

ANIFILM 2020

International Festival of Animated Films / October 6 – 11 2020 / Liberec / Czech Republic

Nearing its end, ANIFILM 2020 announced best films and games, two Czech films and one Czech computer game successful in the festival's international competitions

Anifilm International Festival of Animated Films in Liberec is nearing its finale. Due to the situation and restrictions, the closing ceremony of the festival is moved from the F. X. Šalda into virtual space. You can see the ceremony online, it will be streamed on Saturday 10th October from 20:00. You can find the link at the festival's website www.anifilm.cz and the festival's Facebook profile (<https://www.facebook.com/Anifilm>). There is definitely a lot you can look forward to. Actor and moderator Tomáš Měcháček will announce the winners of the festival competitions and you will see award-winning filmmakers and clips from their film.

The winner of the International Competition of Feature films for grown-up is the Japanese film *On-Gaku: Our Sound* (directed by Kenji Iwaisawa), a humorously crazy film about the power of music and the need of self-realisation. The award for the Best Film for Children goes to the film *The Fantastic Voyage of Marona* (directed by Anca Damian) about the need for happiness and search for home from a dog's perspective. Best short film is the Polish naturalistic road movie *Acid Rain* (directed by Tomek Popakul) and the best student film is *Daughter* by Daria Kashcheeva. The winner of the category for non-narrative and abstract animation are the Swiss film *Average Happiness* (directed by Maja Gehrig) and the music video is the Czech music video directed by Bety Suchanová and Nora Štrbová for the song *Tíseň* by rap duo PAST. The best VR film is the American-French coproduction *BattleScar – Punk was Invented by Girls* (directed by Martin Allais and Nico Casavecchia).

The winners of the national competition Czech Horizon were selected by the Council of Animated Film before the festival. The best animated film across all categories is *Daughter* by Daria Kashcheeva. This film also won the award for Best Student Film. *Daughter* can add three awards from Anifilm to its already phenomenal list of successes. For the first time, short films had to compete with feature film and the winner is Alexandra Májová's short film *Washing Machine*. Together with Kateřina Karhánková, Alexandra Májová also won the award for the Best TV / Online Series for their episode *Truffles* from the series *Hungry Bear Tales*. The award for the Best

Commissioned Work goes to Kryštof Pacourek and his spot *Fake News in the Digital World*. Best Music Video is for the song *Shredder* by *Talya La Lia* directed by Eliška and Lee Oz.

The last competition was the competition of computer games. The Best Games for Children is the British project by Inkle Studios *Heaven's Vault* and the award for Best Visual Art stays at home with Jakub Dvorský and the game *Pilgrims* by Amanita Design, the authors of popular games such as *Machinarium* and *Samorost*.

At its opening ceremony, Anifilm presented its Lifetime Achievement Award to Ivo Špalj. This sound engineer is known for his work on many animated film and his long-term collaboration with Jan Švankmajer.

Liberec has become the new home of Anifilm and it is obvious that it was a lucky pick for both the city and the festival. Taking over many spots in the city, Anifilm used the conveniences offered by Liberec. Chateau Liberec naturally became the festival centre, screening of the Cinema City multiplex in the Forum shopping centre offered high-quality screenings and comfort and Varšava Cinema created an alternative space for screenings and discussions with authors (as well as offering excellent coffee), Lidové Sady became the centre of programmes for families and children and the Regional Research Library in Liberec provided more than suitable space for presentations, lectures and discussions. Screenings were held also in the premises of Grandhotel Zlatý Lev and Liberec's Dr. Edvard Beneš square was a beautiful setting for the festival's autumn open-air screenings.

ANIFILM in Liberec – Fun Facts

This year's Anifilm is slowly coming to its end and so we can look back. Just like many other events around the world, Anifilm was hit by the Coronavirus and so it had to be postponed from its original May date to 6th - 11th October. Turns out it was in the very last possible moment, as during the festival the government introduced new measures and regulations limiting culture including cinemas and film festivals. Thanks to the support of the City of Liberec, the Liberec Region, Ministry of Culture, State Cinematography Fund and other partners, the festival team managed to move Anifilm not only in space but in time. But such changes are a part of the magical world of animation.

There were altogether **136** competition films: 9 feature films, 34 short films, 41 student films, 23 music videos, 15 abstract and non-narrative films as 14 VR film. The international competition of computer games had 15 entries. In the five categories of the national competition **Czech Horizon** competed **73 films** produced in the Czech republic. When counting also accompanying films, the total numbers **exceeds 450 films**.

Apart from international and national competitions, Anifilm prepared also a rich and varied accompanying film programme. The members of the festival juries presented their work – although some were for obvious reasons forced to do it online. The main theme of this year's festival was music and sound in animation represented by section Hear Animation. This theme brought famous films such as *Pink Floyd: The Wall* by the recently deceased Alan Parker with unforgettable animated sequences by Gerald Scarfe, anthology film *Heavy Metal*, jazz-filled *The Triplets of Belleville* and *The Nightmare Before Christmas* by Tim Burton with the score

composed by Danny Elfman. A substantial part of the programme focused on the work of Czech composers such as Zdeněk Liška, Wiliam Bukový, Luboš Fišer, Jaroslav Celba and Jiří Kolafa whose compositions contributed to the success Czech animation found around the world. And there were, of course, film programmes and discussions with Ivo Špalj.

Thanks to Anifilm, the fans of the iconic Simpsons had a chance to see our jury member David Silverman (his masterclass unfortunately had the form of a live stream) and his yellow family from Siprovingfield. The festival didn't forget to include its popular midnight screenings for several hard-boiled films. And there were also many other film screenings, meetings and discussions for children, grown-ups, film fans and professionals.

Photographs from the festival, awarded films and games can be downloaded here: <https://we.tl/t-ucDqtSF3kC> until 17th October 2020... or we will be happy to send them to you on your request!

International Competition: Feature Films For Adults

Jury: David Silverman (USA), Luce Grosjean (France), Pierre Yves Drapeau (Canada)

Main Prize

On-Gaku: Our Sound

(音楽)

Director: **Kenji Iwaisawa**

Japan, 2019, 71 min

Technique: drawing on paper, 2D computer rotoscoping

Produced by: Rock'n Roll Mountain



Jury statement:

The staging, rhythm, use of stillness and silence combined with minimalist dialogues result in a hilarious film that breaks standards. On-Gaku also presents a great rotoscoping concert and all the musical sequences have great artistic directions. Playing unexpectedly with our expectations and thus captivating the audience, the jury was dazzled by the director's skills, his finesse and his keen sense of humor. The film is a playful representation of what it's like to be part of a group, a great experience to live together, ideally in a cinema to be surrounded by laughing people.

Synopsis:

Music is their life and the relentless sound of drums and wailing of guitars has always been their passion. At least since the moment they plugged them into an amp. But that was hardly yesterday. And after that, it actually wasn't undying love at first sight – every proper band has its ups and down. But the most important thing is finding your sound. This independent film based on a manga by Hiroyuki Ohashi depicts the story of this future musical legend currently dealing with teething problems. Its minimalist artistic style is underlined by the film's dry humour, and static shots alternate with exaggerated emotional reactions typical for mainstream romantic and comedy anime films starring high school kids. Director Kenji Iwaisawa spent seven years working on his crazy and completely hand-drawn film about the power of music and the need for self-fulfilment. Its artistic style respects the original, but in many scenes it transforms itself into energetic and wild drawings, surreal spectacles and rotoscoping. Whether you are an aficionado of various artistic styles, a die-hard rock fan or an alternative music fan, come and see the first show of the band Kobujutsu.

International Competition: Feature Films For Children

Jury: David Silverman (USA), Luce Grosjean (France), Pierre Yves Drapeau (Canada)

Main Prize

Marona's Fantastic Tale

(L'extraordinaire voyage de Marona)

Director: **Anca Damian**

Romania, France, Belgium, 2019, 92 min

Technique: 2D computer, 3D computer, cut out

Produced by: Aparte Film, Sacrebleu Productions



Jury statement:

A film that could only have been made in animation and which brilliantly uses the specificity of this art form. With quirky graphics, bold animation techniques, and highly realistic characters, an inspired director reminds us that happiness lies in little things. And with a sensitive musical score perfectly in tune with the visuals, this author film offers a particularly artistic and original artwork.

Synopsis:

The visitors of last year's Anifilm had a chance to get to know Romanian director Anca Damian as an author of animated documentaries (Crulic – The Path to Beyond, 2011; The Magic Mountain, 2015). The tale of a dog called Marona (whose mother represents the best of street dogs and whose father the worst of the purebred Dogo Argentino) seems to be an unexpected turn in Damian's career. In collaboration with Belgian graphic artist Brecht Evens, she managed to create a lavish and colorful world seen through the eyes of the film's heroine who has to overcome many obstacles in life just like the heroes of the aforementioned documentaries. And in the case of Crulic, also a tragic fate: the charming voyage taking us through all the important events of Marona's life begins at its very end – a busy street... Marona was the ninth puppy of the litter and it shows. Her reminiscing about her former masters is filled with an honest desire to have a permanent and steady home, melancholic moments, her ability to stay on top of things and her warm kindness. Marona's Fantastic Tale is a film for children and grown-ups alike, but mainly for people who are not afraid to look at the world through different eyes.

Special Jury Mention

The Bears' Famous Invasion of Sicily

(La fameuse invasion des ours en Sicile)

Director: **Lorenzo Mattotti**

France, Italy, 2019, 81 min

Technique: 2D computer, 3D computer

Produced by: Prima Linea Productions



Jury statement:

Beautiful techniques, unusual story telling. The jury wanted to emphasize the quality of the animation, of the graphic design and the relevant use of the CGI.

Synopsis:

Gedeon and his mate Almerina are here for everyone who likes to have a good laugh or cry and who loves legends and adventures. Together, they wander through the land and tell incredible stories reminiscent of Italian Commedia dell'Arte. Thanks to their tales, we learn about a story from a time when bears ruled the Sicilian mountains. One day, hunters kidnap Tonio, son of the bear king Leonzio. To find his long-lost son and food to survive the winter, the great bear king leads his clan down from the mountains and into the world of men. After escaping terrible monsters and defeating an evil duke, the bears and men live together in peace – for a time. The film is based on the popular children's book of the same name written by Dino Buzzati and was designed and made by the renowned Italian illustrator and comic book artist Lorenzo Mattotti. His feature debut bears his unique artistic signature using symbolism and expressionism. Despite this extravagant style that was surely demanding for animators, Mattotti managed to tell a thrilling story as unusual as its artistic style. The result is an extraordinary family film with no parallels in contemporary cinema.

International Competition: Short Films

Jury: Serge Basset (France), Eliška Děcká (CZ), Anna Mantzaris (Sweden)

Main Prize

Acid Rain

(Acid Rain)

Director: **Tomek Popakul**

Poland, 2019, 26 min 15 s

Technique: 2D computer, 3D computer

Produced by: Grzegorz Waclawek, Piotr Szczepanowicz (Animoon sp. z o.o)



Jury statement:

We decided to give the main prize to Acid Rain because it's a strong powerful film which fills every moment of its 27 minutes with almost on-your-own-skin-felt emotions, drama and visual persuasiveness. It let us sink right into the story from the very beginning till its bittersweet end.

Synopsis:

This raw and naturalistic road movie drama takes place somewhere in Eastern Europe. A girl depressed by her life in a joyless town decides to hitch a ride to get away from what she loathes. In the middle of the night, she meets a weirdo named Skinny and together they set out on a journey with no destination. As their ride continues, a particular affection grows between the two of them.

Special Jury Mention

Uncle Thomas, Accounting for the Days

(Tio Tomás, a contabilidade dos dias)

Director: **Regina Pessoa**

Portugal, Canada, France, 2019, 13 min

Technique: 2D computer, drawing on paper, others

Produced by: Abi Feijó (Ciclope Filmes), Julie Roy (ONF/NFB), Reginald de Guillebon (Les Armateurs)



Jury statement:

We decided to give the special mention to Uncle Thomas: Accounting for the days because we were truly captivated by the magnificent craftsmanship and aesthetics in this very personal, human and curious story.

Synopsis:

The renowned Portuguese director decided to portray her memories of her uncle who worked as an accountant and led a very humble and ordinary life. Regardless of that, Regina Pessoa saw her uncle as a very important person and that's exactly what she is trying to convey in her latest artistically polished film: even an ordinary man can be extraordinary.

International Competition: Student Films

Jury: Serge Besset (France), Eliška Děcká (CZ), Anna Mantzaris (Sweden)

Main Prize

Daughter

(Dcera)

Director: Daria Kashcheeva

Czech Republic, 2019, 14 min 50 sec

Technique: stop-motion, puppet

Produced by: Martin Vandas (MAUR film),
FAMU



Jury statement:

We decided to give the main prize to Daughter. With an original and impressive animation technique, and a very captivating and strong storyline dealing with the complex emotions in the relationship between a daughter and her father. This is a truly touching, awe-inspiring and beautiful film.

Synopsis:

This Academy Award nominated and Student Oscar and Annecy Cristal winning film is the biggest success of Czech animation in recent years. Made by a Russian director studying at the Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, this impressive puppet film uses dynamic hand camera and detailed close-ups of the puppets' faces to emphasize the story about a not-so-ideal relationship between a father and his daughter.

Special Jury Mention

In Her Boots

Director: Kathrin Steinbacher

United Kingdom, Austria, 2019, 6 min 2 sec

Technique: 2D computer, drawing on paper,
mixed media

School: Royal College of Art



Jury statement:

We decided to give our special mention to In Her Boots because it narrates a beautiful story highlighting important humanistic values of how nicely we could treat each other if we just decided to go with our hearts instead of society's opinions about normalcy. We also appreciated the beauty of the fittingly chosen colors and the whole visual style of this short yet unforgettable film.

Synopsis:

Hedi is experiencing strange things. While her granddaughter is visiting, she suddenly embarks on a hiking journey, to the deepest parts of the Alps, revealing the reason for her devoted attachment to her hiking shoes. The author managed to portray this tragicomic story from her life with humour and detachment without belittling it.

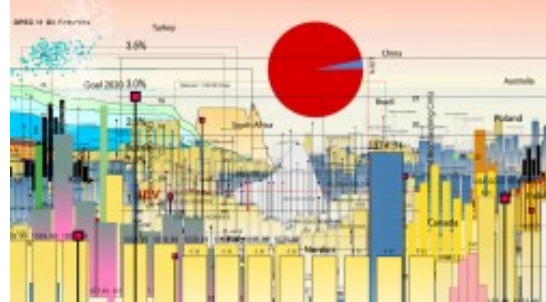
International Competition: Abstract and Non-Narrative Animation

Jury: Michaela Čopíková (Slovakia), Milen Alempijević (Serbia), Joost Rekveld (Netherlands)

Main Prize

Average Happiness

Director: **Maja Gehrig**
Switzerland, 2019, 7 min 7 s
Technique: 2D computer
Produced by: Langfilm



Jury statement:

For the successful transfiguration of featureless statistical charts and graphs into a distinctive and vivid visual language. We travel through the tedious world of excel sheets and anonymous numbers and witness its transformation being into a world that is seems even more surreal and alive than the real world they represent.

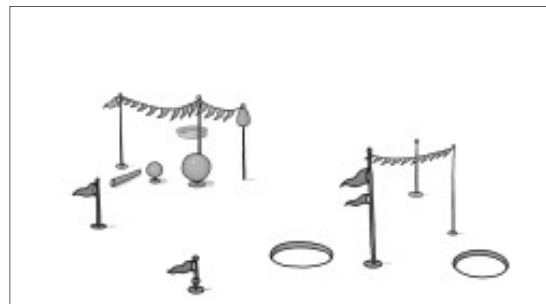
Synopsis:

During a boring PowerPoint presentation, statistical diagrams are breaking free from the strait-jacket of their coordinates. A trip into the sensual world of statistics begins. Pie charts are melting, arrow diagrams twisting, scatter plots, bar graphs and stock market curves join in a collective climax.

Special Jury Mention

Wind

Director: **Dana Sink**
USA, 2019, 1 min 53 sec
Technique: 2D computer
Produced by: Dana Sink



Jury statement:

For a peculiar and witty display of odd apparatuses which all of a sudden reveal the invisible beauty of a mechanical dance. An animation of disconnected parts with incomprehensible functions transforms into a deep meditation on the human body as a machine and about the essence of animation.

Synopsis:

A ball goes through various gear mechanisms and tracks. It appears and disappears in various pits without an apparent meaning. As the rhythm of the cycle accelerates, the viewers recognize a hidden life of the entire apparatus. The American author of this short film makes use of a minimalist artistic style which he eventually turns into an unusual dance.

International Competition: Music Videos

Jury: Michaela Čopíková (Slovakia), Milen Alempijević (Serbia), Joost Rekveld (Netherlands)

Main Prize

P\ST: Tíseň

Director: Bety Suchanová, Nora Štrbová
Czech Republic, 2020, 4 min 40 sec
Technique: 2D computer
Produced by: Bety Suchanová, Nora Štrbová



Jury statement:

The jury gives the prize because of the bold statement, the nicely intertwined and funny combination of images, the combination of rhythm and lyrics, the artistic animation, and the proof that sometimes with less you can elegantly go BIG. Feel the distress (tíseň) with joy!

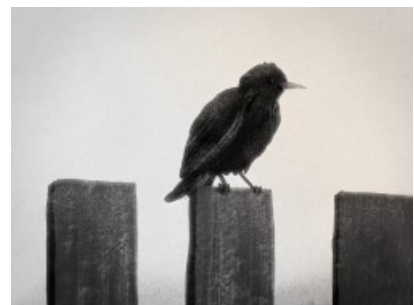
Synopsis:

The critical, angry and offensive style of Czech rap duo P\ST is accompanied by a no less disturbing video made by two female directors. They naturally use black and white stylization and alternate between simple, yet strong motifs. The personified anxiety from the song's title transforms its form – it grows, spills, crawls on the walls, creeps out of woods and brooks and cannot be trapped.

Special Jury Mention

Resina: In (Ian William Craig rework)

Director: Mateusz Jarmulski
Poland, 2019, 5 min 55 sec
Technique: 2D computer, drawing on paper, painting on paper
Produced by: Mateusz Jarmulski



Jury statement:

In a refined visual style and on the limits of what is still a videoclip, Jarmulski makes human absence very present in this piece. Through a series of minimal vignettes we circle around what seems to human protagonist, coming closer and closer, but only encountering a fading memory.

Synopsis:

This captivating music video building on a strong film-like atmosphere was done in frame-by-frame animation and was visually influenced by works of Jonas Mekas and Stan Brakhage. The author gained experience in the famous Polish studio Se-Ma-For.

International Competition: VR films

Jury: Bára Anna Stejskalová, Lukáš Medek, Radim Pultera (all Czech Republic)

Main Prize

BattleScar – Punk Was Invented by Girls

Martín Allais, Nico Casavecchia, France / USA
2019



Jury statement:

The jury decided to award a project which uses a female perspective to take us into 1970's New York. The authors make an exceptional use of the potential of virtual reality – in an original way, they work with the scale of characters and objects and inventively combine typography with 3D animation accompanied by unique score. The winner of the first ever VR competition in the Czech Republic is BattleScar – Punk was Invented by Girls by Martín Allais and Nico Casavecchia.

Synopsis:

BattleScar follows a year in the life of Lupe, a Puerto Rican-American living in late 1970s New York City. The film utilizes Lupe's handwritten journal to guide us through her experiences spanning across the year 1978, when she meets Debbie. Debbie introduces Lupe to the Punk scene of the Bowery and exposes her to the secret worlds co-existing on the Lower East Side in the late 70s.

Special Jury Mention

Passenger

Isobel Knowles, Van Sowerwine, Australia, 2019



Jury statement:

The jury decided to award its special mention to a project in which we become an immigrant animal coming to a new fantastic land. The film takes us to the unexplored field of stop-motion animation in the medium of virtual reality and resourcefully plays with suspense and powerful sound design. The special mention goes to Australian film Passenger by Isobel Knowles and Van Sowerwine.

Synopsis:

A stop-motion VR film that tells the story of arriving in a new country to live. Your taxi driver navigates the new terrain with you, acting as your guide while also revealing small parts of his own story. Passenger recreates and investigates the geographic and visual dislocation of arriving somewhere unfamiliar, and beginning the journey of finding a new home in a foreign land.

International Competition: Computer Games

Jury: Lukáš Medek (Czech Republic), Marek Plichta (Germany), Rafael Varona (Netherlands)

Main Prize: Excellence in Arts

Pilgrims

Amanita Design - Jakub Dvorský
Czech Republic, 2019



Jury statement:

The jury appreciates the originality of artistic expression that feels both familiar and strange at the same time. It is impossible to find any detail that feels out of place, or of lower quality than the rest of game assets.

Synopsis:

Pilgrims is a playful adventure game by the makers of *Machinarium* and *Samorost*. Wander around a fairy-tale world, find new friends and decide their fate as well as the fate of the whole little kingdom.

Main Prize: Kid Game

Heaven's Vault

Inkle Studios, United Kingdom, 2019



Jury statement:

The jury hoses this game as an experience that can be shared with a parent as we see a value in that as a bonding experience. The game also represents an innovation in the areas of design, theme, diversity and educational element that does not feel forced.

Synopsis:

Aliya Elasra is an archaeologist exploring a strange region of space called the Nebula with her robot sidekick Six, hoping to uncover the secrets of the long-forgotten past. When a roboticist goes missing, she starts down a trail of discoveries that will lead to the very edge of her world.

National competition Czech Horizon

National competition Czech Horizon: Winner across all categories

Daughter

(Dcera)

Director: Daria Kashcheeva

Czech Republic, 2019, 14 min 50 sec

Produced by: Martin Vandas (MAUR film), FAMU



Synopsis:

This Academy Award nominated and Student Oscar and Annecy Cristal winning film is the biggest success of Czech animation in recent years. Made by a Russian director studying at the Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, this impressive puppet film uses dynamic hand camera and detailed close-ups of the puppets' faces to emphasise the story about a not-so-ideal relationship between a father and his daughter.

National competition Czech Horizon: Feature and Short Film

Washing Machine

(Pračka)

Director: Alexandra Májová

Czech Republic, 2020, 5 min 2 sec

Produced by: Alexandra Májová



Synopsis:

Alexandra Májová's humorous and playful film is a remarkable parable of human relationships. But in her film, a man isn't trying to solve problems with a woman, but with a troublesome home appliance. Eventually, emotions and hormones steer this minimalist and artistically inventive home drama in an unexpected direction leading towards a surprising end.

National competition Czech Horizon: Student film

Daughter

(Dcera)

Director: Daria Kashcheeva

Czech Republic, 2019, 14 min 50 sec

Produced by: Martin Vandas (MAUR film), FAMU



Synopsis:

This Academy Award nominated and Student Oscar and Annecy Cristal winning film is the biggest success of Czech animation in recent years. Made by a Russian director studying at the Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, this impressive puppet film uses dynamic hand camera and detailed close-ups of the puppets' faces to emphasise the story about a not-so-ideal relationship between a father and his daughter.

National competition Czech Horizon: TV and online film/serial

Hungry Bear Tales – Truffles

(Mlsné medvědí příběhy - Na lanýže!)
Director: Alexandra Májová, Kateřina Karháňková
Czech Republic, 2019, 7 min
Produced by: Barbora Příkladová (Bionaut)



Synopsis:

Another episode of a successful series about hungry bears. Nedvěd and Miška would like to cook something they've never eaten before. They open a cookbook and find a recipe for truffles – rare mushrooms with an allegedly indescribable taste. They decide to find the truffles themselves instead of using pigs. A playful film for the youngest viewers.

National competition Czech Horizon: Commissioned Works

Fake News in the Digital World

(Dezinformace v online prostředí)
Director: Kryštof Pacourek
Czech Republic, 2019, 1 min 43 sec
Produced by: vysvětli.cz (Clarity lab s.r.o.)



Synopsis:

Fake news is nothing new; public opinion has been manipulated since the dawn of time. But in the internet age, the manipulation has acquired a whole new dimension. In this video, Vysvětli.cz tries to inspire today's recipients to be more careful with regards to information.

National competition Czech Horizon: Music Videos

Talya La Lia: Shredder

Director: Eliška Oz, Lee Oz
Czech Republic, 2019, 3 min 9 sec
Produced by: Oz Animation



Synopsis:

This experimental music video depicts the dissonance between the way we feel inside and the way we present ourselves to the world, on social media and in general through playful work with plasticine. Authors Eliška and Lee Oz have been specialising in claymation for quite some time and achieve unusually fluid results.

za finanční podpory



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pořadatelé



hlavní mediální partner



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oficiální dopravce



mediální partneři



partneři

