

European Association of Regional Television Association Européenne des Télévisions Régionales

# **PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2005**

# **JURY REPORT**



**COMWELL KOLDING** 

KOLDING, DENMARK

http://www.circom-regional.org

# PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2005

**WINNERS' CITATIONS** 

and

**JUDGES' COMMENTS** 

Chairman of Judges DAVID LOWEN

May 2005

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# COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JUDGES

I am delighted to report another successful Prix Circom Regional with a sustained quality of programmes, again proving that creativity and television professionalism can be found widely in the European regions. And, once again, we have a record entry: so both quality and quantity in 2005.

## **Entries**

There were 177 entries, slightly up on last year's 173 and well ahead of 2003's 137

The category breakdown was:

	2005	(2004)
	2000	(2004)
News	25	(29)
Documentary	51	(57)
Current Affairs	30	(45)
Cross Border	30	(22)
Sport	15	(20)
Most Original	26	(no category)

There were entries from 21 countries, compared with 26 last year and 25 in 2003. This is clearly a worrying trend which must be addressed by Circom Regional.

The top entries were from:

	2005	(2004)
Poland	45	(39)
France	18	(18)
UK	16	(15)
Hungary	16	(4)
Sweden	11	(7)
Germany	11	(15)
Denmark	10	(9)
Croatia	9	(4)
Ireland	6	(9)

There was as significant reduction in entries from Romania (5, down from 11), Slovenia (3, down from 9) and Bulgaria (nil, down from 5). There was an entry (the first ever, I think) from the Faroe Islands but none from Albania, Austria, FYR Macedonia, Greece (who are sponsors of the sports award), Portugal, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia or Switzerland (all of which entered in 2004 or 2003). The award successes of Polish stations in the past few years has clearly stimulated creativity and enthusiasm – one of the key benefits of the Prix.

# **Categories**

There were some changes in the categories for 2005. The News Programme became News Item and the Most Original Programme became direct entry. While the first change seemed to have little impact, there was a very encouraging response to the Most Original category (sponsored by TVP3), with 26 entries. There were also more entries in the Cross Border category (sponsored by the Committee of the Regions), with 30 entries, up from 22 in 2004.

There were small changes, too, in the detailed criteria but nothing which significantly affected entries.

In News, some stations still entered programmes despite the change to single items or reports. In such cases, the entries were judged on the first or main story in the programme.

In Cross Border, too many entries were once again merely "international" programmes: produced by a station in one country but shot in another about a local issue in that country. Cross Border programmes need to show some evidence of co-operative production across state frontiers or follow a theme which has relevance on either side of the border and which clearly and explicitly links the two in the viewer's understanding. Some producers – especially those with experience of working with Circom Regional – understand this easily. Others do not – which is why Circom is unique and offers real value to the development of producers and directors.

The judges have recommended that next year this category is reviewed to place more emphasis on "working together" and less on crossing borders in a Europe which is increasingly more open.

The Sport category again provided several excitingly different approaches.

The Most Original category was too often construed by entrants as an opportunity for dull and pretentious arts programming. Higher originality was often found in entries in other categories and, for 2006, the judges have suggested we might mix the direct entry with careful selection from entries on the other categories.

The Current Affairs entries again failed to live up to the judges' expectations and the competition for the Grand Prix in the Documentary category was intense. The judges have suggested whether this category and the News category might be re-thought to provide a "Top Story" and a "News Special" approach.

In 2006 also, we will consider the details of a category for "use of new media" and how it might best be judged. The judges believe this should focus on web sites but remain concerned about how to assess web sites in foreign languages. There is also a suggestion that we might consider a "First Director" category. Since Circom places great weight on its training and the development of former trainees, this might be an attractive proposition.

# Rules

Several entries failed to do as well as they should because of a failure to read the rules. There were tapes submitted in the wrong format, tapes wrongly identified, some tapes with wrong stickers on them and some without adequate subtitles or sometimes any subtitles at all. One station even sent in a programme with a running time of 25 minutes on a tape clearly marked as a 20 minute tape.

The chairs of the judges were as lenient and forgiving as they could be in the circumstances of such carelessness and they are to be praised for such generosity, which only added to the considerable burdens of judging.

The judges have asked that the entry form should be amended next year to provide a tick-box system in the hope it may prove idiot-proof.

# **Sponsors**

On behalf of Circom Regional, I thank the award sponsors who, by their generosity ensure, not just publicity for their own organisations but recognition for fine productions and the improvement of professional standards of television in the regions of Europe: the European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions and the broadcasters TVP3 (Poland), SVT (Sweden), France 3 (France), and ERT3 Greece.

One sponsor has indicated it wishes to withdraw for 2006 after a long and helpful support, so we need at least one new sponsor. The profile, thanks to the televised award ceremony, is very high – so please form a queue.

# **Judges**

The judges deserve the praise of all members of Circom Regional for their dedication to the point of permanent damage to the eyes. They were: Dagmara Drzazga (TVP3), Josko Martinovic (HRT), Christina Ryder (SVT), Proinsias ni Ghrainne (TG4), Bernd Kliebhan (HR), Lene Kruger (TVSyd), Martin Brooks (BBC), Irena Bedrac (TVSlo), Hubert Schilling (F3 Alsace), Hans Snijder (Omrop Fryslan), Marian Kleis (CTV), George Trapezanedis (ERT3), Vanda Condurache (TVR), Ana Martinez (TVE).

Once again, we had 14 judges from 14 different countries: this is the way it should be.

The judging is compressed into two days, with the potential to spill over onto a third morning. With more than 170, this means the system for judging needs to be tightly planned and managed. Any delays or confusion and there could be an unexpected weekend away from home – and an extra bill for our hosts. It was considered possible that in 2005 we might need two extra judges: this is again possible for 2006.

# **Judging hosts**

The judging was at the Hotel Comwell, Kolding, with the hosts being TVSyd. The facilities were excellent and the attention to detail exemplary. It made for a very easy working environment and a happy atmosphere. Thanks go to Tim Johnson, Lene Kruger and to assistants Mogens Markussen and Henrik Kjergaard, and video compilation editor Kurt Nielsen Banke.

The hotel will be the conference hotel in 2006 – so we were the "guinea pigs" testers for all of Circom: enjoy!

On the final afternoon, once judging was complete, the judges (but not the chairman who had the video to edit) became children again and went to Legoland to play with plastic bricks.

# ...and finally

I do not bore of saying "thanks" to the quiet and efficient support of Kresimir Macan in making the administration of the awards possible, especially in the final hectic days.

In 2006, the judging will be at TV Maribor of RTVSlo in Slovenia (so please let's have more Slovenian entries next year...)

DAVID LOWEN
Chairman, Prix Circom Regional, May 2005

# **JUDGES**

# **Chairman of Prix: David Lowen**

Dagmara Drzazga	TVP3	Poland
Josko Martinovic	HRT Zagreb	Croatia
Christina Ryder	SVT	Sweden
Proinsias ni Ghrainne	TG4	Ireland
Bernd Kliebhan	HR	Germany
Lene Kruger	TVSyd Kolding	Denmark
Martin Brooks	BBC North West	United Kingdom
Irena Bedrac	RTVSIo Maribor	Slovenia
Hubert Schilling	F3 Alsace	France
Hans Snijder	Omrop Fryslan	The Netherlands
Marian Kleis	CTV Brno	Czech Republic
George Trapezanedis	ERT3	Greece
Vanda Condurache	TVR lasi	Romania
Ana Martinez	TVE	Spain

# **AWARD CATEGORIES**

# PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL AWARD CATEGORIES

The following award categories will be contested in 2005

1. Documentary Grand Prix Circom Regional trophy

7500 euros and trophy

Free visit to Liverpool conference

Special Award of France 3 3000 euros and trophy

Free visit to Liverpool conference for one representative

of winning station.

**SVT Award** 

3000 euros and trophy

Free visit to Liverpool conference for one representative

of winning station.

2. News Circom Regional trophy

5000 euros and trophy

Free visit to Liverpool conference for one representative

of winning station.

3. Current Affairs European Parliament Award

6500 euros and trophy

Free visit to Liverpool conference for one representative

of winning station.

4. Cross-Border Committee of the Regions Award

4000 euros and trophy

Free visit to Liverpool conference for one representative

of winning station.

5. Most Original TVP3 Award

3000 euros and trophy

Free visit to Liverpool conference for one representative

of winning station.

6. Sport ERT3 Award

3000 euros and trophy

Free visit to Liverpool conference for one representative

of winning station.

# AWARD CRITERIA

It is important that all entrants should check the criteria for each award before entering. Please make sure your programme does qualify for the award category you are choosing. If you enter in the wrong category, you may be disqualified.

Entrants should also read the Rules of the competition to make sure of all entry details, including the attachments which the judges require.

# 1. DOCUMENTARY PROGRAMME

Entries should be documentary programmes on a single subject. Neither the topic nor transmission need be regional but judges would welcome the examination of issues which have particular regional relevance, even if they are set in an international or national context.

Judges will seek evidence of a strong storyline and outstanding professionalism in direction and technique. Programmes of strong journalistic investigation are encouraged (and can be rewarded by the Special Award of France 3) but so are programmes with a personal view or an unusual perspective. Documentaries which show fresh techniques or great imagination are welcome.

Please note that this category is for complete programmes with only one subject. Magazine programmes must be entered under other categories as must items which are longer than news items but still contained within another programme.

#### 2. REGIONAL NEWS REPORT

The award is for the best news report of any length and structure. Only a report should be entered, not an entire programme. If an entire programme is received, judges will view only the main story.

Judges will look firstly for a high level of journalistic quality and enquiry. They will expect a story which has both interest to its regional audience and a high level of importance or significance to that audience. They will expect the story to express the issues clearly and explore them with interviews and reporter explanation which places the event in context.

The report may be all on location camera or may be a sequence of "building blocks", which uses location shooting and studio presentation to examine all the issues in the story. For instance, a report on a spectacular fire may provide excellent pictures but the judges will expect the report to include explanation of why this fire has special significance or relevance.

The judges will also look for good examples of how resources available to a television report are utilised to aid the quality of the story-telling: camera, sound, video editing, graphics, links, studio.

The news report must an item within a programme: it should not be a self-standing news programme or "special". However, it is acceptable that a news report can take most of a regular news programme, daily or weekly, where its importance merits extended treatment.

The award will be to the submitting station. It will be for the station to decide whether the representative to whom the award is granted should be a reporter, producer, director or any other contributor to the production.

This category was previously for a Regional News Programme.

#### 3. CURRENT AFFAIRS PROGRAMME

This category recognises programmes which may be magazine programmes or special report programmes The programmes should cover issues of social, political, or topical debate in a way which encourages the interest and understanding of viewers.

Judges will pay special attention to the journalistic approach, the quality of reporting or interviewing, the impact of the programme on the viewer and the clear explanation of complex issues. Topics need not be regional but judges would welcome the examination of issues which have particular regional relevance.

Judges will give preference to those programmes which explore issues which are common across Europe and which stimulate the democratic processes of Europe.

# 4. CROSS-BORDER PROGRAMME

This prize recognises any programme which is produced by one station but covers an issue or issues on either side of a national border OR any programme which is produced as a co-operative venture by two or more regional stations in different states.

The subject matter should highlight topics which have wider European interest or which explore cultural similarities or differences across borders. In particular, judges will welcome programmes which reflect increasing participation in decision making at a regional level.

Please note that this category needs a more focused approach than just being an "international" story. Borders are national or state borders, not cultural borders.

Where the entry is a joint entry from two stations, the prize money will be divided between the coproduction partners.

#### 5. MOST ORIGINAL PROGRAMME

This award recognises programmes of any genre which demonstrate an outstanding originality in approach.

Judges will be seeking a programme which captures their imagination with an unusual story, or because it has a very different and original treatment, or includes some wonderful and unforgettable characters, or some haunting music, or brilliant presenters: something, in short, which makes the programme different to the normal expectations of regional programmes.

The programme can be fiction or non-fiction.

# 6. SPORT

This award will be for the best sports documentary or sports feature. The documentary or feature may be about any sport, on any sporting issue or about any sports personality: all ideas and approaches are welcome.

Judges will pay particular attention to programmes which present a view of the broader spirit of sport or its value in a wider community or in building personal character. For instance, documentaries or features which deal with subjects such as triumph over adversity in sporting life or sport for the sake of pleasure rather than for financial success.

Coverage of a sporting event may be included but only as part of a fuller documentary or feature.

# **RULES OF ENTRY**

Please read these rules very carefully because it is important that all entries conform fully. A breach of any of the rules may mean disqualification.

- 1. Entries can be accepted only from member stations of Circom Regional. Programmes made by independent producers can be considered only if entered by Circom Regional member stations.
- 2. Each regional station may enter one programme in each category: News, Documentary, Current Affairs, Cross Border, Sport and Most Original. That means each regional station may enter up to SIX programmes in total.
- 3. Programmes must have been broadcast for the first time since January 2004 and should not have been entered in Prix Circom Regional 2004.
- 4. Programmes must be submitted as actually broadcast, except for the additions required by Rule 6.
- 5. Each entry must be accompanied by a brief outline of the programme in English or in French which is sufficient to help the judges to understand more about the reasons for making the programme and the main theme or stories.
- 6. Each entry, including those in the English language, must have adequate sub-titles in English.
- 7. A copy of the script in English or French should also be provided: this will be kept with the programme tape in the Circom Regional archive.
- 8. The entry form, with outline, must be at the TV Syd office by Friday 25 March 2005. A Beta SP tape, with a copy of the form and any other supporting material, must be with TV Syd by Friday 1 April (to allow for a technical check). VHS cassettes and other formats are not acceptable.
- 9. Entrants agree in advance that, should their programme be a category winner (not second prize or commended), they permit at least one regional transmission and one repeat of that winning entry by any Circom Regional member station within its own region during 2005 free of any licence or rights payments. An international version, without sub-titles, will be required for this.
- 10. Entrants agree in advance to one transmission of a winning programme (not second prize or commended) by EbS (the European Commission's satellite channel) during 2005 free of any licence or rights payment.
- 11. Entrants agree in advance to promotional non-broadcast showcase screenings organised on behalf of the Prix Circom Regional.
- 12. Entrants agree in advance that brief excerpts from programmes may be broadcast as part of regional news reports or promotional items about Prix Circom Regional.
- 13. The cost of despatch, customs, insurance will be paid by the entrant.
- 14. Programme cassettes and texts will not be returned but remain in the archives of Circom Regional.
- 15. Any cash prize or trophy presented will be to the entering Circom Regional broadcasting station. It will be for that broadcaster to decide who may represent the station to collect the award at any award presentation and who may finally keep the money and the trophy.
- 16. Where the entry is from one station but the programme is a co-produced programme, the submitting station is required to inform any partner stations who have contributed to that programme. The award will be made to the submitting station and it will be for the submitting station to decide how the prize money is allocated.
  - Where more than one co-producing station submit the same programme, any award made based on the programme will be joint. It will be for the winning stations to decide how the prize money is allocated.
  - Co-producing stations may submit different programmes from a series.
- 17. In any dispute, the decision of the chairman of the judges, David Lowen, will be considered final and binding on all entrants. Any significant dispute will be reported to the Executive Committee of Circom Regional.

# GRAND PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2005 DOCUMENTARY PROGRAMMES

WINNER SINDSYGT FARLIG? TV2 Østjylland Denmark

SPECIAL AWARD OF F3

SVÅRASTE TRICKET SVT Mitt Nytt Sweden

**SVT AWARD** 

MIRACLE BABIES BBC London UK

COMMENDATION

ROBERT ET LES OMBRES France 3 Sud France

**JUDGES** 

Chairman Christina Ryder SVT Sweden Josko Martinovic HRT Zagreb Croatia Denmark TVSyd Kolding Lene Kruger Ana Martinez TVE Spain Bernd Kliebhan HR Germany

Dagmara Drzazga TVP3 Poland

# CHAIR'S REPORT

Among 51 entries in the documentary category, there were many well told good stories: touching, dramatic, important and humorous stories about a wide range of subjects from a diversity of countries. We have seen stories containing all aspects of life in Europe – today and in the past.

Most of the entries were based on traditional storytelling but we also saw examples of fresh approaches, especially, for instance, the use of small cameras to go where documentary crews might find it difficult. The judges would be encouraged by this more inventive approach to documentary making and would like to see more. The judges also noted how greatly resources vary between the large and rich stations and the small and poor: there is nothing they can do about this. Despite the generally high technical and journalistic quality of the programmes, selecting the winners was not that difficult.

The Grand Prix winner, Insanely Dangerous, was a unanimous choice. We were all overwhelmed by the Danish story of psychotic Niels, told by video-diaries and interviews which really involve the viewer. We care deeply what happens to him. It is a fantastic and thrilling programme in which every little detail has been thought of. The Hardest Trick and Miracle Babies, were both originally just a small news story. But the nature of the documentary format enabled them to take on a new and general dimension. There were several other good documentaries which had developed in a similar way from small news stories and the judges were encouraged by this trend. The main impression of the judges is that the production of documentaries in the regions is alive and well. There are producers and directors with skills to match their ideas. And there are still so many stories out there to be told.

Christina Ryder SVT

# GRAND PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2005 DOCUMENTARY PROGRAMMES

# **WINNER**

Insanely Dangerous? (Sindsygt farlig?) TV2 Østjylland Denmark (40'00)

In January 2004, Niels hijacked a train. TV2 Østjylland went covering the hijacking. They found this was not a story about a hijacker but the story of a psychotic man not getting the proper help and how his madness influences other people's lives. During the last 20 years, the number of mentally ill committing crimes has quadrupled. Often psychiatrists and families have to remain passive while the mentally ill person becomes more and more psychotic and dangerous. Legislation makes it difficult to keep the mentally ill in treatment, if they are not convicted. What can we say? The judges thought this one of the best documentaries they had ever seen. Extraordinary! There was an excellent choice of music and excellent editing. Thought and care have been put into every little detail of the production. This is a really good journalistic product, telling the story of all people affected by the madness of Niels. The judges liked the fact that this was done simply, without using a lot of effects. These are not necessary to tell this story: Niels does it all by himself.

# PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2005 DOCUMENTARY PROGRAMMES

# SPECIAL AWARD OF FRANCE 3

The Hardest Trick
(Svåraste tricket)
SVT Mitt Nytt (Sundsvall) Sweden
(48'00)

The story of Joachim: a young man's struggle to get back into a normal life after a snowboard accident. He is such a nice guy and to follow his fight is so interesting. Through his own words and interviews with his parents and friends we get to know him very well. The story of his parents is very touching and the friendship between Joachim and his old friend does them both credit. There are several good sequences – one of the best is a situation where he talks about girls and the future. In this scene, he is actually talking about things he misses in his present situation. Shooting and choice of music are both excellent; the editing is more than excellent! The chemistry between Joachim and the journalist is without any doubt very strong. It is very nice to see how positive Joachim is about his situation but perhaps we needed to hear about his bad feelings too. We can see that he is struggling but each time he is getting interviewed he is very cheerful, as if he does not want to show the journalist that he is hurt.

# **SVT AWARD**

Miracle Babies BBC London UK (29'00)

This incredible story presents us with three levels of the absurd. First, the cultural customs of the Asian community in London, where the inability to become pregnant is a valid reason for divorce. Second, the ethical and medical question: is it morally acceptable to allow a grandmother to carry fertilized eggs of her own daughter? And thirdly, the legal dimension of the problem: British laws do not allow the twins thus born to become British citizens because the grandmother who bore them does not have British citizenship. The producers let the viewer make its own decision about the issues and they do it very well! The judges were all very upset after seeing this piece. It is very well produced: fast cut and with a good choice of music, just making the story even more dynamic.

# COMMENDATION

# **Robert and the Shadows**

(Robert et les ombres)
France 3 Sud France
(52'00)

A documentary about the wartime resistance in south west France. We hear from the French fighters and the British soldiers from the Special Operations Executive who were parachuted in to help them. Nearly 60 years on, they meet again. Very well produced with fantastic small details which make you laugh – and also because the old men are so good and charming. They have such great stories to tell and they are being told with a great sense of humour. The editing was excellent and with a good choice of music and sound bites and there is no doubting the extensive preparation and planning behind this production. Some judges thought there were too many effects – pulling the picture away from the story. Some also thought there was too much history and too few old men. We would have preferred to see more of the meeting with the SOE soldier codenamed Odette. The producer was perhaps too active; he should have let the pictures speak for themselves. It was also a problem that the voice-over was very hard to understand because of the accent. The same story in 35 minutes would have been better, with fewer historical details and more old men.

# **OTHER ENTRIES**

# Stories From An Escape Route (Historier fra en flugtvej) TV2 Øst Denmark (80'00)

A well-researched and well documented series about East German refugees in the Cold War. Very good camera work and editing but we missed the emotional depth. Educative and important historical documentation in a subject that in our opinion has more potential.

# Shadows Of Silence (Schatten des schweigens) Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg Germany (90'00)

This is the story of Ken Kipperman, a former Jew of Eastern European origin. He is the son of a Holocaust survivor and has been traumatised by television images from Buchenwald concentration camp which he saw as a child: pictures of shrunken heads, tattooed pieces of human skin and a notorious lampshade made of human remains. Since then, he has made it the work of his life discovering the whereabouts of notorious human artefacts supposedly made from the remains of murdered prisoners at the request of Ilse Koch, wife of camp commandant Karl Koch. A very interesting and well produced story with a strong human touch. This story had great potential for winning a prize but the tape was faulty and it was not possible to view all of it. Also, there were no subtitles.

# Triton's Story (Tritonova prica) PBS BIH-BHT1 Bosnia & Herzegovina (36'05)

This story is about the scientist, Othmar Reiser, who, in 1897, discovered one sort of the mountain amphibian – the Triturus Alpestris. This very small animal was later approved as a species and lives only lives on the mountain Vranica, at Prokosko in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Normally journalists from this area make stories about the people and their struggles for survival. This time the author of Triton's Story make a compelling story of an animal surviving the Ice Age and what it must have taken to do so. A very interesting beginning with very beautiful shots from the mountain and very well thought out. People from the area are allowed to tell of their lives alongside the story of the small animal.

# Words Of Exile (Les mots de l'exil) Télé Bruxelles Belgium (26'00)

The Belgian team follows a refugee from Congo back to his home country, which he does not consider his country any longer. On the journey, Pie Tshibanda tells the story of this life and why he had to escape. It is both his story and the story of the Belgian movement for the solving the refugee problems and the undocumented immigrants entering Belgium.

#### Tito (*Titó*) MTV Budapest Hungary (7'19)

This story is about an elderly man collecting signatures from people because he wants the authorities to remove the remains of former leader of the country, Tito, from the mausoleum to the public cemetery. It is time to acknowledge, that Tito was nothing but a dictator, he says. People discuss whether Tito was a dictator or not and whether the past with Tito was better than the present with the Western countries. Though this discussion is very interesting, this piece is produced more as a news item and not as a documentary.

# Once Upon A Time There Was A Hostel (*Volt egyszer egy kollégium*) MTV Miskolc Hungary (20'37)

By helping Roma children, their destiny can be changed in a positive way. In the 70s, one man built a hostel for gypsy children in Hungary and taught them how to get a good life. From beginning to end, he shot a movie to follow the development of the gypsy children and it is by this old movie that the journalist tells the story of the Roma from then to now, by which time they have become parents or grandparents. We would very much have liked to hear more about the lives of the gypsy children today but a very long interview and very long sequences with the old movie lessened our interest. A documentary must from the very beginning tell us what the journalist wants to prove with this story.

#### Malenky Robot (Malenkij robot) MTV pécs Hungary (26'32)

This is the story of the young Germans in Hungary, who were obliged to do forced labour in the labour camps of Soviet Union in the years 1944-1949. It is the story of the hard life in those camps and what it is like to be forced from their homes into a foreign country as revenge for what the Nazis did during the war. The issue is very interesting and very important to tell but we would have liked to see the people from the camps nearer the beginning. It is too long before the producer starts the main story: the awful lives in the camps.

#### Paradise Lost (Elveszett paradicsom) MTV Sopron Hungary (23'50)

This story is showing us another angle of the tsunami catastrophe. By letting some of the doctors working as volunteers in the area tell their stories and what they have experienced, the journalist gives us another perspective of a story being told many times. In the beginning of the story there is some confusion about sounds, voice-overs, music and title. The way the participants are being presented does not fit together with the issue. The music and the graphics being used are too bizarre and there is no reason to do it in a way as if it was an action movie.

# Who Wants To Publish My Diary (*Cime tri publica jurnalul*) TVR Timisoara (Tvr 2) Romania (17'00)

We have all heard about the awful nursery homes in Romania during the time of Ceausescu. This story is about a woman who lived there as a child and how she has struggled to live normally as an adult. The film is shot very dramatically with beautiful pictures of the woman where she spent her childhood and in the old nursery home. But we need to understand more of her feelings and the beginning is too long. We would have liked to see her face, her eyes and her emotions. Instead, we see her walking around in snow with a voice-over telling her story.

# Miner's Pack-Saddle (Rudarski samar) HRT 1 Bjelovar Croatia (19'38)

This story is about a very traditional way of pulling out the cut wooden logs from woods in Northern Croatia. The logs are cut on the spot and pulled out by specially trained horses on saddles. It tells us about the horses, their difficult lives and the men who work and train with them. Both men and horses mainly came from neighbouring Bosnia where this way of working is traditional. But because of the war activities some of these people fled in search of better life. It is a very dark movie and therefore very difficult to watch. We wonder whether this is a mistake or done by purpose?

#### Rail Check Inspector (Ophodar pruge) HRT 1 Zagreb Croatia (26'00)

This is the story of Josip Jergovic, a railway ticket inspector who lives on his own. He leads a very quiet life without big expectations but he is still very satisfied. It is very nice to see someone living his life in a quite different way. He does not say much: not even in this movie; and that is something we miss very much. We would have preferred to hear from his own lips, what kind of life he has and why he has chosen to live like that.

### The Lost Treasure (Izgubljeno blago) HRT 1 Croatia (26'00)

This is about an old protagonist, Dara, and her fight against the wolves to save one of her treasures, a sheep. It is the story of the co-operation between woman and sheepdog and how important this co-operation is to both – and the sheep. A very well produced movie with great camera work and very well edited. It has such beautiful landscapes with mountains and the use of music is very good. But we need to see the old woman in her face and eyes. We want to see and hear how important this sheep is to her and how much it would mean to her to lose it.

### Olive And Olive Tree Paths (oi $\Delta pomoi\ th\Sigma$ e $\Lambda ia\Sigma$ kay toy $\Lambda a\Delta ioy$ ) CyBC 1 Cyprus (18'15)

The story about olives and the importance to the Greeks in Cyprus is a very educational movie. Telling us a lot about the different uses, traditions and myths the olive trees have had for the Greeks for centuries. The story is being through an old woman, the grandmother of the director. Those two are very connected, and grandma tells her story to her grandson. Face to face. She is very charming, warm and her expressions are very open. Shooting and editing are excellent and they even use some sequences produced like future film. In the beginning of the story we thought, this would be the story of the old woman and her love for olive trees. But during time the story was turned around, and suddenly it became the story of olives with her just acting to it. It became too much a story about myths and traditions and too little about her and her husband and the life they have lived.

# Harvest Home Festival in Bialarussian Style (*Do´zynki po Bialorusku*) TVP Bialystok Poland (14'38)

An exotic event which merits a documentary. Nice pictures and good editing. The story has all the ingredients for a good documentary: people, targets and obstacles. But we missed the personal view of the director. The story was strongly based on vox pops. We missed protagonists, who could bring the story closer to the audience.

#### Holiday Postcard (Pocztowka Z Wakacji) TVP3 Katowice Poland (15'30)

A film about an abandoned industrial area in Silesia, seen through the eyes of a group of children. Outstanding photography and inspired editing with an excellent music selection. The film is well directed but unfortunately we feel that everything is perfectly arranged and somehow artificial: A good documentary demands more authenticity.

#### The Two Words of Daniel Odija (Dwa 'swiaty Daniela Odiji) TVP3 Gdansk Poland (34'20)

The film gives an insight into the life and the philosophy of a young writer. Excellent pictures edited in a great way. Good choice of music. Nevertheless without a previous knowledge of the main character the film does did not waken our interest in his person and his opinions.

### The Price of Life (Cena Zycia) TVP3 Kraków Poland (42'11)

The Nazis murdered a Polish family just because they were hiding Jews. Their tragic story reminds us that little people helping others who are in even bigger trouble are the real heroes of every war.

#### The Disciples of Seer of Lublin (Uczniowie widzacego z Lublina) TVP3 Lublin Poland (26'44)

A sensitive historical and cultural document of Chassidic movement in Poland. There is an impressive evocation of the atmosphere in the old East-European Jewish community, enriched by fragments of tales and legends.

### Soloists (Solistki) TVP3 Poznan (TVP 1) Poland (38'41)

An intriguing socio-psychological description of what it's like to be a single woman in Poland. Nice – but this could be the same story in any other country. Spinsters are not monsters but they are not victims either.

### A Survivor (Uchowal sie) TVP3 Rzeszów Poland (19'29)

This is the story of how a Jewish child managed to avoid death in Nazi-occupied Lvov. This film is a video-monument to the miracle of human friendship and solidarity of people who helped him survive.

### High Crime (O'smiornica) TVP3 Kielcach) Poland (25'00)

This is an interesting compilation of news programme reports and simply edited material about the involvement of chairman and vice-chairman of the city council in the drug and weapon trade business. We thought this a dynamic, slightly dramatic but not aesthetic, description of post-communist society facing the strong and powerful criminal.

# To Be Together (By'c razem) TVP3 Szczecin Poland (22'24)

The painful and beautiful romance about the suicide of a very young couple in a small town. They fell in love inside the local Catholic church, where she sang in the choir and he was an altar-boy. Perfectly mixed music, words and pictures, in a unique and creative way involve us in human insecurities and contradictions. This sad but never melodramatic story is a subtle analysis of the sense of guilt.

# From Courier's Archives (Z archiwum Kuriera) TVP3 Warszawa Poland (14'38)

This very modern use of old film material, from 1959, portrays the unusual spirit of the people of Warsaw to which the director adds his own sense of humour.

# The Real End of War - Conflict Over a Valley (*Prawdziwy koniec wojny - konflikt o k*otline) TVP3 Wroclaw Poland (20'00)

No-one seems to know that there was a small war between Czechoslovakia and Poland after the big battles of World War II. The Valley of Klotzko was a Czech-settled part of occupied Poland. After the fall of Third Reich, the Czechs took it over using armed force. It is a kind of little historical absurdity but those who lived through the moment on both sides are still very concerned about what happened and what followed.

# Habermann's Mill (Habermannúv mlýn) CTV 2 Ostrava Czech Republic (55'42)

The tragedy of the German people from Sudeten region is personalised through the story of Hubert Habermann, a decent and polite miller who helped his Czech neighbours during the war. After the war, he was brutally executed and his family was displaced to Germany.

# Strike It Lucky on the Roof Tops (Das Glück auf den Dächern) Bayerischer Rundfunk Germany (45'00)

This is the story of an Afro-American chimney-sweep living in Munich who had a hard childhood in the USA. He led an interesting life in the US Air Force and now has a new family in Germany, with a hobby of painting. From the suburbs of Detroit to the roofs of Schwabing, he is always on the edge of danger. The filmmaker took him back to the States to meet his old family after 18 years. There he got his first hug from his father at the age of 40.

# The Cleggan Disaster (An Bathadh mór) TG 4 Ireland (52'00)

Great photography, excellent post-production, good sound-track and a film made with a marvellously mysterious atmosphere. A film about a big storm over the Irish Atlantic coast, which changed the lives of poor fishermen and their families. It has strong drama, with true tension. It is a very regional film but one which is acceptable for all the viewers.

#### Shadows in the Night (Des ombres dans la nuit) France 3 Aquitaine France (52'00)

This is the dramatic reconstruction of "Operation Frankton" – the raid made by British Commando soldiers on the French port of Bordeaux during the war. There is a painstaking detail of the complex military operation.

#### Two Arms, Two Legs (Comme les z'autres) France 3 Bourgogne France (52'00)

Bruno, Denise, Nicole and Nadine want to have a normal life like others - but all they are called "mentally disabled". That hurts them. If you listen to them, you will think the same as they do. But their lives are not easy: they are marked down as incapable of supporting their families. Legally and medically they are not treated as human or as a person who can maintain a logical conversation or a normal life. But they are certainly capable of making the biggest contribution in this excellent film!

#### The Home (La Maison) France 3 Limousin Poitou-Charentes France (51'42)

The film shows the daily life of an extraordinary home for the elderly, where they are more respected than normally. The director of the home is a strong character and we understand her objectives. The pictures are immaculate and the interviews well arranged. But the price of the technical perfection seems to be some distance to the characters. There is a very good opening with a dog waiting for access to the house: an intro awakening everybody's interest.

# In The Steps of an Explorer: Janot Lamberton (*Itineraire d'un explorateur : Janot Lamberton*) France 3 Rhone, Alpes, Auvergne France (26'20)

If you ever think that the world has become a dull place with nothing left to explore, just take a look at this excellent film about the scientist, adventurer and explorer of glaciers, Janot Lamberton.

#### Of Salt and Blood (De sel et de sang) France 3 Alsace France (52'26)

This is warm and direct document on how the closing the potassium mines changed the lives of miners and their families – leading to the loss of the mining skills. The transition to post-industrial society creates its own victims: small and ordinary working people forced to find a new future in fifth or sixth decade of their life.

#### Heartbeat (Hjertebarnet Jørgen) NRK Sørlandet Norway (28'54)

This is a very touching story about eight-year-old Jørgen. He is very sick because of a heart problem and must have a major operation to survive. He is just like every other ordinary boy and has the same dream: playing football. But he is not able to do that and that is actually his goal for the surgery: to be able to play football together with the other boys. The story is told by his friend, a girl, and she is also doing the interviews with Jørgen. The idea is excellent and the story is very honest. The journalist is very good in catching an idea and following it to the end. Another excellent example of this is the heartbeat acting like the motor through the film. There is no acting in this film, the camera only follows the boy, his friend and his family and shows us the situation of Jørgen. His parents are very strong: they are not afraid of letting us see how they feel about the surgery and their fear losing their son. The music and effects are very well linked and are not used more than necessary. This is what documentary making is all about: letting the pictures and people's words tell the story. At the end, Jørgen is getting worse after surgery and must go back to be examined once again. This time, the journalist chooses not to follow, and the story ends sadly enough before we know what has happened. The camerawork and the editing were a problem in some sequences.

# The Secret - About Sexual Abuse of Children (Loynan - um kynsligan ágang imóti børnum) Sjónvarp føroya Faroe islands (60'00)

We have great praise for the imagery in this film, which is about an important and difficult issue. The personal stories of sexual abuse are told by anonymous voices and combine with powerful metaphorical pictures. The biggest merit is that such a story could be told to a small community where everybody knows each other. The producer succeeded in showing that this dark side of life exists in the small world of Faroe Islands as well as elsewhere. An emotionally powerful programme.

# A Social Pension (Het ommelanderhius) TV Noord Netherlands (23'00)

An interesting attempt to illustrate the social life of homeless people by following the group in a series of separate programmes. But we are never really committed to the characters. In our opinion, the story would benefit from more concentrated editing, giving the storyline more pace: showing real life in real time seldom works.

### A Step Full of Love (Korak pun ljubavi) First chanel RTCG Montenegro (27'38)

We follow a strong character, a young man fighting against a neurological disease. We get to know him and are impressed by his fighting spirit. But this strong story also needs adequate pictures and a clear storyline. More visual ideas would enhance a film which is dominated by interviews.

# Daughter, You'll Be a Man (*Tu seras un homme, ma fille*) France 3 Lorraine Champagne ardenne France (52'00)

A film about an unusual, widely unknown phenomena in the Albanian society: women, educated and raised as men. A case study showing three characters in their daily life. We were impressed by the research and the camera work. The film raises many fascinating questions and we felt the need of more explanatory narration to follow the story.

#### At the Beginning of the European Union (Alle radici di un'unione) Rai Tre Italy (15'00)

An educative and detailed programme about the first shivering steps of European cooperation After the war, based on archive material, we are given lots of information – perhaps too much for a 15 minute programme. Facts are presented in a traditional way and we missed a more innovative attempt.

#### Local Hero - Frank Whittle, The Man Who Shrank the World BBC West UK (38'53)

An excellent programme idea: letting the audience propose "local heroes" who merit a documentary. The film describes the life of the aviation pioneer Frank Whittle, using archive films and stills. The presenter takes us on a journey into the world of engineering in the 1930s and 1940s. This programme reminds you how many untold stories might be found if you listen carefully to your audience.

# Visions of Vida Vidmar (Videnje Vide Vidmar) RTVSIo Maribor Slovenia (25'00)

A portrait of Vida Vidmar, who came from Slovenia to Brazil, where she founded a centre for alternative medicine. The core of the film is a long interview with this interesting lady, illustrated by well shot cutaways. To bring Vida closer to us, a better storyline would be necessary.

#### The Day of the Catastrophe (Katastrofens døgn) TVSYD Denmark (14'48)

Dramatic pictures from a catastrophe in a firework factory in Kolding. The camera crews did an impressive and courageous work during dangerous circumstances: it is both thrilling and fascinating. The story is told chronologically, as a compilation of news coverage but a different approach is needed in a documentary.

### Adoption to Frankfurt (Adoption nach Frankfurt) Hessischer Rundfunk Germany (29'28)

The Simons are looking for their adopted child number two. They did it before – found a child in Ukraine, and now they will do it again. This time followed by a video journalist. We follow the couple from packing the suitcase, when they are very nervous whether they will find their second child or not. Very honestly they tell about their feelings and about the fear of having a disabled child. They have experienced once before, how they were lied to by the adoption centre. The journalist is very close to the couple and we can almost feel as a viewer their strong emotions waiting for seeing their second child the first time. The piece is though with too much voice-over and is very commentary. The journalist will not let the pictures and the couple speaks for themselves and let the viewers make their own opinion. Furthermore we do not need to get that much factual information about adopting in

Ukraine. The journalist tells too many details of the trip to Ukraine – first day sightseeing, what to eat in the plan, how the apartment, they are supposed to stay in, looks and so on. As a normal reportage, the piece is very good. But as a documentary it is too much: voice-over, interview, voice-over, interview...

#### The Day Before (Le jour d'avant) France 3 Méditerranée France (53'56)

The filmmaker spent many months in a palliative hospital and got the confidence of nurses and patients. He listened carefully to the reflections of the staff and we get a feeling of the importance and challenge of their work. But, nevertheless, the film does not go deeper than the surface and does not really touch our hearts. Perhaps this is because of diffident camerawork.

# To Live in This Garden (Vivre en ce jardin) France 3 Ouest France (52'56)

A well produced description of a different way of life. We follow Yves and Annick who try to live without money but from their garden. With good camerawork and a classic editing style, the programme is very traditional and rather descriptive. We would have preferred a more innovative approach to an interesting story.

# Trailers - A Solution for the Homeless (*Husvagn lösning på hemlösheten*) SVT ABC (Stockholm) Sweden (8'40)

This is a very interesting story about people living in a trailer park. There are a lot of good human stories in this piece: perhaps too many! We would have preferred to follow one person and then really hear and understand life in the trailer park through the depth of that single story. The piece gets too superficial for a documentary; it is more like a news treatment. This might be a good start for further research for a documentary. Perhaps this will encourage the producer, who has done a very good job so far.

#### A Century for Woman (Un siglo para las mujeres) La 2 (TVE) Spain (25'00)

This piece is one of 13 stories in total about Spanish women being pioneers in their professions and in the fight for equality. In each story, the women tell their story together with statements from people, who have followed them through their lives. Unfortunately, we could not follow the story properly because there were no subtitles.

### The History in the Box (Huskekassen) TV Midt-Vest Denmark (11'47)

The film describes the situation of demented people. Two well-chosen characters explain their disease with subtle humour. Extraordinary camera work, which let us come very close to the characters. Well balanced between facts and emotions, we nevertheless we missed a clear dramaturgy pushing the story forward.

# PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2005 NEWS PROGRAMMES

WINNER DIRTY HOSPITAL BBC South East UK

COMMENDATION

STORM I SKÄRGÅRDSIDYLLEN SVT ABC Sweden

**JUDGES** 

Chairman Martin Brooks BBC North West United Kingdom

Hans Snijder Omrop Fryslan The Netherlands

Vanda Condurache TVR Iasi Romania George Trapezanedis ERT3 Greece

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The criteria for the News Awards were changed this year from the assessment of a complete news programme to the search for the best news report. Previous judging panels had complained of a lack of originality, innovation and challenge in the entries. It was hoped by the change of format that we would see regional journalism at its best.

What we were looking for were well-told stories with a high level of journalistic quality and enquiry, and making full use of all the latest production techniques. Unfortunately, that was not always the case. All too often there was a lack of surprise.

The ones that tried to break the mould stood out. Here were newsmakers thinking in creative, new ways. The winning entry used secret filming to expose appalling standards of hygiene at one of their major, local hospitals. The report prompted an immediate investigation and the suspension of cleaning staff. This was investigative journalism at its best.

Another piece stood out but for very different reasons. It was a potentially unpromising story from Sweden about the debate in a small, rural community over the quality of their water supply. It could have been boring but due to skilful journalism and high production values it became a compelling human story.

The link between the two was the quality of the journalism.

Martin Brooks BBC North West

# PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2005 NEWS PROGRAMMES

# **WINNER**

# South East Undercover - Dirty Hospital BBC South East UK (11"05)

A strong journalistic report. With help of a hidden camera, it becomes very clear that one of the biggest hospitals in the South East region is amazingly dirty and lacking in basic hygiene. The subject is clearly introduced in the studio. The report starts with a dynamic introduction of the cleaning procedures and then the voice over tells what the hidden camera has seen: dirt in places where it should not be dirty! An expert tells the viewer that this is the dirtiest hospital he had ever seen. Back in the studio, the head of the hospital reacts and she has to admit that this situation cannot be ignored. A 'breaking news' comment tells us that three members of staff are suspended.

# COMMENDATION

Tempest in the Idyllic Archipelago Storm i skärgårdsidyllen SVT ABC (Stockholm) Sweden (7'56)

It could have been such a boring piece of television – a debate in a small rural community about whether they should have a new public water system. Fortunately, it turned out to be a compelling piece, beautifully shot and edited. It was a story told by real people and involved all the various points of view. It maintained a good pace throughout. The jury thought it was an excellent example of a journalist making the most of an apparently unpromising story.

# OTHER ENTRIES

# Roma On The Loot (Fosztogató romák szlovákiában) MTV - Miskolc Hungary (5'49)

An impressive item about a group of Roma people who are accused of having attacked a supermarket in a poor region of Slovakia. We see an item which tries to reconstruct the situation. Well done but which a voice-over throughout the whole item and not enough natural sound or pictures.

# Jigging (Ryckfiske - Span - Text) SVT 2 Sweden (3'19)

A very clear story about an illegal way of fishing which is really a cruelty for the fish. A security officer is asked to stop the illegal fishing and the TV crew is there when it happens: there is action, there is a clear explanation and there is good, tight storytelling.

# Storm Family (Smålandsnytt - Live från stormdrabbad familj) SVT Syd, Växjö Sweden (12'30)

Live coverage of daily family life after a massive storm two weeks before. The programme we see is a complete story with a live piece-to-camera by a journalist who introduces the family. It is well done and carefully made. However, there is one key drawback: the chosen family does not have any real problem; so the lack of urgency in this special family does not really match the effects of the awful storm which harmed so many others.

# Who Is Going To Help Them? (Kto im pomoze?) TVP3 Bialystok Poland (2'40)

A news item about a really poor mother and grandmother with four disabled little children in the countryside: it's dirty, chaotic and really bad for the children. Who is going to help them? Social care has been visiting this family but cannot do much more then give some advice (which is not followed, of course). It is a short news story, well made with clear story telling

#### Panorama (Panorama) TVP3 Gdansk Poland (10'00)

A reportage that gives context to a small earthquake which hit the north eastern region of Poland. It has quotes from civilians, earthquake specialists, and so on. After the reportage, there is a discussion in the studio about the fact that the earthquake might have been influenced by the Russians. Not bad at all but nothing special either and the discussion in the studio is not really clear: four very serious looking people talk about rumours.

#### A Village That Doesn't Exist (Nieistnieja, ca wies) TVP3 Kraków Poland (2'30)

A nice small story about a very small village which, according to the Home Office, does not exist when they verify data for a computer system. The programme maker went to the village which does not exist and explains to the inhabitants that they do not (officially) exist. They do not understand this situation. A nice and original subject but unfortunately it is not really worked through because it is only told from the perspective of the existing village: we missed the comment of the Home Office

# Telescope: Helping The Unemployed (*Teleskop - Na pomoc bezrobotnym*) TVP3 Poznan Poland (7'58)

Difficult tax laws mean that new Polish entrepreneurs have to pay unexpectedly large amounts of money. This destroys the opportunity to create jobs. The story itself is from a TV point of view not that special - but the effect is! Because of the attention for this subject in this news programme, the Polish Minister for Finance changed the law. From the journalistic point of view, this is really an achievement to be proud of.

# District Hooligans (Chuligani na osiedlach) TVP3 Rzeszów Poland (4'17)

An item about the impact of teenage hooligans in Rzeszow: the citizens are really afraid, they might be mugged and robbed but they do not dare to tell the police. Because of the attention in the news programme, there are now hidden cameras to film the hooligans. We see a live piece to camera with a woman journalist who tells us this news, we see a small reportage with a crying old lady who has been mobbed and we hear a conversation with a "responsible person" who tells us: "We will try, etc, etc." Nice item on a good subject but we do not see the urgency for a live inject and, more important, we learn nothing of the reasons why these hooligans act this way. In other words: what is the real problem?

#### Hot Summer (Gorace lato) TVP3 Szczecin Poland (3 x 5'00)

A summer holiday show which is a part of TV News Szczecin in July and August. According to the programme makers, it is about 'hot events' (ho, ho....). Nice to watch but, according to category criteria, it will not win a prize. It lacks journalistic relevance: items about mosquito bites and what to do about them, about medieval tournaments for tourists and so on. However, a good watch.

# The Warsaw Television Courier - Special Issue (*Telewizyjny kurier warszawski - wydanic specjalne*) TVP3 Warszawa Poland (32'54)

Live coverage of the commemoration of the famous Warsaw Rising outbreak in August 1944: it is a special ceremony on the 60th anniversary. Many people are at the cemetery with impressive speeches. There are also some reconstructions of the historical events told by older people who were there in 1944. It is hard to judge because it is not an "item" or a report from a news programme. It is a well done live (and with impressive atmosphere!) coverage of a very special event.

#### Heroin BBC London UK (22'10)

A really well made report on an important issue in the Kurdish and Turkish community in north London: the influence of big heroin drug dealers. The crew had access to the work of the undercover National Crime Squad and so we are, as viewers, able to see their work: to analyse and to pick up three heavy dealers who are responsible for import large quantities of heroin. The context of the report is very clear, with smart use of black and white filming and stills to get to know the lead characters.

#### **BBC Wales Today BBC Wales UK (12'28)**

A thrilling story about a drama teacher who has sexually abused a number of schoolchildren. It is the story of a public inquiry (because the teacher has already killed himself). The news item has worked well through all aspects of this subject. There is a clear explanation in the studio which sets out the main storylines and how these will be treated in the item. We see a brief report of the inquiry, hear an interview with experts and also follow the personal story of one of the children

#### **Bone Marrow Boys BBC South Today UK (3'55)**

This story of four young brothers all suffering from a rare genetic disorder would have had a strong impact on viewers in the South. The journalistic approach allowed us to get to know the boys and understand the emotional trauma the parents were going through. It is not surprising that the appeal for bone marrow donors prompted thousands to come forward. Unfortunately, the item could not be considered because it did not have adequate sub-titles.

# Illegal Car Races (Nelegálni závody out) CTV - Brno Czech Republic (1'24)

The report gave a glimpse into the shady world of illegal car races, where an ordinary car park is turned into a night-time, racetrack. The judges thought it lacked the depth to make it an award winner.

# TG 4 News (Nuacht TG 4) TG4/RTE Ireland (2'43)

This story led to a u-turn by an elected board which had decided to sell a holiday home complex for half a million Euros less than the highest bid. The judges would have expected a more compelling approach to such a piece of investigative journalism. Even though the story had an impact in the community, it lacked creativity and the use of story-telling techniques.

# NRK Vestlandsrevyen - The Rocknes Tragedy (NRK vestlandsrevyen : Rocknesulukka) NRK 1 Hordaland Norway (14'30)

This was comprehensive and professional coverage of a shipping tragedy, a day after the cargo vessel 'Rocknes' overturned killing three people. This was a dramatic story but unfortunately it sometimes lacked drama in the way it was told. The judges noted that all the various aspects of the story were covered, from the rescue operation to the environmental impact, but not necessarily in the order which would have made them most engaging for the viewer.

An Opportunity For Region's Best Practices (*L'opportunita' non sprecata*) Rai Tre Italy (14'27) This look at how European funds are helping to breath life back into some Italian communities was packed with beautiful images and appropriate music. However, it was more documentary in style than news.

# Foreigners of Emergency Department (*Obcokrajowcy w Pogotowiu Ratunk*owym) TVP3 Katowice Poland (2'19)

This was an interesting story of how doctors from developing countries are now working in Polish hospitals. Although we discovered the reaction of patients and colleagues to them, we were not able to get a clear viewpoint from one of the doctors involved. The story needed to be more personalised.

#### Reporting Scotland BBC Scotland Scotland (30'00)

This was a very strong programme covering the breaking news of an explosion at a plastics factory in Glasgow in which nine people died. Jackie Bird was an excellent on-site anchor. She worked for much of the programme without autocue, reacting to the story as it developed. The reports were also of a high journalistic standard and contained some graphic eye-witness accounts from workers who had been caught up in the explosion.

The Firefighters and the Catastrophy (*Brandmændene og katastrofen*) TV SYD Denmark (2'19) Two days after a disaster at a fireworks storage depot in Seest, TVSYD decided to get the feelings of two of the fire fighters – one professional, the other amateur. The testimony was supported by strong, dramatic pictures.

# Littoral (Littoral) France 3 ouest France (27'00)

An interesting magazine item about oysters poachers in the bay of Quiberon. It pointed up the problems faced by the authorities in trying to safeguard a rare type of oyster from organised gangs as well as individuals ignorant of the law. The piece was well shot and edited. The reporter did not try to moralise but gently focused on the relevant issues.

#### Tragic Debillity (Tragiczna niemoc) TVP Lublin Poland (1'55)

The story followed the bundled rescue attempt of an elk trapped in a fence, next to a busy road. The camera followed every twist and turns of the action, and showed the suffering of the animal as officials tried to find a solution and argued about the best approach. Once it is released and attacks its rescuers, the reporter points up the lack of expertise of those involved. The construction and the images gave the reporter a good opportunity to say that lessons must be learnt.

# Regional News Report (Regional news report) SVT Västnytt Sweden (8'40)

This was comprehensive coverage of the threat to the car industry in the region. The station went to great lengths to provide a rounded picture and struck links with Hessischer Rundfunk TV in Frankfurt to complement their footage. The judges watched two of a series of stories which were well paced and showed good use of appropriate music and archive.

# PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2005 **CURRENT AFFAIRS PROGRAMMES**

**JOINT WINNERS** PARTYZANCKA SZKOLA TVP Bialystok Poland SECURITY WARS

BBC Scotland, UK

COMMENDATION

**WEEK 19** RTV Rijnmond Netherlands

**JUDGES** 

Chairman Proinsias ni Ghrainne TG4 Ireland

Hubert Schilling F3 Alsace France RTVSlo Maribor Irena Bedrac Slovenia

Marian Kleis CTV Brno Czech Republic

# CHAIR'S REPORT

There were thirty entries to the Current Affairs category this year. Programmes covered a wide sweep of content and regions, with varying approaches and styles.

There were many interesting topics that would attract both local and national audiences. The jury was positively surprised by the inclusion of many human interest stories, dealt with in a current affairs manner. The life and plight of Roma gypsy communities was a common theme in many productions.

On the whole, the jury felt that production and editorial qualities of programming in this category was not as high as previous years. Although the technical standards of filming and post production were good, the editorial content of some productions lacked the focus and definition that is expected in current affairs programming.

The jury also noticed a tendency towards over usage of voice over and narration as a journalistic tool to unfold the story. It was regrettable in some cases that the voices of interviewees were not heard and were drowned by lengthy explanations by reporters. This can only create a barrier between the audience and the story.

The jury also felt that some productions could have been better paced and would benefit from more visual and audio breaks between the narration and interviews.

The jury had a hard task to choose a clear winner in this category and therefore decided to split the award between two productions.

Proinsias Ni Ghrainne TG4

# PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2005 CURRENT AFFAIRS PROGRAMMES EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AWARD

# **JOINT WINNERS**

Guerrilla School Partyzancka szkola TVP Bialystok Poland (21'28)

This tells the story of the closure by the government in 2004 of the only humanistic secondary school in Belarus, with instruction in the Belarussian language. Government policy feared the patriotism and historical lessons, so important in the humanistic school, and which often denounced the communist system. This was a very interesting subject matter with a clear focus and approach. Throughout the programme, pupils and teachers protest at the closure and begin a school 'underground' in apartment buildings. Teachers, pupils and parents explain this injustice to camera and challenge the system that has deprived them of their education in Belarussian. This was a brave current affairs programme that documented a specific plight of a specific community in another country. The camera followed the protesters and all contributors to the programme in a very real and intimate manner and allowed the story to unfold with ease and honesty. The complexities of the subject matter are well explained by the interviewees and all contributors are well chosen. The mix of professionally shot footage and recordings on VHS of protests worked well. The story unfolded from visual sequences and the audiences were often challenged to interpret the story by what they saw, not by what was being narrated to them.

# Security Wars BBC Scotland Scotland, UK (29'53)

This programme examines the racketeering by criminal gangs of on-site security companies in Glasgow. The reporter investigates the cartel of four main security companies that rule the industry in the Scottish capital. If site managers do not hire them, their property could be fire bombed. The reporter goes undercover as the wife of a building site owner to hire one of these companies. She gets first hand evidence of who runs each company and which company controls what area of the city. This is a focused current affairs programme with a hard investigative edge. The programme chose a good subject to investigate and was familiar to jury members because much the same is happening in their own cities. The reporter was competent and clear. Interviews with people on the fringes of these companies, reconstructions with actors and undercover footage were used to build the story effectively. The programme clearly achieved its aim: to seek out the criminal elements that run the security companies.

# COMMENDATION

Week 19 (Week 19) RTV Rijnmond Netherlands (18'00)

The programme presents the everyday life of citizens in Rotterdam seen simultaneously by six camera crews at six different locations in the same week. The programme starts at the beginning of the week. As people go about their daily business, we watch the week unfold: Will there be big international news? Will this be a week like many others that will not be remembered for any apparent reason? The jury agreed that the original and fresh approach of this documentary is highly commendable. The film makers chose an observational style. The subjects seem oblivious to the cameras and continued with their daily chores in a most real and honest fashion. There was absolutely nothing 'set up'. The use of only natural sound added to this 'real' feel. Particular attention was paid to post production of picture and sound. Editing was seamless.

# OTHER ENTRIES

# The Murderer, My Friend (Múj pritel vrah) CTV 1 Ostrava Czech Republic (55'17)

A journalist interviews a prison inmate to find out what led him to commit a murder. The spine of the story is the interview, which is inter-cut with reconstructions of the spiral of crime that led to his taking the life of another man. The subject tells his story with extraordinary honesty and events almost seem unbelievable at times. Although the story follows a chronology of events and time, the fast pace of this programme could cause the audience to lose the thread of the story. Visuals are cut to the pace of his verbal delivery and narration from the interviewer is equally fast.

### Terminal - The Roma of Mohácsi road (*Végállomás - Mohácsi úti romák*) MTV Pécs Hungary (28'10)

This report shows a dark story of the plight of gypsy families in Romania. The camera brings us into the slums of one room flats to interview the gypsy families. They are constantly moved on by the government bodies and have nowhere else to go. This is very strong subject matter with much to discuss and understand. The jury felt that the programme was overloaded with narration and lacked pauses between the voice over, interview and reportage. Similarly, the camera never seemed to stand still. It did not allow for any emotion to come through or the opportunity for audiences to interpret this multi layered story for themselves.

### Decade of the Roma (Roma Évtized) MTV Szeged Hungary (12'00)

A report on the meeting in Sofia of eight accession states of the European Union in 2007 to agree on a joint programme and policy for the Roma communities in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Serbia-Montenegro, Macedonia and Hungary. The report is inter-cut with good visuals that depict the day-to-day life of the Roma. The story is mostly told by narration and would have benefited from more reaction from members of the Roma communities themselves.

#### The Border Within (Frontiera din fiecare) TVR Timisoara Romania (18'00)

A short film that deals with the migration of hundreds of thousands of Romanian people to Spain and other countries in Western Europe. The economic benefit is not always what they expect and life can become very difficult in the 'new land'. The film reveals some specific facts on the economic benefit to the Romanian exchequer by migrant workers sending money home to their families. Although highly informative, the jury felt that interviews were too long and narrative was endless. This film would have benefited from more visual breaks. The first two minutes of the film did not have any sound. The sound tracks were not mixed throughout the film.

# Serbs Returning (Povratak Srba) HRT 1 Karlovac Croatia (12'00)

A report on the return of Croatian citizens of Serb origin to their homeland of Krajina. Two men, one old man and a restaurant owner, fled during the war and now have returned to regain residence in their homes now inhabited by temporary refugees, mostly Croats from Bosnia. They face huge administration difficulties to re-possess their properties and generate finance to do necessary renovations. The story is told in two main parts – an introduction to the plight of the two men and a follow up, six months later, where we learn that both men have succeeded and are now re installed in their respective homes.

# The Sea (More) HRT 1 Split Croatia (27'44)

A weekly magazine programme co-produced between Circom members. This item from Croatia deals with various aspects of the Adriatic Sea. Presenter led, most items celebrate the sea and the people who live on it. The jury felt that this programme was misplaced and did not fit the remit of current affairs programming: It would have been better as a Cross Border entry.

### The Painter (Slikarica) HRT 1 Zagreb Croatia (6'40)

The story of a young woman, Andrea, with cerebral palsy, who relates to the outside world through her painting. The narrative follows the difficulties Andrea and her mother (her carer) face on a day-to-day basis and on a political level. If she finishes her education, she will not get a social security number and will be deprived of all benefits. This is a touching human story but, as a current affairs programme, perhaps it should have explained better the political structures and legislation that inhibit the lives of people with handicaps.

# The Orange Shade of Freedom (*Pomara nczowy odcien wolno sci*) TVP3 Rzeszów Poland (12'32)

This report on the 'Orange Revolution' of the presidential vote rigging in Ukraine. The camera follows the street protests of Western Ukraine in support of Yushchenko. They demand democracy and employment. And finally, they get their democratic president. Although the filming covered a broad sweep of people and interview, the jury felt that the investigation could have gone further into this story. The narrative is heavily reliant on voice over and the subject matter of interviewees sometimes became repetitive. The visual and audio qualities were commendable.

Three Winters - One Springtime (*Trzy zimy i jedna wiosna*) TVP3 Katowice Poland (21'00) This documentary follows a convoy from Poland to Polish people living in Romania. They bring gifts and perform for the communities. This is entertaining and has a wonderful 'feel good' factor but does not go beyond the report of the trip. The jury felt that we could have learnt more about the history and conditions of the people and the area. However, charitable stories such as this are always popular with audiences.

#### Execution in Zochcina (Egzekucja w Zochcinie) TVP3 Kielcach Poland (14'00)

The camera follows the demolition of an illegal building – a cow shed! The authorities arrive to carry out demolition work while the farmer and his wife protect the cow, which is due to calve soon. The report on location is inter-cut with the official who oversees the building legislation. Interviews from farmers were good but the film lacked variety of opinion and content. The camera work was very shaky at times. There was also a lot of audio interference.

### Enlargement (Powiekszenie) TVP3 Szczecin Poland (23'10)

A reportage of political discussion, with a backdrop of urban life. Centred around a pizza bar, the pizza is sliced according to the national expenditure. A brave attempt to bring 'life' and relevance to a discussion that is usually confined to studio debate. The subject matter under discussion was sometimes unclear but perhaps understandable to the target audience.

### Trójka Patrol (Patrol Trójki) TVP3 Warszawa Poland (26'00)

This programme is a mix of current affairs investigation and reality police reality work on the streets. The stories were well constructed and evoked curiosity and intrigue. Each story provided a wide sweep of opinion and interviews were concise and well placed. It is a stylish, well formatted programme. The presenter who linked each item is strong with a traditional current affairs delivery.

# Neighbours (Sasiedzi) TVP3 Wroclaw Poland (22'00)

Couples buy apartments for the first time. This is one of an episode of a series that follows each couple as they make the biggest investment in their lives – buying their first apartment. The programme follows the life stories and motivations of each couple and their quest to find the perfect apartment. It brings the viewers through the process and the pit falls of purchasing property from the plans. The jury felt that this is a lifestyle series rather than current affairs and was mis-placed in this category.

# The Clywch Report BBC Wales UK (50'00)

A documentary and studio discussion on the Clywch (listening) report on South Wales paedophile John Owens. The report on location interviews victims and parents unravel the sequence of events that enabled Owens to abuse his pupils as part of their drama improvisation in a Welsh comprehensive school. Reconstruction is used to great effect to reveal the manner in which Owens operated within his class. The studio discussion that follows raises questions of many levels of authority that allowed this to happen. The report provides shocking findings of how the abuse was allowed to continue under the eye of school authorities. It goes further to ask more general questions about the safety of school children today.

# The Education Gap BBC London UK (29'00)

This documents the failure of the British education system to provide a cohesive and integrated curriculum for Afro-Caribbean boys. The programme journeys to the US to investigate the approaches there. As this programme did not provide subtitles as requested, this could not be properly viewed.

# Alpha Europa - The EU Magazine "Skiing in Czech Republic" (Alpha Europa - Das EU Magazin "Skiparadies Spindlermühle") BR Franken Germany (29'00)

This is a magazine programme with a mixture of longer and shorter stories, some with cross-border angles. Although the stories offer a two-sided approach, they do not justify the standards of a current affairs programme. The main feature on skiing was a classic reportage with wide-angle camera work but there was no evident reason why it should be in a current affairs programme - even in midwinter - as it seemed to be produced for skiing market. The magazine continued with more interesting stories. Good camera and editing work.

# Report from Brussels (Bericht aus Brüssel) WDR Köln Germany (25'00)

This was a European magazine consisting of shorter current affairs stories, short news and an opinion poll. It had good journalist approach (for example, confronting the representative of two opinions in the story "Debate about the End of Life Directive"). Unfortunately the stories are not presented in the most effective and dynamic way and they lacked "common people".

#### Fullerton (Fullerton) TG4 Ireland (52'00)

A current affairs documentary on the murder of an Irish Republican politician and the apparent cover up by police and other authorities to convince the state that this was an accidental death. Interviews with family and journalists build the case. The jury felt that, although the reopening of the Fullerton case gave the programme the current affairs note, the approach is rather more documentary in style. Unfortunately, this programme did not provide adequate subtitles for the jury to comprehend the interviews

### A Baltic Tour (Itineraire Baltique) France 3 France (26'00)

This current affairs magazine programme travels through the new assession states to discover unknown cultural and political facts about each country. It begins in Poland and travels throughout the Baltic nations. This programme was enhanced by particularly strong photography. The visuals were beautiful but it lacked the clear focus and examination of the subject matter for current affairs.

# Forum (Forum) RTV Oost Netherlands (33'12)

This was an entertaining talk show produced in a fresh and humorous way, which would have succeeded better in the Most Original category rather than Current Affairs. The guests discussed the events of the week but there is no apparent relevance of the involvement of guests in the events, nor the choice of guests.

# Regioneuropa (Regioneuropa) Rai Tre Italy (15'00)

The programme is supposed to focus on the effect that European policies have on local economies and everyday life. However, there are no common people and no true insight into their everyday life. The angle is too institutional and not attractive to viewers. The use of music rather than natural sounds does no favours to the programme.

# Blackout - The Peaces of Failure (*Blackout - Wasuw Strowausfälle Kein Zufall Sind*) Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg Germany (43'57)

What would happen if there was a black out? How can we live without electricity? This is told in an American context but with world wide relevance. Unfortunately, this programme did not provide the adequate subtitles of the interviews for the jury.

# The Grey Panthers at Work (Det grå guld) TV SYD Denmark (8'30)

The journalist visits a fish factory to discover the working conditions and day-to-day working life of the employees. This is an interesting approach but the jury felt that the subject matter was not developed enough. In order to have stronger impact, the story should investigate other job possibilities and seasonal work opportunities, and perhaps widen the focus of the programme.

# Milk Crisis (La Crise du Lait) France 3 Ouest France (31'00)

This was a strong topic, showing the struggle of French milk farmers in Brittany to survive. However, the problem of milk quotas is similar throughout the EU. A further investigation, asking why milk farmers get only 7% to 13% of the product value, would be welcomed.

# Seven Days of November (Siete dias de Noviembre) LA 2 TVE Spain (31'11)

This programme recounts the most devastating shipwreck off the north west of Spain, in the Atlantic Ocean in November 2002 (Prestige). The programme could not be considered properly by the jury because of the absence of subtitles.

# The High Tatras (Magas Tátra) MTV Budapest Hungary (5'10)

A report on the storm that destroyed the forests of Slovakian Tatras in October 2004. The voice over and interviews describe the devastation caused by the storm. Filming was done after the night of the storm, with visuals of the huge expanse of fallen trees. The jury felt that this resembled a news report in style rather than the development of the story that is expected from current affairs programming.

# Roma Exodus (Roma kivándorlás) MTV Miskolc Hungary (5'35)

This programme examines the plight of the Roman gypsy community. This is an interesting and highly relevant subject matter but the jury agreed that the short duration and style adopted by this programme did not give adequate understanding of the subject matter.

# PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2005 CROSS-BORDER PROGRAMMES

WINNER CITY FOLK HRT Zagreb Croatia

**JUDGES** 

Chairman Hubert Schilling F3 Alsace France

Proinsias ni Ghrainne TG4 Ireland Irena Bedrac RTVSlo Maribor Slovenia

Marian Kleis CTV Brno Czech Republic

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The challenges in making cross border programmes are clear: How can we better understand our neighbours? How do we share related issues in our daily life? How do we break the borders in our mind, everyday life, economies, cultures, and religions?

The judges discussed these issues when viewing programmes and afterwards. Circom Regional, after all, has been foremost of the television organisations in encouraging a spirit of "working together" across borders to create programmes which are relevant to our viewers and which extend understanding.

But we need to take account of changes. One year after the EU enlargement, the significance of the word "border" is in question. Where does a "border" begin and where does it end in a Europe which is becoming more open? For this reason, the judges paid special attention to true co-productions which sought for a fresh and original approach

There were two prevailing themes this year. On the one hand, the classically made items produced for a common magazine: on the other hand, the thematic approach to talk about the difficult subjects which ordinary people face in everyday life.

Hubert Schilling France 3 Alsace

# PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2005 CROSS-BORDER PROGRAMMES COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS AWARD

# **WINNER**

City Folk (City Folk) HRT Zagreb Croatia (27'15)

This was a magazine programme created under the umbrella of the EBU sub-group for intercultural programmes and which includes many other broadcasters. This winning edition was made by HRT. This episode consists of three different personal stories, emphasising the complexity of multiculturalism in Croatia. They all had a good journalistic approach and the angles are simple and interesting. Avoiding commentary allows people to express themselves in their own words. The programme is bright and aims to examine differences between us without prejudice. In one of the stories, a young Islamic woman living in Zagreb expresses her loneliness at being apart from the rest of her family in the Sudan. She misses her Arabic culture and seeks out oriental cooking classes and even goes to Hebrew classes at a Jewish Community Centre. In the second story, a Bosnian journalist tells how her boyfriend, a TV reporter, was shot dead while they were working together and how she has struggled to rebuild her life by moving to Zagreb. The third item reports on a professor of film directing who has to learn how to relate to his father, who has divorced his mother and now lives abroad. They are simple stories, well told and make for a worthy winner.

# OTHER ENTRIES

# On the Way to Brussels (Västnytt) SVT Västnytt Sweden (9'15)

There are two teams, one travelling from Gothenburg to Brussels, and another around in the western part of Sweden, trying to find the "EU". A good idea in a "road-movie" style. It's rhythmic, concrete, humorous. But, it has no real beginning or end.

### The Stone Poem (Pesem Kamna) RTVS Koper-Capodistria Slovenia (4 x 30'00)

A beautifully filmed look at how natural stone is used on both sides of the Slovenian-Italian border. It intertwined the use of stone products with everyday life and brought out interesting stories told through people living in the area. The intelligent use of music and imaginative editing gave the production a certain charm.

### Szelmenc (Kisszelmenc) MTV Budapest Hungary (7'25)

The Iron Curtain is still in place in a remote village called Szelmenc and makes a touching topic for a journalistic story. This story offers all elements of a good cross border item. However, the author falls to provide the real insight into ordinary life by focusing on narration instead of people speaking.

### Multicultural - Religion (Multikulti - Vallás) MTV Pécs Hungary (25'58)

Presenting issues about religion to viewers is a big challenge. This programme almost succeeded in making it interesting, fresh and dynamic with a story about the Head of the Hungarian Islamic community. The rest of the programme never quite succeeded in following through on a consistent angle or rhythm. More needed to be heard from common people.

#### Latvia1 - Unknown Neighbour (Lettland1 - Okänd granne) SVT Syd, Växjö Sweden (4'10)

Nice, touching story, which requires a few minutes more to develop fully. Two retired persons from each side of the Baltic Sea (Sweden, Latvia), are wondering who his/her neighbour might be and what they are like.

## Me and Europe (Eu si Europa) TVR 1 Romania (45'19)

A mask maker was a good choice for the programme. His work is part of the original ethno crafts from Romania. In the prevailing atmosphere which praises what benefits Europe can bring, he is satisfied with his life as it is on a remote mountain. He works hard, 17 hours a day. The programme develops by visiting his craft-counterpart in Spain, a ceramist Arturo Mora, whose work is funded by the government, unlike Pavel Lupasc's. The programme aims to compare the experience of the two artists. Unfortunately, the programme is not structured well and questions are repetitive.

# Lesson of Democracy (Lekcja democracy) TVP3 Bialystok Poland (5'40)

This story covered the meeting in Riga of the European Youth Parliament. Young people had come from a variety of European countries to discuss the spirit of democracy. We hear from people who are able to speak freely for the first time about their beliefs and their hopes for the future. For at least one of the participants, the refreshing feeling of freedom was quickly dispelled. We hear her voice on the telephone, telling how she'd been stopped at the border on her way home from the meeting and questioned about her political views. Nevertheless, the production leaves us with a feeling of optimism.

### The Regions in Union (Regiony w unii) TVP3 Gdansk Poland (18'05)

The story of Sopot is unfortunately only the story of a spa. It falls to provide the cross border spirit. The interviews were too official. There were some involvement of visitors but the real life in Sopot remained hidden.

### Beyond the Olza River (Zaolzie) TVP3 Katowice Poland (12'30)

This magazine was also an entry last year: it is a programme about a region where different nationalities (Polish, Czech and others) live. The programme shows examples of the multi-ethnic society in that region but the judges still miss (just like they did last year....), proper journalistic reporting.

#### Quartet (Kwartet) TVP3 Rzeszów Poland (24'26)

The idea of this co-production (for Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary) aims to popularise the culture, places, tourist attractions and landscape of the respective countries. The jury thought the programme was rather flat and the focus on one particular topic would be a better route to follow.

#### Telenowyny (Telenowyny) TVP3 Warszawa Poland (12'01)

A comprehensive exposition of Polish reaction to the turbulent political situation in the Ukraine. The programme is usually broadcast in Ukrainian but this special edition was in Polish to stress the gratitude of Ukrainians living in Poland for the help Poles offered to the new Ukrainian democracy.

#### D-Day 60th anniversary BBC 1 South UK (26'47)

The programme commemorates the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-day landings. It was produced with the facilities of France 3 but unfortunately live interviews with British and French soldiers were missing. The latter would be welcome in order to focus on one of the true values of life - friendship. Unfortunately, there are no subtitles.

## Europe Around Us? - We In Europe! (Evropa kolem nás - My v Evropé/) CTV 2 Ostrava Czech Rep. (22'00)

A refreshing treatment of EU enlargement with reports from the four countries of the V4 Group. Young film-makers from Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia were given the opportunity to offer their own points of view concerning entry of their countries into the EU. There is humour, imagination and creativity. It's a plea for the charm of diversity and unity in the new Europe. An interesting watch.

#### The New Europe (Das Neue Europa) SWR Fernsehen Germany (2 x 30'00)

This two-part programme takes you on a journey through Europe on the day the EU enlargement became effective. While the old borders vanished among countries in the new Europe, new borders are established between Poland and Ukraine and Belarus. It is a classic style documentary giving an insight into the effects of enlargement on the people living and working in the border towns. We meet everyone from the hairdresser to the small time cigarette smuggler and learn how their lives have been affected.

#### Triangle (Triangel) NDR Sleswig Holstein Germany (29'00)

This "triangle" is a magazine co-production between three broadcasters: NDR Kierk, TV2 Ost, Vordingborg and SVT Malmo. The common theme of this episode is the Baltic Sea, with various items linked to the sea and fishing. The three anchor presenters from the respective countries open and close the programme with a joint piece to camera. The filming in this programme was of high quality, in particular the article on the Lagan salmon. The jury noticed the absence of stings or breakers to bring the audience from one item to the next. There was also the absence of music or atmospheric sounds to add to the beauty of these visuals.

## The 24th Degree of Longitude (*Der 24. längenfrad*) Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg Germany (73'30)

This programme travels southwards from the Baltic coast through many countries in Eastern Europe. In each country, we meet people who have upheld the traditions of their respective countries. The item on Kihnu island stood out as being highly visual and interesting in content. This is a highly informative programme with good production values throughout. However, this is more of a travel documentary from a neutral perspective.

#### Euromaxx – Lifestyle Europe (*Euromaxx - Leben und kultur in europa*) Deutsche Welle Germany (25'15)

Lifestyle Europe is a fast, style magazine that covers a wide breadth of subject matter on the social life of various European communities. Linked by a studio presenter, the camera takes us on a whirl of content and visuals of various stories. Items are well structured and entertaining. Camera work is good and interviews are short and to the point. Production values are high throughout.

#### "The East" or "The West" (Levante) Rai Tre Puglia Italy (15'00)

Levante is a magazine programme that travels to the Balkan states and examines the diversity and richness of culture there. The emphasis in this episode was on music, music learning and

performance with a link to Italian language and culture. The subject matter was interesting and production values commendable throughout.

#### Iran Last Chance Journeys (Iran an beaiach in airde) TG 4 Ireland (52'00)

This is one of a series of journeys of endangered routes that nomadic tribes use all around the world. In this episode, presenter and writer Dermot Somers journeys through the Iranian Sagros Mountains with a tribe of nomadic shepherds for one month. He befriends the head shepherd and learns about the culture and beliefs of the tribe and the many forces that endanger their existence. He makes marked comparisons with the old cultural traditions of Ireland. Camera work and production values are stunning.

#### The Glory of Love ("Vis a vis "" A Nos Amours") France 3 Alsace France (28'30)

This is a tongue-in-cheek look at the traditions of love and dating in Germany as compared to the French traditions. The programme goes through all the stages of the first date – the 'do's and 'don'ts' in comical items all shot on location. These are interspersed with two presenters who comment on traditions of love. The jury felt that the performance of the two presenters did not work: they seemed false and lacked the comedy that the visual items achieved. Otherwise, it had some great comical moments.

#### The Europeans from Funen - Poland (Europæerne fra Fyn - Polen) TV2 Fyn Denmark (8'42)

The programme centres on Soren Rasmusen, a zoo owner, originally from Finland but now running his safari park in the North of Poland. Soren comments on Polish life and the accession of Poland as a new EU country. He explains the economic and cultural change that is expected and compares this to his native Finland. The jury commends the production values of this programme but felt that it needed more focus and continuity of theme.

#### Eastwest (Estovest) Rai Friuli Venezia Giulia Italy (15'00)

This news programme travels to Budapest and other locations in the accession states to examine aspects of culture and education. There were five very different items within the programme, some presenter led, some not. The subject matter was interesting but sometimes difficult to follow. The jury found the constant narration over interviews of Hungarian people distracting. The items were very busy and could have been allowed to 'breath' more with more visual breaks and atmospherics.

#### European magazine (Europski magazin) RTVSIo Maribor Slovenia (30'00)

An episode in a series of magazine programmes that covers life in various European countries. This programme covers the borders between Slovenia and neighbouring countries and follows people who have to cross these borders daily as part of their journeys to and from school or work. The stories were clearly told and subjects well chosen, with items linked by a presenter. Camera work and production values were of high standard throughout. The jury felt that some items were too long and could have been told in a shorter time.

#### Polish Life in Denmark (De polske læger i Danmark) TVSYD Denmark (8'02)

A sympathetic story about a Polish doctor and her every day family who live in Denmark. It is conventionally made and somewhat predictable. The problems this family has to cope with are a bit clichéd, since all families who start a new life in another country have to deal with them.

#### Confluence (Confluence) France 3 Lorraine Champagne-Ardenne France (26'00)

Confluence is a monthly magazine with subjects that concern the people in the north-east of France and the south-east of Belgium. This programme reports on retirement homes for old people in France and Belgium, with different perspectives, and also a short item about food. It certainly is properly cross border but the magazine itself is not really special: informative and charming but nothing more.

#### **Euroregion (***Euroregion***) France 3 nord France (12'20)**

This is a weekly programme made by five local and regional stations from eastern England, north-west France and south-west Belgium. It shows small reports about every day life and all were originally made by these local and regional stations. Conventionally made, it is full of good news items. This works well as a cross border concept: close to the people whom it concerns, showing everyday life just across the border on subjects which matter. It's good to know what the neighbours are doing.

#### Free Ukraine (Wolna Ukraina) TVP3 Lublin Poland (12'30)

A well made story about the Orange Revolution in the Ukraine. The camerawork is especially worthy of mention. On the other hand, it is not really fitting the criteria because it focuses on the Ukraine revolution only: it is a report with a crew from Poland and made in the Ukraine - but that's all.

#### The New Catalanes (Los Nuevos catalanes) LA 2 (TVE) Spain (25'00)

A multi-cultural programme about Catalonia. The magazine presented items about the largest immigrant community in Catalonia, the Moroccan; about sports, like cricket with new Catalonians such as Pakistani and Bengali; and about Thai gastronomy. This entry could not be judged because of the lack of subtitles.

#### Puls (Puls) No Télé - WTV C9 Télévision Belgium (22'00)

'Puls' is a magazine with items about cultural and social-economic issues from three regions: Lille, Vlaanderen and the south of Belgium. Unfortunately, we were not able to give a proper judgment because it didn't have English subtitles.

# PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2005 MOST ORIGINAL PROGRAMME

WINNER YU MING IS AINM DOM TG4 Ireland

**COMMENDATIONS** 

DZIEWCZNY Z NOWEJ HUTY TVP3 Kraków Poland

**JUDGES** 

Chairman Vanda Condurache TVR Iasi Romania

Hans Snijder Omrop Fryslan The Netherlands Martin Brooks BBC North West United Kingdom

George Trapezanedis ERT3 Greece

#### CHAIR'S REPORT

This is the first time that it was up to producers themselves to decide whether their programmes were 'different from the normal expectations' and would fit this category. All 26 entries prove diverse criteria were applied to decide on this choice. Some TV companies considered the simple change of location to be a good argument while others thought that choosing good television productions alone would justify their decision. This is why we felt sometimes sorry for entries that might have won awards in other categories.

A certain advantage of the former selection process – from all programmes entered - was the fact that objectivity could perhaps play a better part in the primary choice. The judges could compare the angle and the original treatment of the programmes selected to that of the other entries.

For next year it might be a good idea to take into consideration both opportunities.

Nevertheless we could watch some interesting imaginative programmes and remark upon good television, original camera work and unconventional editing.

The winner - My Name Is Yu Ming — is a fresh and warm production from TG4 Ireland. It is a compelling story of a young Chinese boy who decides to settle in Ireland and discovers a world completely different from what he had imagined. The humour as well as the original view of a culture and its meanings justifies our choice.

Girls from Nova Huta, the commendation, has been chosen again for the originality of the approach but also for its special way of telling an interesting story. Seven young women decide to find new identities and meanings for an old industrial area by using television devices.

Vanda Condurache, TVR Iasi

### PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2005 MOST ORIGINAL TVP3 AWARD

#### **WINNER**

My Name Is Yu Ming Yu Ming is ainm dom TG4 Ireland (13'29)

A young boy in China puts his finger on a spinning globe to find a new country to live in and picks Ireland by chance. We are then treated to a fresh, original and humorous drama as he learns the Irish language and sets out to find a new life in The Emerald Isle. However, when he reaches Ireland, he finds no-one understands him when he speaks Irish because this part of Ireland speaks English. At one level, we explore relationships with the people he meets – in the hotel, for instance. At the next level, we find out how the Irish relate to him – and think that, as a Chinese boy, he should be one and the same as a Mongolian boy and have the same culture as him. Each world has a different image of the other – and these misunderstandings and tensions are well explored. It is a fairy tale (in Ireland, after all) and all ends happily speaking Irish in a pub (it is in Ireland, after all).

#### COMMENDATION

Girls from Nowa Huta (Dziewczny z Nowej Huty) TVP3 Kraków Poland (24'39)

A film made by seven female youngsters about their neighbourhood, Nowa Huta. It is a formerly socialist district in Krakow, where one of the largest steelworks in Europe has been giving work to the people. The factories collapsed and the neighbourhood has to find a new identity. It is really an original approach to this problem: the creating of a new image for a former industry community by means of a film.

#### OTHER ENTRIES

An Automated Orthodox Church (*Automatizált ortodox templom*) MTV Budapest Hungary (3'34) A wonderful short story about a priest in a Romanian village who introduces automation to his church: several electronic moving icons, a flashing moneybox and more. They call him DJ Priest. The priest is very unusual and original: the approach of the programme makers is adequate.

#### ECSENY - A Small Village in Somogy County (ECSENY) MTV Pécs Hungary (25'26)

An interesting report from an anthropological point of view. It is not really unusual or original but it is curious: Ecseny is a small village where Germans were removed in former times and Hungarians came in their place. Now all the young people have left and foreigners have discovered the quiet place. Well made.

#### The Past Traced by Your Hand (Kezed nyomán a múlt) MTV Szeged Hungary (20'37)

They were masters of creating fine household aids on wood: Beash gypsies who lived in the woods. Today this traditional gypsy occupation is about to disappear: "Das war einmal". The film shows this to us in a conventional but professional way; a quietly built story which appeals to melancholy thoughts.

#### Slippery Snow (Snöhalka) SVT 2 Sweden (1'37)

The outline on the entry form says 'it is a story which is told a thousand times before'. That is astonishingly correct and therefore it will not win a prize in the category 'Most Original'. Despite this remark, the judges thought that the item is made with a good sense of fun.

#### Learn for Life (Lärä för livot) SVT Växio Sweden (12'05)

A nice portrait about several youngsters and their life in high school. From music to maths and from theatre to science: the viewer gets an insight and information about the motives of the pupils. It is freshly made with a certain tempo but does go beneath the surface.

#### A Wonderfull Trip (Cálátorie de vis) TVR 1 Románia (56'07)

An intriguing film (a teleplay) about 10 people who are making a cultural bus trip through Europe. Each one of them has something to hide and joins the trip for some illegal business. The atmosphere in the bus is strange, threatening and it is inevitable that something is going to happen. It seems that one of them, a lonely young man, is, according to the others, a policeman. It is an unusual story, with good editing, acting and camera and above all it is really an "original" entry when compared to the others.

#### In Sight (Váz - duh) TVR Timisoara Románia (25'00)

A warm portrait of a man who suffers glaucoma. He tries to carry on with his life in a rather unusual way. From a cinematographic point of view well done but we missed the dramatic development in the film.

#### Croatian-Slovenian Border (Hrvatsko-slovenska granica) HRT 1 Zagreb Croatia (4'00)

A charming short story about Croatian wine merchant (and his Slovenian wife). He has to cope with the fact that the official borderline divides his yard and his house (even his bed....) in two parts, a Croatian and a Slovenian part. Well made, with an original angle. We can see this story also as a typical cross border item.

#### Full Shock (Ful Szok) TVP3 Bialystok Poland (21'00)

It is a programme made for and made by youngsters. The aim is to focus on teenager problems in a light way. We saw a magazine that focuses on a high school and what there is to do. It is charming to view. It is interesting for this special group but not really an original approach.

#### That Bugs Me? (Co mnie gryzie?) TVP3 Gdansk Poland (15'00)

Small and big problems told by Gdansk civilians in the street, one after the other. It is one row of complaints about what is wrong in the lives of people who get in front of a microphone and just can't wait to complain. This kind of programs fills a role but it is not really an original approach.

#### Attention: Weekend (Uwaga Weekend) TVP3 Katowice Poland (21'24)

A live, call-in studio programme about weekend events, informing everyone what is going on where. It is energetically made with an upbeat tempo. They try and succeed to make a cultural weekend magazine with a motto: We don't want it to be boring.

#### The Ocean Land (Havlandet) NRK 1 Norway (59'09)

A really well made film about scientific research on life in the blue oceans, while at the same time the viewer sees the research through the eyes of an artist. It is occasionally exciting to look at (for example, the hunt for an exceptional whale!) and the impressions of the artist do add something special to the film, although it is also a bit forced. The judges thought is a well made documentary rather than an entry for the Most Original award.

#### She, Nikifor (Ona Nikifor) TVP3 Poznan Poland (32'16)

A well crafted arts documentary about the little-known background of famous naive painter, Nikifor. The producer uses different creative approaches to build the picture of the man and his time. The testimonies are interspersed with the artist's paintings, put in the context of the landscape which inspired him. The documentary reveals new facts about his life but mainly tries to explain about his own artistic world.

## The Parnassus - A Culture Magazine (*Parnas - Magazyn kulturalny*) TVP3 Rzeszów Poland (19'31)

An original programme about original artists. The authors decided that the best way to approach and understand them in through their feelings. The sculptor and stage designer Piotr Woroniec, the poet Stach Ozog and the choreographer Mariola Weggrzyn-Mycka try to give art a chance to survive.

#### The Anointed (Namaszczeni) TVP3 Szczecin Poland (33'38)

The programme presents the case of two Downs syndrome boys seen in their everyday life, sharing a love of music and art. It pleads for a better understanding and expresses the view that we can all learn from each other. The judges praised the camera work and editing. Nevertheless, they thought the programme would have better fitted a documentary category.

#### BBC South East Today BBC 1 South East UK (26'10)

This was a standard evening news programme (and a good news programme too). It had been entered for the Most Original category because of its new studio set. But the judges did not think this change merited an entry in this category.

#### D-Day 60th Anniversary Weekend BBC 1 South UK (23'50)

This was a moving, emotional programme that showed high production values. Presenting from Normandy was a big investment for a regional programme but it paid off. The warm presentation by Sally Taylor added value to this touching tribute. The judges felt the programme would have been better suited to the news category as there was little which could be said to be "original" in method or content.

#### Scumbags and Saints (Aso's en engelen) RTV Oost Netherlands (10'00)

This was 'cine-verite' which tested moral standards in a small Dutch community. We see how people in Overijssel react when tin cans are dropped in the street. We hear what they think about dangerous places in the city and see how young people spend a night on the town. It was interesting to discover just how much antisocial behaviour people were prepared to tolerate.

#### My peeps BBC 1 West UK (28'58)

After a Circom commendation in 2002, BBC West decided to continue the collaboration with Clive Smith, a prolific, amateur film-maker who chronicles life in the St Paul's area of Bristol. He gives a voice to the talented, spirited people who live in this multi-cultural district. The programme is the fourth of a series and climaxes at St. Paul's Carnival. It gives a fascinating insight into the community. People open up to Clive in a way they would never do for an outsider.

Whose is This Song? (Wem gehört das Lied?) Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg Germany (55'00) Bulgarian film-maker Adela Peeva traces the roots of a song that she first came across in Turkey. Unfortunately, it is stated that the documentary was first broadcast in 2003 and is therefore outside the timeframe for these awards.

#### That is The Question (Bonjour la guestion) France 3 sud France (13'00)

A fresh approach that makes science accessible to young viewers. They pose the question and the answer comes in a very clear and sometimes surprising way. The programme has high quality

graphics, unconventional editing and pacey music. The judges thought its style and originality would make it engaging for young viewers.

### A la Carte (Servicio a la carta) La 2 TVE Spain (6'00)

This cookery programme gave practical advice on some interesting looking dishes. Unfortunately, it was not sub-titled and therefore could not be considered properly.

#### The Seest Catastrophe (Seest Katastrofen) TVSYD Denmark (12'44)

The intention of this production was to give the viewer a different, thought provoking perspective on the explosion at a fireworks factory in Seest which caused loss of life and major damage to a wide area. Strong images, intelligent use of music and sound effects and sensitive editing made for a powerful and emotional watch.

#### Culture Trailers (Tropiciele Qltury) TVP Warszaw, Oddzial w Opolu Poland (9'47)

The programme looks at youth culture with the production team travelling from town to town to focus on different youth activities. The presenter gains the confidence of his young interviewees whether they be break-dancers or ten-pin bowlers. Unusual camera angles and original editing make for a dynamic and unconventional approach. The judges thought it was a creative way to engage a young audience.

## PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2005 SPORT

WINNER SOCHAUX, UNE USINE, UN CLUB France 3 Bourgogne France

**COMMENDATIONS** 

DE ZUS VAN LEONTIEN RTV Rijnmond Netherlands

RINGY TG4 Ireland

**JUDGES** 

Chairman Hans Snijder Omrop Fryslan The Netherlands

Vanda Condurache TVR Iasi Romania

Martin Brooks BBC North West United Kingdom

George Trapezanedis ERT3 Greece

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

In the category "Sport", the award is for the best sports documentary or sports feature. The jury was asked to pay particular attention to entries which present a view of the broader spirit of sport or its value in a wider community.

Last year the jury noticed a high level of quality in the entries. Therefore, that jury recommended continuing the Sports category as sport is a very relevant part of every day life. This was a good decision: again the entries were on a relatively high standard level. The reports are made professionally and, in most entries, programme makers have been looking for an authentic angle and a degree of flair (even if sometimes in some reports it did not work out). The judges noticed a slight tendency to stretch out the category to subjects that we do not really consider as sport and to subjects that we consider more as current affairs.

The three winners show that the impact of sport in a broad sense is really worthy for making television programmes. The judges are looking forward to the next year's competition when there will hopefully be again a overall high standard quality of entries.

Hans Snijder Omrop Fryslan

### PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2005 SPORT ERT3 AWARD

### **WINNER**

A Football Club and a Factory Sochaux, une usine, un club France 3 Bourgogne France (52'00)

This is the story about being proud of the football team Sochaux, which is performing surprisingly well in the highest French competition. It is a small club which is closely related to the history of the Peugeot factory in town. The viewer can enjoy a fluid and wonderful portrait of what it is like to be proud of a small club, compared to the rich and famous football clubs like AS Monaco, Olympique Lyon or Paris Saint Germain. It is also, on another level, a portrait about the relationship of the football club and the Peugeot factory. It is intriguing to watch at and there is some really nice old footage of Peugeot. You get to know well the history of Sochaux, the football club, as well as the Peugeot factory.

### COMMENDATIONS

Leontien's Sister
De zus van Leontien
RTV Rijnmond Netherlands
(4'00)

This was a brilliant idea. When Leontien van Moorsel went for her latest Olympic cycling medal, her lively sister was banished to the top of a mountain to cheer her on. TV Rijnmond went with her. What we get is compelling television, as the sister screams at Leontien to urge her on. Even the judges wanted to join in and had the same feeling of relief and joy when Leontien finally took gold. It was very imaginative journalism, which shows the value of small camera deployment.

Ringy TG4 Ireland (52'00)

A very high quality production to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Cork's hurling legend, Christy Ring. It takes the viewer on a journey back to 1940s and 1950s with skilful use of previously unseen archive material. Clever techniques are used to smooth the transition between the old footage and the new. Lighting is also used to great effect, as is music. A great watch even for non-sports fans.

### OTHER ENTRIES

#### A Székler Paralympion (Székely paralimpikon) MTV Budapest Hungary (4'26)

Report on a young man who was a promising skater until he became injured in a car accident. His right foot was partly amputated. However, he did not give up and nine years later he won the fourth price at the Paralympics in Athens. It is a conventional but well made report

## Athens 2004: Paralympic Games Through The Eyes Of The Champion (*Athén 2004-Paralimpia a bajnoknö szemével*) MTV Pécs Hungary (26'00)

A complete portrait of a young woman who is born without her left limb. She participates in the Paralympics in Athens and wins Hungary's only gold medal. We hear an interesting overview of the Hungarian Paralympics team. The report is made with craftsmanship and love but is nothing special and somewhat one dimensional.

#### Jumping In Blue (Skok u plavetnilo mora) HRT 2 Zagreb Croatia (18'00)

Diving as deep as possible with one breath taking only: a new sport. The second World Championship was held in Croatia. Nice pictures from the deep and some spectacular dives mark an interesting report.

#### Freestyler (Freestyler) TVP3 Bialystok Poland (5'00)

A charming report made to interest young (sport) viewers to have take a look at the struggle of their disabled colleagues. It was the intention to show the differences but also the fact that we all have to train hard to obtain success. It is professionally made by a 17-year-old programme maker.

#### First Moon Buggy Challenge (1. Raid lunochodow) TVP3 Katowice Poland (12'29)

An item about a race for self-made tractors: Polish "moon buggies". There are nice pictures and good use of graphics to show what happens in the race but the story lacks journalistic or dramatic development. Apart from the question of whether such a tractor race is really sport...

#### The Athlete (Olimpijczyk) TVP3 Poznan Poland (12'00)

The struggle of a young man who had a severe car accident, lost a leg and now trains to compete at the Paralympics in Athens. His story is built up very well in the report. Before his accident he didn't care and was not aware of disabled people: nowadays, he is. Inevitably, the story is a bit predictable but in the range of items about disabled sportsmen, this is one of the best.

## STYY.LU - A Show With Adrenaline Added (*STYY.LU - Magazyn z adrenalina*) TVP3 Szczecin Poland (12'00)

The description says 'a show about active people who go in for unconventional sports'. The programme makers have tried to edit the program unconventionally. They succeeded but the sports are not really spectacular and the programme falls between sport and fun.

#### Olympic bids BBC London UK (14'30)

It was commendable that BBC London set out to compare and contrast the merits of the various cities competing with London for the 2012 Olympic Games. They were strong packages with high production values. However, the judges felt it was not a true sports issue – more news/current affairs.

#### On Camp With Kelly BBC South East UK (3'01)

An interesting insight into how Britain's Olympic star Kelly Holmes is helping young athletes at a special training camp in South Africa. We discover more of Kelly's character and her engaging personality. The judges recognised the high standards achieved in a quick-turnround piece.

## Mehdi Baala, An Olympic Dream (*Mehdi Baala - Un reve olympique*) France 3 Alsace France (52'30)

The production team made a long-term commitment, following the fortunes of young athletics star Mehdi Baala between two Olympic Games. They were given exception access to his every-day life and his ups and downs on the track. It gave a fascinating insight into the never-say-die attitude of a top sportsman. However, the judges felt that despite the many highs the programme achieved, it lacked a certain cohesion.

#### What a Day (Den store day) TVSYD Denmark (12'16)

We find out how a young coach motives his junior football team to become championship winners. Despite limited resources, the piece manages to capture the emotions of the day and the highs and lows that the coach and his team go through. The production was engaging with viewers feeling part of the youngsters' success.

#### Dreams of Gold (Drömmar om guld) SVT Syd Växjo Sweden (30'00)

This programme would have been very appealing for the followers of the Championship winning, Jonkoping, ice hockey team. It had a range of their star players opening their hearts to the camera, edited with footage from their most important games. Despite having massive local appeal, the judges felt the production would have benefited from a little more imagination. However, the victory scenes in the centre of Jonkoping when thousands turned out to welcome their heroes were really impressive.

## **THANK YOU**

Circom Regional would like to pay particular thanks to those organisations and individuals who have contributed so much to making the Prix 2005 a success.

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