

# Circom Report

CIRCOM Regional News monthly • CR is the European Association of 380 Public Regional TV Stations in 38 countries • April 2001 / No 17

Meeting in Bucharest, May 16-17

## The role of mass media in promoting cooperation in the Black Sea region

The role of Mass Media in promoting cooperation in the Black Sea region will be the main topic of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Heads of the National Public Television (stations) of the BSEC Member States, which takes place in Bucharest, May 16-17.

Under the auspices of the Parliamentary Assembly of the organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, the meeting will be a get-together of all the presidents and general directors of the public/state TV stations of the BSEC area as well as the Presidents of EBU and CIRCOM Regional.

This meeting is a result of the adoption of Recommendation 47/2000 on the role of Mass Media during the 16<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of Black Sea Economic Cooperation held in Yerevan, November 28-30, 2000.

The agenda of the meeting includes:

1. General debate on the contribution of the National Public TV stations of the BSEC member states to fostering friendship, cooperation and stability in the Black Sea region.
2. Institutional framework of cooperation among the stations.
3. Adoption of the Bucharest declaration of the first meeting on future cooperation.
4. Signing ceremony of the declaration



Members of the CR Executive Committee pose during their stay in Maribor.

## Euromusica deadline for Sept. 13-17 event

Euromusica goes to Sopron and Eisenstadt, Sept. 13-17, under the auspices of the Regional Studio Sopron Hungarian Television/ MTV and the Regional Studio Eisenstadt ORF. The deadline for this important CIRCOM Regional event is April 30. Full details on page 8.

## Prix Europa 2001 dates are set for October 13-20

The 2001 Prix Europa is on. The prestigious competition for the best programs of the year will remain faithful to its traditional dates and again be held in the third week of October, (Oct. 13-20). The deadline for entries will be July 1 and competition documents are to be distributed in May. The competition is backed by the Council of Europe, European Parliament, European Commission, European Cultural Foundation, etc. (E-mail: PRIX – EUROPE @ t-online.de/Internet: <http://www.prix-europa.de>)

## Evaluation of the impact of the adopted measures on "TV without Frontiers"

The "Television without Frontiers" directive will be examined before June 30, 2002. According to the article 25a during said re-examination, due account will be taken of an independent study that analyses the impact of the adopted measures on the production and broadcast of European TV programmes and on independent production.

This study is prompted by the European Commission Directorate - General for Education and Culture, who is going to organize two relative workshops in the premises of the Commission, on November 29 and (most likely) in February 2002.

# CR Regional training goes into Yugoslavia

Training Coordinator Rick Thompson describes Circom Regional's first training action to be held in Yugoslavia – the South-East Europe TV Journalism Workshop, held in Montenegro in March 2001.

Heavily-armed special government forces were preparing to storm Slobodan Milosevic's villa in Belgrade. The army in Montenegro was moving against Albanian insurgents on the border with Kosovo. And the people of Montenegro were preparing to vote in elections which might lead to controversial moves for an independent state. This was the time, in late March, that Circom Training was completing its first Television Journalism Workshop to be held in Yugoslavia, with young professionals from all parts of South-East Europe taking part.

The idea of a Circom Regional training initiative in Yugoslavia was raised at the Board Meeting in Porto last year, just a few weeks after the dramatic events of October 5<sup>th</sup> in Belgrade, when President Milosevic was forced to hand over power. I was asked if I could arrange something quickly, to support the rapid changes in the media climate in Serbia, and to take advantage of the end of sanctions. Our Balkan Coordinator, Ljiljana Breberina, who has excellent contacts with TV stations, had soon gathered wide support. One of our young trainees from the Potsdam workshop, Sanja Velimirovic from TV Elmag in Montenegro – now promoted to Editor in Chief – had urged us to arrange a workshop in Montenegro. So this was the obvious venue for a workshop for people from throughout the region. When Mario Oetheimer of the Council of Europe said he could provide most of the funds for such an enterprise, and the Irex/Pro-Media office in Belgrade agreed to collaborate with us, we knew it could go ahead. More financial support was to come from the Open Society Institute in Podgorica, and from the Montenegrin Ministry of Information and Tourism.

Between 18<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March, 30 young journalists and news camera-operators gathered at the Kraljicina Plaza Hotel near Budva on the Montenegrin coast. They came from Circom TV stations in Albania, Bosnia, Croatia, Moldova, Romania and Russia, as well as from Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo. Our expert tutors were Russell Peasgood from Pro-Media, and Kicki Hultin from SVT Sweden. Karol Cioma from the BBC once again agreed to be our technical director, and assembled a small

team of cameramen and picture-editors from Serbia and Bulgaria. Sony flew in a consignment of digital cameras and field-editors, so we were able to do plenty of practical work on location.

The workshop was intensive. How do we make our news programmes fair to all parties, and relevant to our audiences? How do we make them professional, when stations have little money and poor equipment? How should we use pictures effectively, rather than show meetings all the time? How do we get real people's stories into our programmes?

We practised interviews, camera techniques, and reporter-packages. Working in groups, we made six real features. Then at the end of the week, we went into the small local studio at TV Budva to record a full programme, with two young journalists from Montenegro and Kosovo presenting for the first time. Others operated the studio cameras. Everyone worked together with enthusiasm and commitment, united by a strong desire for better TV news, which turns its back on propaganda and division.

In the following week, Karol Cioma and I moved to Serbia, to conduct Circom seminars for 25 young student-journalists at the Novi Sad School of Journalism. All the participants at the workshop and in the seminars were hungry for knowledge, and were determined to overcome their very difficult working conditions, and to make programmes which serve the public interest. The feedback was among the best we have received. Circom is becoming well-known and respected in the area, and they want more!

The young journalists from all parts of South-East Europe were an inspiration to their tutors. Many became good friends. I hope that Circom can continue to find the resources to encourage the evolution of truly diverse and independent media in this important region, to support democratic change, and the development of high-quality television news at the regional level.



# Public service without secrets

**BELGRADE, April**

After the end of dramatic political changes in Yugoslavia in October 2000, one of the leading politicians of the new government was told that there was an urgent need of beginning the process of transition of Radio Television Serbia (RTS) into a public service. His surprise was genuine: "Isn't RTS that already? Everything they do there is public, there are no secrets." This true episode illustrates the way in which the majority of the participants in public life see the huge future work in the process of transition of the state media into a public broadcasting service.

Beginning their move towards the final settlement of ten years long odium towards RTS, hundreds of thousands of October demonstrators were determined to put an end to that situation in the most fundamental and literal way: the main building of RTS in downtown Belgrade was burnt. That way, both evidently and symbolically, they put an end to the way of work that transformed the state TV into the darkest propaganda machine of the dictator's regime. Although six months have already gone since October 5<sup>th</sup> and the appearance of the "New RTS" on the air, everything is still pretty much the same as it was during that night. Both radio and TV still have leaders of that night's "crises committees" on the key positions – mostly people who were previously employed within the system of RTS, and then during the years were fired or put onto the margins of the station. Recently, the Administrative Committee was formed, and it consists of prominent personalities from various professions, in accordance with Western standards. But its role is designed in such a way, that it would be more of ceremonial nature, and not the one of true control of their programme and business affairs.

After surviving the lynch on October 5<sup>th</sup>, ex-General Manager of RTS, Dragoljub Milanovic, was arrested more than a month ago. He will be brought to court on the certain assumption that he knew that NATO would have bombed the building of RTS in April 1999, and he didn't order evacuation of the employees. Sixteen of them were killed during NATO attack on April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1999. The issue of the new general manager is still open and almost daily actual. Since the moment of the revolutionary takeover of the station, ex-editor of the News Department of RTS, Mr. Nenad Ristic, has been in charge. For a long time now, Mr. Miodrag Isakov, famous journalist from Vojvodina, has been mentioned as his successor. Mr. Isakov is also the President of "Reformists of Vojvodina" and one of the leaders of the Democratic Opposition of Serbia (DOS). Strangely enough, Mr. Isakov didn't get any of the prominent posts in republic or federal government. It was not difficult to notice that once again the nomination of the general manager of RTS is solely in the hands of political parties of the ruling coalition. From these circles the information came about growing dispute concerning future collaborators of the new manager and most important editorial posts. Political will of the ruling coalition found its expression even more explicitly in canceling the RTS license fee, that used to be collected as a part of electricity bill. The station of 8500 thousand employees was left completely out of income.

In the meantime, all three channels of RTS wander between independent editorial policy and a long habit of rearranging the facts in accordance with the will of the ruling party. While their programme really doesn't resemble at all to the one of ex-Milosevic's TV, at the same time it is not any closer to what developed world consider as a public broadcasting service.

While RTS is trying to assemble parts of its completely ruined system, other existing stations are changing their programme rapidly, adapting themselves not only to the political change, but to a technological one also. This refers mostly to the young, successful ANEM TV. Made out of journalists of the most successful and several times banned Radio Station B92, it offers the concept of dynamic and professional news programme, combined with entertainment, quality TV series and sport transmissions. That way ANEM TV qualifies itself for a future public broadcasting

service, and more readily than state TV RTS. ANEM is also the Association of Independent TV Stations, and includes the network of local TV stations that played an enormous role in informing citizens of Serbia objectively before the change of the regime.

"Federal" TV station, YU Info, would also like the role of future public broadcasting service for itself, but with lesser chances than ANEM TV. YU Info was founded by the end of ten years long reign of ex-regime, with the sole aim to complicate already complex relations in Montenegro. Its signal can be seen in Montenegro, thanks to Yugoslav Army transmitters and contrary to the wishes of the ruling party in Montenegro. Today, YU Info is a correct news channel, with modern shape and solid programme and technological orientation.

On the other hand, two private TV stations, Pink TV and BK TV, seemed to survive, in spite of general expectations of their closure. Both Pink and BK belong to close collaborators of Milosevic's regime and both got their frequencies in the most conspicuous way. Despite that, they are still operating, undisturbed. While Pink is totally devoted to the low-quality entertainment and false glamour, BK's programme is still undefined and wanders somewhere among news, sports and entertainment. Studio B, ex-independent TV station that used to be very popular and influential, now has problems similar to those of BK's, defining the profile of its own.

While the programme positions in the existing TV offer are more or less defined, the legal framework in which those stations operate is totally undefined. There are no regulations to issue their obligations and to determine their rights. It is estimated that more than 100 TV stations and completely unknown number of radio stations offer their programmes in of Serbian airways. Almost all, or at least vast majority of them are operating without any licenses, or with licenses whose date has expired. Rare existing licenses do not define frequency ranges, power of transmitters and various other important issues. Bearing in mind that this state of affairs is not only untenable, but also dangerous, Federal Ministry of Telecommunications proclaimed the moratorium on granting frequencies until June 2001. In the cooperation with the team of experts in Belgrade Media Center, Ministry prepared the draft law on broadcasting. It was given to the relevant European institutions for an expert analysis. Draft law was made in accordance with the recommendations of Council of Europe, and with respect to experiences of the countries in the region.

Another team of experts is preparing the draft law on freedom of information. It would regulate the sphere of information in the more general framework, both defining the rights of journalists and media, and setting the limits with the regard to journalistic responsibility.

There are also signals that the new government would adopt both laws through an urgent procedure, as soon as the parliamentary hearing is over. That would obviously be the first, but big and important step in the right direction.

Both laws would represent the framework of media sphere transition process. This process will be long and complicated. It will take both good concept and lots of good will to solve the long list of problems: the number of employees in media houses, chaos in the field of frequencies, technological backwardness, financing, the problem of long habit of obedience gathered during the years of the ex-regime, and many others.

The stations in Serbia are at the very beginning of the journey. Nevertheless, something is already done. There are less and less people believing that public broadcasting service is something that is not hidden, something that happens in front of public eyes, and something we automatically have when we have television.

**VLADAN RADOSAVLJEVIC**  
Belgrade Media Center

On the Maribor Circom Regional EC agenda

# Associated membership, future strategies & co-pro

Maribor, Slovenia's second largest city was the site of the CR Executive Committee meeting last month and thanks to Zoran Medved and his colleagues (and the excellent Habakuk Hotel) made the stay there an unforgettable experience.

Here are some of the minutes of this meeting written down by CR's Marjana Rupnik.

## Information on candidates for Associated Membership

Associated Membership to Circom Regional is a special category aiming at member stations that do not fulfil all conditions set for full membership in the organisations due to special circumstances they have to cope with; by becoming Associated Members they are given a chance to enjoy the support of the organisation and participate in various Circom activities.

Two applications for Associate Membership have been filed in to the Secretary General, i.e. by a local TV stations from Niš and a public service broadcaster from Trstenik (both Serbia).

Furthermore, the Secretary General has received official applications for full membership by the stations of Noord Holland, Zeeland and Flevoland from the Netherlands. The EC welcomed this expression of interest by the Dutch stations and decided to recommend the EB to accept them as new members.

The Secretary General informed the EC that he has been informed that Mr. Nikoliè, the former Serbian national co-ordinator is no longer in office and that the new democratic media entity in Serbia informed him that a new co-ordinator shall be appointed by the next European Board meeting.

As far as the situation with ITV, UK, is concerned, they have failed to nominate a new co-ordinator by now. (March 10).

## European Coproduction Projects

The Secretary General explained that Peter Kraewinkels is servicing Circom Regional as lobbyist in Brussels, which is a prerequisite to get knowledge of various calls for proposals which are not or only later published in the official bulletins of the EU.

Peter Kraewinkels presented the EC a proposal for future strategies of CR.

He pointed out that the situation with the European Commission has changed and that now that funding has been completely decentralised, the procedures are rigid but fair and will be more inclined to fund large scale projects ensuring a better quality of the outcome.

Currently, CR has applied for two projects and one of the proposals, namely for the European Year of Languages, has been already accepted by the Commission so that the contract for 200.000 Euros was on the

way. Furthermore, a proposal for a Health in Europe coproduction producing a number of magazine items project has been filed in.

Further opportunities to apply for project oriented funding will arise through the European Year of Languages which may also partly cover buying rights and through the Democracy and Human Rights project (min 300.000 Euros), which might cover training, the Balkans, (yet the deadline for applications was set for March 19, 2001).

Furthermore, there are youth projects, renewable energy sources and the social dialogue projects (employees, the whole social fabric of industrial relationships) to be considered as potential opportunities to obtain co-financing by the Commission.

Mr. Kraewinkels pointed out that the next 5-years strategy of Circom needs to be ambitious, pro-active, focused on quality, larger budgets and coherence.

As to the single items of the strategy he emphasised that they need to be based on:

- **action plan** - programming resource centre, training, Prix Circom, developing IT framework, heavy lobbying
- **focus 2005** - European Year of the Regions (long time to do good job and provide framework to do good job) building partnerships, if accepted launch in Porto
- **programming resource centre** - library, online, comprehensive
- **tasks** - research, production, IT framework
- **financing** - EC, sponsors, pay per view, others

The Secretary General expressed his full support for this proposal and suggested that the presentation is taken as a basis for further considerations. The membership will be informed about it and a final decision shall be taken in Porto.

As far as both concrete proposals (the European Year of Languages, Health in Europe) are concerned, the EC endorsed both.

The EC furthermore agreed that it is worth to make an effort concerning the Democracy scheme and to file in an



The Mayor of Maribor Boris Sovic, who offered a dinner at the "Trije-Ribniki" restaurant, to the CR EC members, receives a souvenir from CR President Lefty Kongalides .



Gerry Reynolds, Marie-Paule Urban, Olle Mannberg smile in front of the Habakuk Hotel in Maribor

application focusing on training or targeting the Balkans area (deadline was March 19).

The Secretary General confirmed that he will immediately seek the support of Mr. Rick Thompson in this regard.

## The Coproduction Office in Munich

Mrs. Christine Peters emphasised that many of the features fail to fulfil certain quality standards (missing IT sound, script missing, etc.), which makes it impossible to put together quality products.

However, the response to a questionnaire send out by the Munich office was extremely poor, which reflect the lack of readiness by the members to enter coproductions.

Many of the currently coproductions, like for instance those on Easter and Christmas, are not sustainable anymore and suggested that the Copro Office in future deals with the administrative side only.

She pointed out that coproductions need a more professional and personal approach, since dealing with the responsible only via phone or e-mail does not provide sufficient opportunity to exchange ideas and standards.

The EC decided during the conference members shall be briefed on the opportunities and pitfalls of coproduction and that an effort shall be made to engage people personally on an operational level.

The coproduction session ought on the basis of some surveys (what type of programmes are the members stations commissioning, what types of coproductions would they like to enter?) provide a platform for discussing future strategies.

Hosted by IBC in Amsterdam, next September

## Two new prizes for the Nombre d'Or Festival

Nombre d'Or, IBC's Production Festival is creating two new prizes for 2001 – Best Interactive Programme and Best Convergent Format. These awards will complement the existing prizes for Documentary and Performance Programmes and the Festival will also include a day of sessions on the creative and business issues for producers in embracing interactive TV.

The Festival, now in its 7<sup>th</sup> year, provides a home for the production community at IBC and for 2001 the event will be further expanding the number of Sessions aimed at the production community.

“Enhanced and Interactive TV has captured the imagination of the industry over the past two years and every content creator is now exploring its potential. At IBC they've been awarding the best in quality television from around the world for the past six years and so they are now dedicating themselves to also promoting the creation of high quality new television experiences that incorporate interactivity and convergent formats” said Festival Chairman, Dr Franco Visintin, announcing the new element in the competition.

“The most important factor is the quality of the viewers experience” he added “and the Festival will showcase the best work in this exciting new field”.

As well as developing the Interactive TV Awards Section of the Festival, IBC 2001 will also feature a New Media Day aimed at the production community. “The day will focus on the enabling platforms, the creative issues and business models driving the development of interactive television



programming and broadband content” said Ferhan Cook, President of Mediaplay International and an internationally recognized expert in interactive media, who has joined the Festival Committee to develop the Interactive TV aspects of the Festival.

A panel of leading industry figures drawn from the interactive TV world will judge the entries for the two TV prizes and nominated producers will be invited to present their projects at public Session during the event. The awards themselves will be handed out at the linear and interactive programmes is Friday 18 May with forms available at [www.ibc.org](http://www.ibc.org).

The Festival, Exhibition and Conference combine to make IBC the world's leading electronic media event. It now attracts over 45,000 visitors and 1000 exhibitors from 130 countries to Amsterdam each September.

For further details please contact: Michael Crimp, Publicity Director on tel: +44 1234 831644, fax: +44 1234 831645  
e-mail: [ibcpres@compuserve.com](mailto:ibcpres@compuserve.com)

## The Circom Report web page attracts most visitors

Number of visitors of the Circom Regional web page is getting higher all the time. The Circom Report is attracting the biggest number of visitors. Participating countries are interesting for the visitors, too. Co-Productions are doing very well. The same applies for Training which just passed number 2,000. The full report provided by Slovenia's Marco Pirpic is as follows

### Number of transferred documents:

jan. 2001 - 10.814, feb 2001 - 12.019 mar 2001 - 8.787

### Most visited pages:

37033: 26.62%: /circomreport/  
4862: 1.68%: /circomreport/2000-01/  
3512: 1.27%: /circomreport/october/  
3490: 3.28%: /circomreport/2000-08/  
3407: 1.49%: /circomreport/2000-03/  
3310: 4.03%: /circomreport/2001/  
2776: 1.15%: /circomreport/december/  
2752: 2.11%: /circomreport/2000-06/  
2535: 6.01%: /circomreport/2000-04/  
2287: 1.02%: /circomreport/2000-02/  
2283: 1.38%: /circomreport/2000-05/  
2269: 1.26%: /circomreport/2000-10/  
1700: 1.55%: /circomreport/2000-12/  
19359: 12.41%: /states/  
1016: 4.40%: /states/uk/  
756: 0.98%: /states/germany/  
663: 0.21%: /states/czech/  
656: 1.16%: /states/france/  
608: 0.20%: /states/slovenia/  
577: 0.35%: /states/spain/  
564: 0.46%: /states/poland/  
521: 0.60%: /states/italy/  
520: 0.29%: /states/austria/  
502: 0.10%: /states/albania/  
481: 0.07%: /states/belgium/  
474: 0.09%: /states/yugoslav/  
468: 0.15%: /states/portugal/  
453: 0.26%: /states/denmark/  
431: 0.09%: /states/macedoni/  
416: 0.33%: /states/norway/  
406: 0.11%: /states/croatia/  
402: 0.21%: /states/hungary/  
390: 0.11%: /states/russia/  
386: 0.03%: /states/bosnia/  
378: 0.12%: /states/lithuania/  
378: 0.13%: /states/ireland/  
377: 0.07%: /states/netherla/  
371: 0.16%: /states/sweden/  
364: 0.06%: /states/greece/  
354: 0.08%: /states/switzerl/  
332: 0.09%: /states/slovakia/  
332: 0.11%: /states/romania/  
329: 0.06%: /states/bulgaria/  
312: 0.08%: /states/malta/  
309: 0.11%: /states/cyprus/  
295: 0.04%: /states/finland/  
290: 0.05%: /states/moldova/  
249: 0.02%: /states/ukraine/  
236: 0.03%: /states/georgia/  
48: : /states/latvia/  
17285: 5.94%: /copro/  
6957: 10.42%: /2000/potsdam/  
4448: 0.72%: /statute/  
2105: 0.79%: /training/  
463: 0.30%: /training/minorityissues/  
535: 3.26%: /2001/porto/  
376: 1.05%: /exhibition/

The new  
ERT 3  
General  
Director  
Demetris  
Katsantonis  
welcomes to  
the  
COPEAM  
conference  
Romano  
Prodi, the  
European  
Commission  
President



## Working with globalisation ethic in a uniquely European way is the message from COPEAM conference

A plethora of visions and promises were espoused at this year's annual, four day Co.Pe A.M. Conference. The arena for this dialogue, was Thessaloniki. The hosts were ERT SA/ERT3 who delivered the conference with Mediterranean warmth and style. Guest speakers included a wide array of specialists and directors as well as Romano Prodi the European Commission President who was accompanied by Evangelos Venizelos, the Minister of Culture for Greece.

Co.Pe A.M members and Friends showed a committed attitude and built towards a networking of ideas to promote successful integration between regional audiovisual broadcasting of high standards within a Mediterranean context.

The two main initiatives for the conference were the Barcelona Declaration and the present competitive need for audiovisual broadcasting to "create locally and think globally". Issues on the agenda included; a greater and deeper understanding of Mediterranean identity as a channel for peaceful co-existence. Mr Andrew Claret (Director of the Catalan Institute of the Mediterranean) eloquently communicated his vision of "constructing Mediterranean space". That is that features uniting the Med and highlighting our differences can be most successfully harmonised in a "media landscape". Other prevalent issues concerned the falling standards and quality of the media, the need for free access to good journalism and the public service played by the media to promote the ideals of democracy and Liberal values. Mr Aiden White (Secretary of the International Federation of Journalists) stresses the influence of Co.Pe.A.M. in defining standards in the journalistic field.

Dialogue was put into practice on the second day with the plans crafted in the working groups. Since 1997, the first Co.Pe.Am conference, this groups focused on training and education, co-productions, new opportunities and the socio-economic effects of an information society. This years conference had ten

groups including its new member "Journalist women in the Med". A new voice shows the commitment of Co.Pe.A.M to progress, and the necessity of tolerance of the differences between us, as well as the fight against imbalances.

The highlight of the conference was the "Mediterranean Gala", a successful portrayal of the reality of all the discussion. There was a live Eurovision transmission between ERT3 and RAI. A paradigm for future collaboration and possibility. Celebrity guests included Voula Patoulidou and Dimosthenis Tambakos, Olympic champions of Greece. Video clips and live performances made up a display of the unique culture and heritage of Greece. Also a willingness to foster all this within a broader Mediterranean identity.

Outcomes of the conference were inherently positive. Culture rather than economics being the bridge of peace throughout the Med. The need to overcome stereotypes in an increasingly pluralistic model of society. RAI announced that its RAI Med channel will begin broadcasting in April 2001, from Palermo, Sicily.

In order for this conviction to be realised the good rhetoric, needs to lead to active collaboration, which is the essential outcome of this conference. So we can look forward to real and exciting projects which can be celebrated and furthered at the 2002 Co.Pe.A.M. conference in Algiers.

**CHRISTINA MICHAEL**

## Int'l Grand Prix for Radio in Ilhzy, Algeria

As every year, the International Radio and Television University is organizing the 13<sup>th</sup> International Grand Prix for Radio which will take place at the beginning of September 2001, in Ilhzy (Algeria) at the kind invitation of the Algerian Radio.

After the theme "the water" and "the sky" which enjoyed a keen success in 2001, they have chosen: THE FIRE.

Prizes will be awarded to the best productions a following:

The International Grand Prix for Documentary

The Silver Medal

The Bronze Medal

In order to reward even better the efforts at research, originality and creativity audacity shown by the directors and producers who take part each year in the Radio Grand Prix contest, URTI endows the First Prize with the sum of 10,000 French Francs.

To be accepted, the running time of the program must be 10 minutes minimum and 30 minutes maximum. An organism may present two programs of 30 minutes if they are in two different languages. The programs, submitted to an international jury must be accompanied by the text of the production in French and /or in English, together with the copy-rights. The URTI Prize contest is open, free of charge, to all radio broadcasting organisms. Only the dispatching costs are paid by the participating organism.

Another important rule: one must send only an analogous magnetic tape, D.A.T cassette or C.D.R, without any other form of tape base (audio cassette or mini-disc).

Registration is accepted also through the web site <http://www.urti.org>. Entries must be received before July 15 and the programs before August 10.

The address is:

Grand Prix International de la Radio - URTI

Maison de Radio France

116, Av. Du President Kennedy

75220 Paris Cedex 16

France

## Competition and Conference on regional programmes by Mirror Europe

The new role of journalists and how the new technology can be used in order to enhance regional productions for a regional or national audience is the topic of the conference of Mirror Europe to be held in Sweden, Sept 13-15.

Important personalities from the media industry, such as Debra Daugherty CNN world Report USA, Andy Griffee BBC UK, David Lowen International Television and Media consulting UK, Denis Fortier CanalWeb France are invited to speak.

At the same time the Mirror Europe in an effort to highlight and encourage media production from every corner of Europe organises a competition concerning completed TV or web-based programmes concerning: four different classes.

For more information and competition rules you may contact Mirror Europe at: Phone: +46 90 161 260, fax: +46 90 163 208, e-mail: [mail@mirroreurope.com](mailto:mail@mirroreurope.com), [www.mirroreurope.com](http://www.mirroreurope.com)

In Dubrovnik, Croatia, June 29

# Baltic – South East Europe Forum for Documentaries

A Baltic – South East Europe Forum for Documentaries will take place on June 29, in the Adriatic pearl of Dubrovnik.

The Forum is subsequent to finalizing of financing, but BMC strongly believes that the funds will all come in place in due time. The deadline for submitting the projects to the Forum is May 1<sup>st</sup>.

There will be two co-production courses in connection to the Forum: planned on May 24-27 in Sarajevo and June 25 – 28 in Dubrovnik. More information will follow soon.

The Festival SEE Docs in Dubrovnik organizes the 5th Forum for producers of documentary films and television programmes from the South East Europe (SEE) and Baltic Sea region. The aim of the Forum is to allow documentary and TV producers to pitch their latest documentary projects live to a number of commissioning editors from the Nordic and Western European television channels and film institutions.

#### The commissioning editors in 2000 were:

Mr. Goran Olsson, Swedish Film Institute, Sweden, Ms. Rada Sesic, Jan Vrijman Fund, The Netherlands, Mr. Nicholas Fraser, BBC, Britain, Mr. Flemming Grenz, DR, Denmark, Mr. Jean-François Dion, Planete, France, Mr. Jakob Høgel, Danish Film Institute, Denmark, Ms. Mette Hoffmann Meyer, TV2, Denmark, Ms. Hillary Bell, Channel 4, U.K., Ms. Outi Saarikoski, YLE- TV2, Finland, Ms. Jelena Tikhomirova, RTR, Russia

**Eligibility:** Television companies, producers and production companies may enter up to three projects each.

**Baltic Countries, Russia, Poland:** Projects submitted by independent production companies are eligible. Priority is given to the projects who have financial commitment from broadcaster(s) or film institutions.

**South East Europe:** Projects submitted by public television broadcasters and independent producers are eligible.

The film / programme projects should have a commitment from at least three regional SEE television stations to be broadcasted when completed.

The projects submitted by broadcasters can be in-house productions, or productions made in collaboration with independent producers.

The projects from SEE will be selected in connection with two **co-production courses** taking place prior to the Forum.

**Pitching:** Subject to overall considerations of time, each project may be pitched for five minutes, with further time for discussion at the discretion of the moderators. The moderators' decisions in this matter will be final. Each project may be pitched by up to two representatives. The pitch may be supported by video clips (VHS format), audio (compact cassette) or still slides (diapositives).

**The Moderator's hat:** There will be an opportunity presented to the Festival participants to have a pitch from "the Moderator's hat" after the morning and

afternoon pitching sessions.

**Observers:** Subject to demand, certain participants may attend the Forum as observers without pitching a project. The observer fee will be 50 ECU (providing admittance to the whole Festival programme).

**Deadline:** To qualify the producer has to return the official Baltic - SEE Forum Application Form (duly completed) per each project no later than May 1, 2001. The application forms will be available on the Baltic Media Centre website [www.bmc.dk](http://www.bmc.dk)

**Assistance to projects sent in earlier:** BMC provides assistance in developing the projects that are sent in at least a month before the deadline, if the producer wishes so.

**Address:** 5th Baltic - SEE Forum  
Attn. Ilze Gailite-Holmberg, Baltic Media Centre, Skippergade 8

Svaneke DK3740, Denmark, e-mail: [ilze@bmc.dk](mailto:ilze@bmc.dk)

**Selection:** Selection of projects will be made in May. Immediately after the decision is made the producer will receive information on whether the project has been selected. All categories of participation will be subject to selection based on the co-production potential of the project entered. The decisions of the Selection Committee will be final.

**Co-production Course for SEE producers.** The projects from SEE will be selected in connection with two co-production / pitching training courses taking place prior to the Forum. If the producer from SEE wishes to take part at the co-production course, please do mark it by entering the project for selection. Information on co-production courses at [ilze@bmc.dk](mailto:ilze@bmc.dk).



Festivals, workshops  
and more around  
Europe and the world

#### APRIL

Apr 14 - 21: International Wildlife Film Festival (Missoula, U.S.), [www.wildlifefilms.org](http://www.wildlifefilms.org)

Apr 22 - 27: Academia Film Olomouc (Olomouc, Czech Republic)  
[halkovam@risc.upol.cz](mailto:halkovam@risc.upol.cz)

Apr 23 - 26: Sportel America (Miami), [vitcomusa@earthlink.net](mailto:vitcomusa@earthlink.net)

Apr. 23 - 29: 32nd Nyon Visions du reel - International Documentary film Festival (Nyon, Switzerland), [www.visionsdureel.ch](http://www.visionsdureel.ch)

Apr 27 - 1: Docfest (New York, U.S.), [www.docfest.org](http://www.docfest.org)

Apr 29 - 4 Input (PBS Annual Meeting) (Capetown, South Africa), [www.input-tv.org](http://www.input-tv.org)

Apr 30 - Mai 6: HotDocs (Toronto, Ontario), [www.hotdocs.ca](http://www.hotdocs.ca)

#### MAY

May 3 - 6: Double Take Documentary Film Festival (Durham, U.S.), [www.doubletakemagazine.org](http://www.doubletakemagazine.org)

May. 9 - 20 Cannes International Film Festival (Cannes, France), [www.festival-cannes.fr](http://www.festival-cannes.fr)

May 21 - 24: World Education Market (Vancouver, Canada), [www.wemex.com](http://www.wemex.com)

May 24: Seattle International Film Festival (Seattle, U.S.), [www.seattlefilm.com](http://www.seattlefilm.com)

May 28 - June 2: Toronto Worldwide Short Film Festival (Toronto, Canada), [twssf@idirect.com](mailto:twssf@idirect.com)

#### JUNE

June 2 - 6: Conference of the Presidents and General Managers of public radio and TV Balkan stations and Balkan TV Magazine (Ohrid, FYROM).

June 4 - 9: International Animated Film Festival (Annecy), [www.annecy.org](http://www.annecy.org)

June 8 - 17: Florida Film Festival (Orlando U.S.), [www.floridafilmfest.com](http://www.floridafilmfest.com)

June 10 - 13: CABLE 2001 (New Orleans, USA), [www.cable2k.com](http://www.cable2k.com)

June 10 - 15: Banff TV Festival (Banff, Canada), [www.banfftvfest.com](http://www.banfftvfest.com)

June 13 - 16: PBS Annual Meeting (Philadelphia, USA)

[www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org)

June 20 - 23: Promax (Miami USA) [www.promax.org](http://www.promax.org)

June 20 - 23: Sunny Side of the Doc (Marseilles, France)

June 28 - 29: RED Archives (Budapest, Hungary) [www.discop.com](http://www.discop.com)

June 28 - 30: DISCOP (Budapest, Hungary) [www.keymedia.com](http://www.keymedia.com)

**SONY®**

From Sept. 13-17

# Euromusica goes to Sopron and Eisenstadt this year

Deadline is April 30

The Regional Studio Sopron Hungarian Television/MTV and the Regional Studio Eisenstadt ORF are glad to invite CR member stations to Euromusica 2001 in Sopron and Eisenstadt. The two studios will organize Euromusica jointly this year in September 13-17.

The members of Circom Regional wishing to participate in the event with their folk music or ethno music till April. The hosting company is ready to provide and finance hotel accommodation and full board to a four-member band and a television producer. Those who wish to participate with more people than this have to cover the expenses of those exceeding the above number. However, hotel reservation and reduced rate catering for them are possible if registration is done on time.

The Hungarian Television is going to tape the Gala concert and parts from the street and the pub music. Recording is open for the public in all three cases. For the gala concert and the street music events all participating bands are kindly invited.

As wine harvest is starting soon in that region that time, participants are asked to bring along with you characteristic music about the vintage or harvest of any type, we preferably acoustic instruments and no playback.

Every organisation will get the whole recording of the Galaconcert and an approximately 30 minute edited recording of all the other events of the Festival. In this latter the producer will have the opportunity to make short interviews or stand-up. These who wish to contribute, must inform the organizers as soon as possible so that they can make the appropriate

arrangements in due course.

The recording will be done on Beta SP stereo sound ( gala ) and digit Beta ( reportage). The organisations can broadcast the program adjusted to their own time slots but they have to assume responsibility for every editing. Every organisation is also responsible for arranging presentation or subtitles in their own language. The introduction of the program should contain the following statement: The Regional Studio Sopron MTV, Regional Studio Eisenstadt ORF present...

The organizers will meet the expenses of production costs, hotel accommodation for five participants, transfer from and to the airport as well as travelling costs concerning festival events.

Each participating station is responsible for the following:

\*Covering the costs of travelling to Sopron or Schwechat Airport – Wien, Austria

\*The insurance for the ensemble and music instruments

\*Clearing the rights for the music played in all participating countries both terrestrial and satellite for a five years period, unlimited reruns.

\*Copy and mailing costs.

For further information contact: Judit Klein National coordinator MTV, fax 0036 -72/ 233-730, e-mail: [klein@mtv.hu](mailto:klein@mtv.hu)

## Whispers

The EBU and UEFA, European football's governing body, have signed a deal for the broadcast rights for the 2004 Euro football championships....

**Figures published** have confirmed French broadcaster TF1 as the leading commercial network in France for 2000. TF1 had 91 of the 100 top-rated programmes.... **Following launches** in Israel, Benelux and New Zealand, Playboy TV International has launched in France....

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**The European Broadcasting Union (EBU)** has launched a new service designed to facilitate the greater exchange of information within the various states of south-east Europe. The Eurovision Regional News Exchange links bureaux in 12 different countries which will then offer news footage for broadcast on the EBU's satellite network Eurovision.... **The European Union** is set to create a new development fund for European producers. A total of 1bn (\$850m) will be made available by member governments and will be administered by the European Investment Bank over the course of three years. It is hoped the fund will provide leverage with banks reluctant to risk capital in filmmaking.... **The BBC's** international TV channel, BBC World, will broadcast in China for the first time. It has been granted a license in a deal with the China International TV Corporation and will be distributed in hotels....

## Circom Report

The "CIRCOM Report" is a monthly publication of CIRCOM Regional, the European Association of Public Regional TV Stations - available on the CR Internet site and coming to CR member stations and personnel either through E-mail or as an A-4 size printed newsletter, through the CR General Secretariat from Ljubljana. The French version of the CIRCOM Report is conceived and published by the Strasbourg Secretariat with support from the Region Alsace, the Conseil General du Bas-Rhin and the City of Strasbourg.

The "CIRCOM Report" is planned and edited in ERT 3, Thessaloniki, Greece.

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All member stations are considered as potential contributors for this publication, with stories about new and innovative ideas, co-productions, exchanges, modern technologies, etc. Especially welcome are short stories and one-liners.

**\*Sony and Eutelsat are the official CIRCOM Regional sponsors**