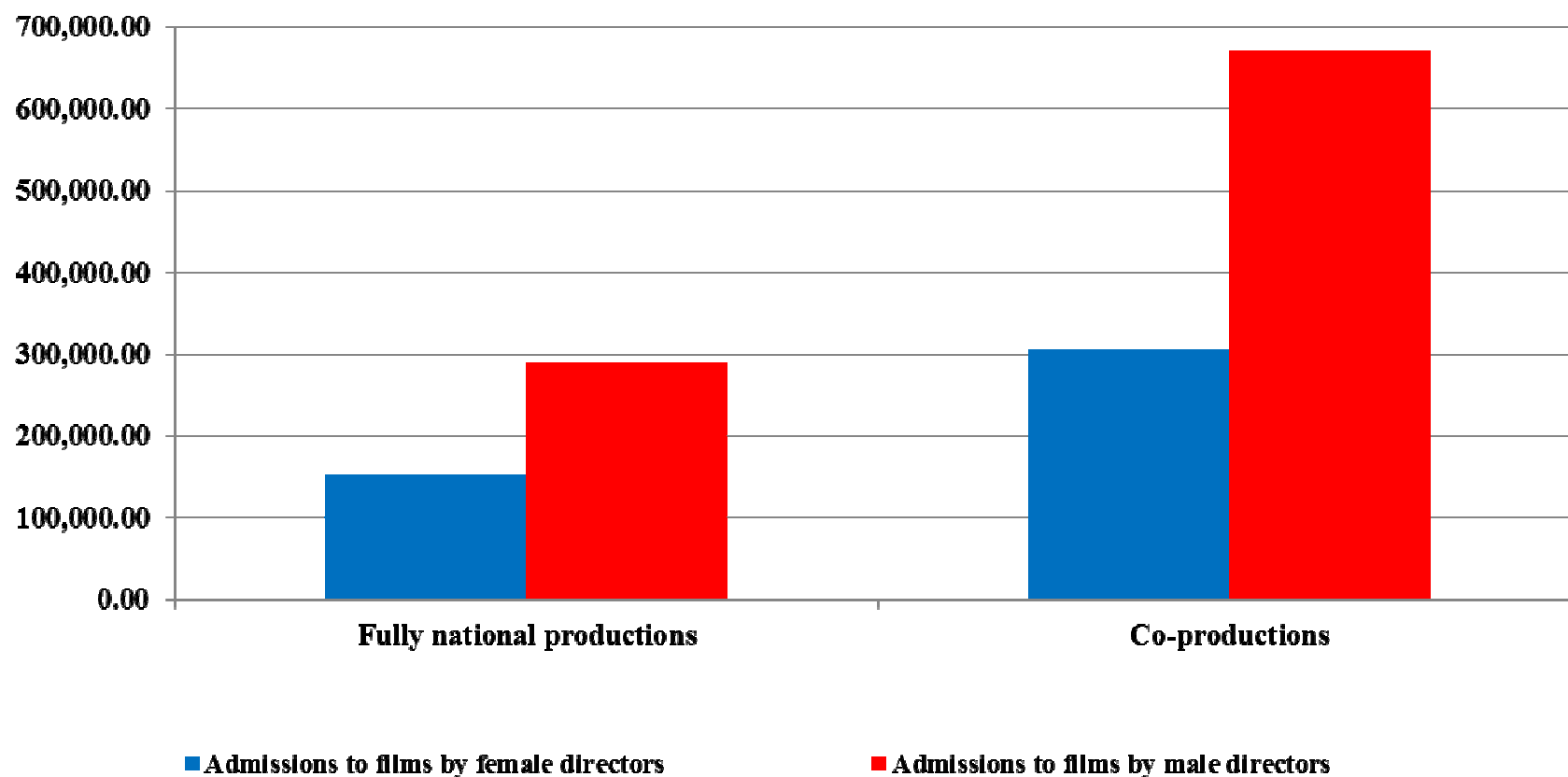
Rank	Film	Admissions (in millions)	Genre	Country of production de production	Year of productio n	Film directors	Estimated budget (IMDB)
1	Bridget Jones's Diary	30.5	Romance	GB / US	2,001	Sharon Maguire	\$26,000,000
2	Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason	20.4	Romance	GB / US / FR / DE / IE	2,004	Beeban Kidron	\$40,000,000
3	The Iron Lady	5.9	History	GB / FR	2,011	Phyllida Lloyd	\$1,300,000
4	Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang	5.9	Comedy	GB / US / FR	2,010	Susanna White	\$35,000,000
5	Le goût des autres	5.3	Comedy Drama	FR	2,000	Agnès Jaoui	\$8,242,814
6	Bend It Like Beckham	4.9	Comedy	GB / DE	2,002	Gurinder Chadha	\$5,433,320
7	LOL (Laughing Out Loud)	4.1	Comedy	FR	2,008	Lisa Azuelos	\$13,969,614
8	Je vous trouve très beau	3.9	Comedy Drama	FR	2,005	Isabelle Mergault	\$8,290,221
9	One Day	3.8	Romance	GB INC / US	2,011	Lone Scherfig	\$15,000,000
10	Coco avant Chanel	3.7	History	FR	2,009	Anne Fontaine	\$27,071,197
11	La rafle	3.1	History	FR / DE / HU	2,010	Roselyne Bosch	\$26,353,422
12	Italiensk for begyndere	3.0	Romance	DK	2,000	Lone Scherfig	\$600,000
13	Die weiße Massai	2.9	Drama	DE	2,005	Hermine Huntgeburth	\$8,713,445
14	Palais royal	2.8	Comedy	FR / GB	2,005	Valérie Lemerrier	\$18,829,202
15	Enfin veuve	2.5	Comedy	FR	2,007	Isabelle Mergault	\$10,436,719
16	Comme une image	2.5	Comedy Drama	FR / IT	2,004	Agnès Jaoui	\$14,565,176
17	Nirgendwo in Afrika	2.5	Biography History	DE	2,001	Caroline Link	\$6,221,349
18	Polisse	2.4	Drama	FR	2,011	Maiwenn	\$8,981,283
19	Bibi Blocksberg	2.4	Comedy	DE	2,002	Hermine Huntgeburth	\$5,669,434
20	The Guru	2.3	Comedy	GB / US / FR	2,002	Daisy von Scherler Mayer	\$11,000,000

## Close-up on female directors (II)

% of films and admissions by gender of the director (2003-2012)

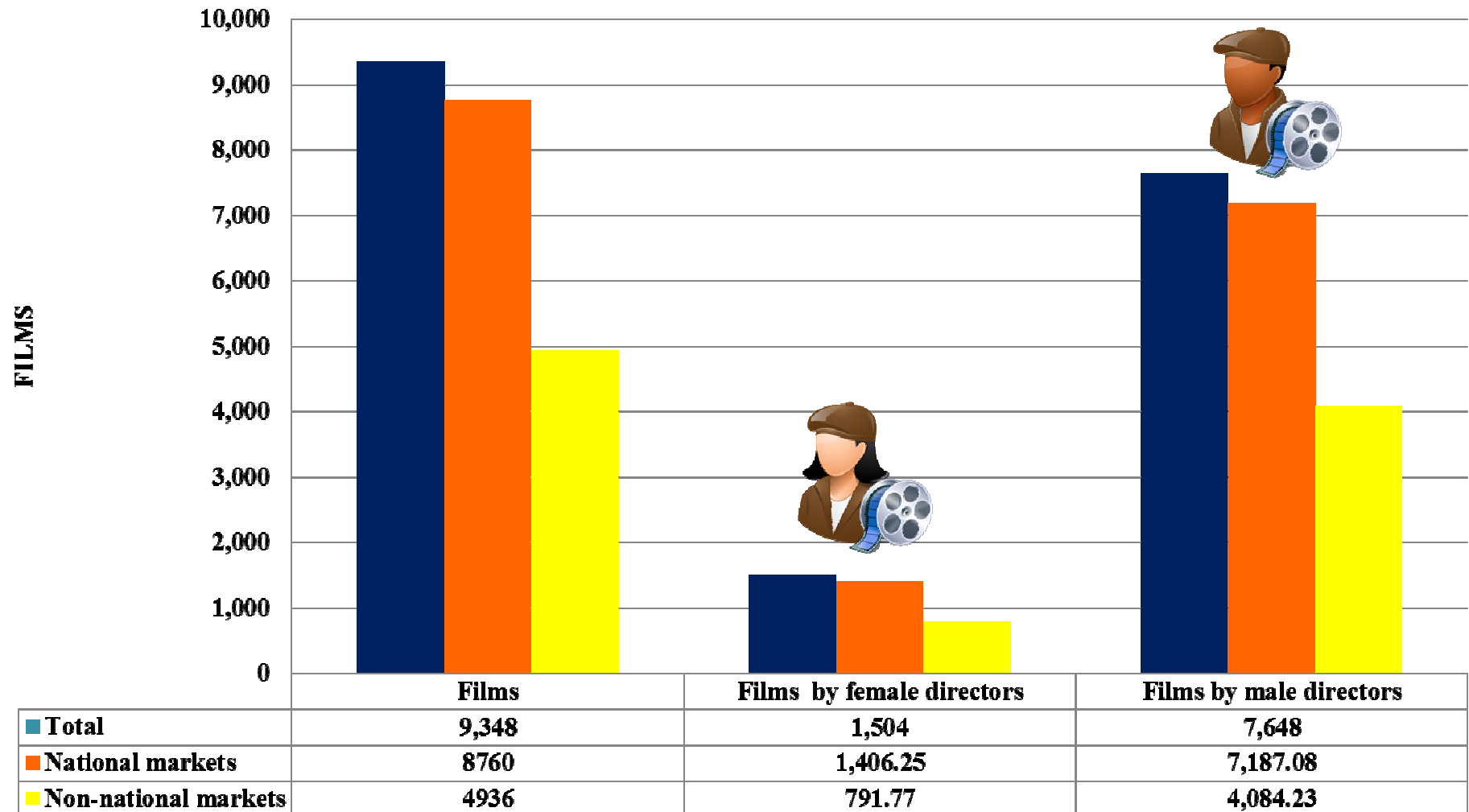


**Average admissions per European film produced between 2003 and 2012 by type of production and gender of the director**



# Do films by either gender follow a similar pattern in foreign markets?

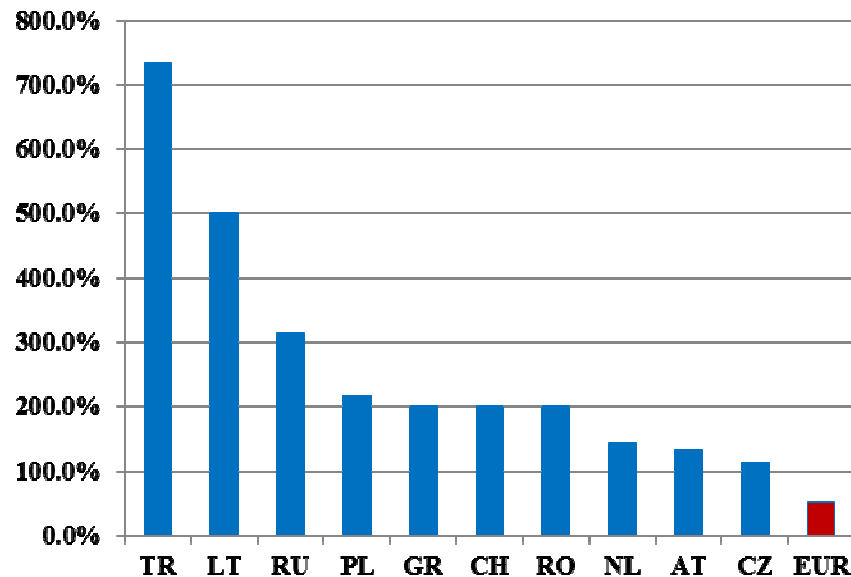
European released in national and foreign markets by gender of the director



# Ranking by growth in the number of films

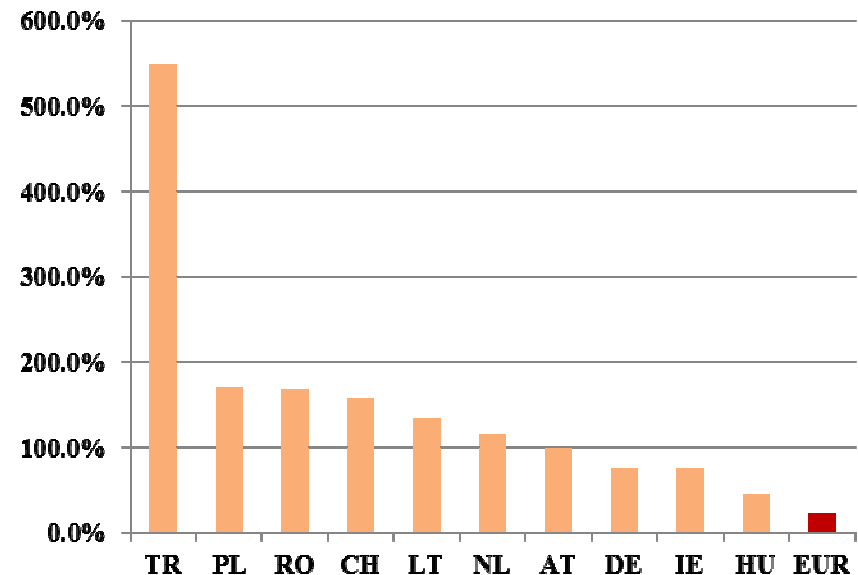
(Between the beginning and the end of the time series)

Countries by growth of films by female directors



EUROPE: 51.6%

Difference between the growth in either gender

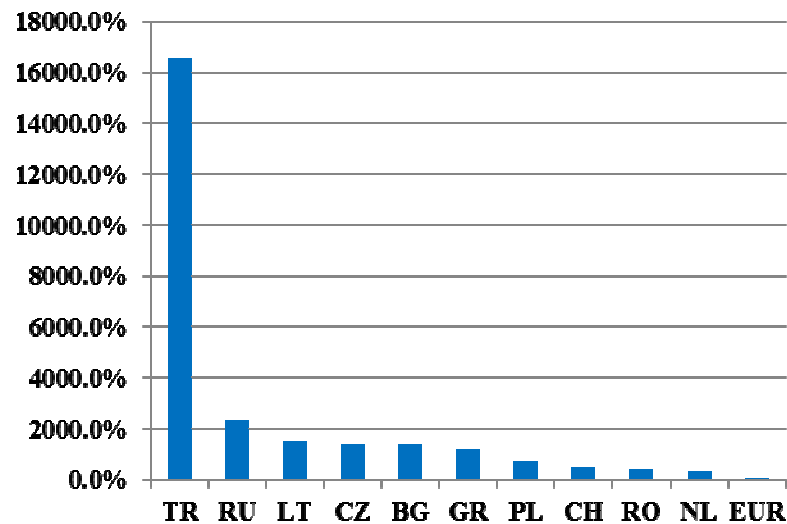


EUROPE: 22.3%

# Ranking by admissions growth

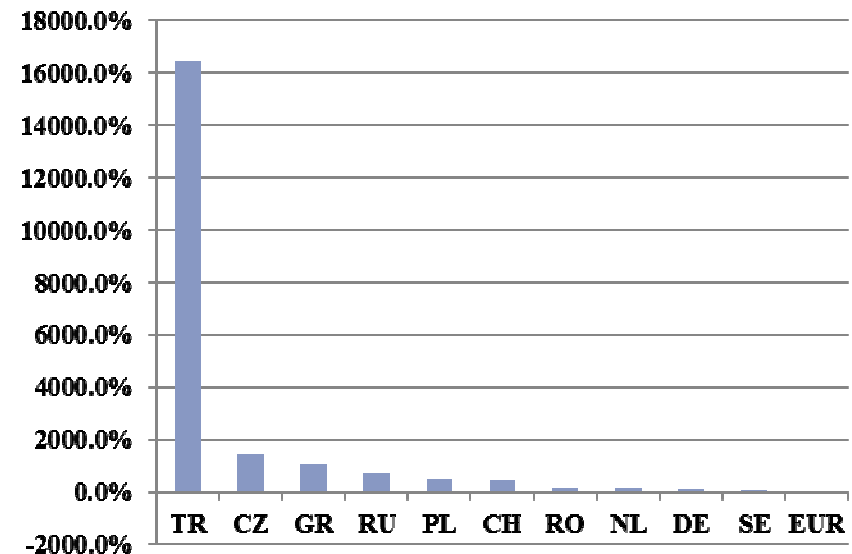
(Between the beginning and the end of the time series)

Countries by growth of admissions to films  
by female directors



**EUROPE: 15.2%**

Difference between the growth in either gender



**EUROPE: -18.1%**