



Television Journalism Workshop

Wroclaw, Poland

17th – 30th May 2004

Television Reporting The challenges we face in an enlarged Europe

Circom Regional (CR) is Europe's Association of Regional Television. Formed in 1983, it now has nearly 380 member stations in 38 countries. It promotes practical co-operation between members, to develop high-quality programmes at the regional level, in the public interest. CR organises co-productions, cross-border exchanges, an annual music festival, and the Prix Circom Awards for excellent programmes in various categories.

Training and Development has become one of its major activities, with workshops and seminars to share experiences in the search for independent, successful and responsible TV journalism. The introduction of new technology and the development of talent are a major part of Circom Regional's training objectives.

Circom Regional has, since 1994, trained over 600 journalists from across Europe. It has now established a network of journalists that stay in contact via the Circom Regional web-site, email groups and meetings.

Objectives of the Workshop

Television in Europe is now in a period of dynamic change. Digital technology is bringing many more channels and choices for the viewers. Public and private broadcasters must become more competitive, often with less money, and learn to use new production methods for maximum efficiency.

Across Europe, the social landscape is changing as Central and Eastern European countries attempt to establish truly democratic systems, and the European Union prepares and accepts Enlargement.

The workshop in 2004 will see the new enlarged Europe with 25 countries now being members. It is therefore proposed that this year, Circom Regional will invite one television journalist from each of the 25 European Commission countries, truly reflecting, and celebrating, the change that has taken place on May 1st 2004.

This workshop will aim to help young TV journalists to respond to the challenges that the new Europe faces, with four main objectives:

- To make better nightly news programmes, which will be relevant to their audiences, independent, professional, and attractive to watch.
- To introduce and encourage delegates to use new DV/DVCam digital filming and editing equipment with a view to understanding and experiencing the role of the video journalist. A special two-day workshop will take place to cover the specific aspects of filming and editing.
- To establish the basic principles of good organisation and effective newsroom management.
- To exchange experiences with colleagues working in different economic and political environments in Europe, to compare what we do, establish best practice, broaden perspectives, and stimulate new ideas.

The workshop includes participation in the 22nd annual Circom Regional Annual Conference, to be held in Wroclaw, Poland from Thursday May 27th to Saturday May 29th.

The workshop seminars will include discussions, analysis and practical exercises on television news journalism. Seminars on how we can benefit our audience, in an enlarged Europe, will be on the agenda. Cross-border co-operation between members of this diverse group will be an area that will be looked at.

Smaller group work concentrates on television newsgathering and storytelling during which practical "hands-on" experience of the digital equipment is encouraged. We will aim to make a number of journalistic reports, using small digital cameras and non-linear editing facilities. These reports will be linked together like a "real" news programme and presented to EbS and the Circom Network for transmission.

The principle of bringing 25 young journalists together from each of the EC countries has already been received with enthusiasm inside Circom Regional, it's European Board members stating that they will do their utmost to support this project. The local media in Wroclaw will be contacted nearer the time and it's almost guaranteed that news reports of the journalism training workshop will be covered by local television, radio and print media.