



WELCOME

Dear friends and colleagues, our guests, We do not want to overdo it, either with statements or with promises, because it is not what journalists should do, but we really want this gathering to be a success, as is tradition with CIRCOM regional. Also, it would be totally inappropriate not to mention the last CIRCOM convention of the millennium. So, to make this introductory word even shorter, we shall try and make this 17th Annual Conference as simple and efficient as possible, under a motto which sums up all our work and efforts: **BROADCASTING QUALITY, INDEPENDENT CREATION AND DIGITAL FUTURE!!!**

Croatian Radio-Television Organising Committee

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A letter from the President

It is my great pleasure to invite you to Cavtat, in Croatia, to join colleagues and friends of Circom Regional on the occasion of our 17th Annual Conference.



With the approval of the European Board, the Executive Committee have accepted the offer extended by the Croatian Television HRT to host the Circom event. Once again Circom has been able to demonstrate a strong desire to be at the vanguard in its politics and decision-making. Once again Circom has been constant in its aims to promote and future the development of regional television. Circom has always promoted meetings between people, and has provided opportunities for opinions, even contrasting ones, to be voiced.

It has created a network of European regional television stations willing to cooperate in projects for mutual advancement.

In this regard Circom has been available every time its backing was needed. This assistance extends well beyond Circom's now well-established activities in the fields of coproductions and training that aim to produce good quality, entertaining broadcasts, including valid information programmes in which every viewpoint is given fair representation and freedom of expression.

With this spirit in mind I invite you to participate in even greater numbers in this 17th Circom Conference, where the main theme will be "independence, quality and the future of regional television".

The hospitality, organisational skills and kindness of our hosts are nothing new to many of us who have had the pleasure of attending meetings in Croatia. What is more, beautiful Cavtat and Dubrovnik, pearl of the Adriatic and UNESCO World Heritage Site, will be the setting for what we all hope will be one of Circom's most successful conferences.

See you in Cavtat.

Carlo Ranzi
President, Circom Regional



THE 10th PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL

The Prix Circom Regional started nearly ten years ago, in 1990, at the Circom Regional conference in Bled, Slovenia. A year before, at the conference in Ofir, Portugal, an improvised prize was already handed out to a programme from RTP Azores. So, the conference at Cavtat/Dubrovnik in 1999 will host the 10th anniversary of the only European-wide competition for regional television programmes.

Circom Regional is able to hand out valuable prizes in four categories. The major prize will be the Grand Prix Circom Regional 1999 for regional documentary programme with an additional special prize sponsored by France 3. Europe Matters is called another prize sponsored by the European Parliament. And additional prizes for programmes dealing with Cross Border matters and New Technologies are financed by the directorates general XVI and XIII of the European Commission. The total value of the prizes will exceed 50,000 Euro.

The jury session takes place at Paterswolde near Groningen, Netherlands, on invitation of TV Noord. The twelve judges will screen and discuss all programmes entered into the competition. As usual, they focus their judgement on some common values in journalism: Telling the story by protagonists, images and natural sound instead of telling the viewer what to think, clear choice and thorough investigation of the topic, the quality of direction, camera and picture editing, the meaningful use of music and unforced use of visual devices. Usually these values are more important for the judges than the impact matter of the subject.

The prize-giving itself is proposed for the first night of the annual conference in Cavtat, 2nd June 1999. The hosts will make it a feast for all participants of the conference and particularly for the winners of the 1999 competition. It will include a 10-year review of the prize-winning regional television productions, honouring the winners of a decade of a regional European-wide competition.

I hope to meet you there for discussions with the winners and the judges.



Jürgen Hassel,
chairman

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CROATIA

Have you ever been to Croatia?

If your answer is yes, then surely you remember the unforgettable summers or autumns, the untouched natural beauty, or the towns, or the vacations when you could have had a beach to yourself.

If your answer is no, then it is time to come.



A place where the Mediterranean, the Alps and the Pannonian plain come together: this country has taken something from every one of them and blended those parts into a unique harmony and a rare beauty. Side by side in Croatia there are phenomenon which are usually many miles apart. Within a hundred kilometres you will find the sea, the karst, densely wooded mountains and fertile plains.



And all those beauties are just a few hours drive away from the European capitals on whose traditions, through constant giving and receiving, Croatia has been building its history and culture, past and present. And above all, its future.



We must say that the Croatian coast is one of the most indented coasts in the world **and** that the largest archipelago in the Mediterranean is to be found here. Monuments of world cultural and historical heritage secured a place in European culture for Croatia. Croatian culture is an integral part of Western European culture; indeed it is at the eastern outpost. But Croatia is unique in Europe: four cultures meet here: the West meets the East, and Central Europe meets the Mediterranean. This is reflected in some of the historical monuments, which unite all these influences. The other dimension of

Croatia is the urban culture: towns are more numerous here than in any other part of Southeastern Europe. Most of them were founded in ancient or medieval times, and each town has its unique personality, a unique touch of the era.

Its geographical position is by no means the only reason (perhaps it's the least of the reasons) why Croatia is a true European country. It has not only shared the cultural heritage of the Old World, it has contributed to the creation of that culture.

The Republic of Croatia covers an area of 56,538 km², and its territorial waters cover 31,900 km². The coastline including the islands is 5,740 km long.

According to the latest census, Croatia has a population of 4,8 million. More than 78% are ethnic Croats, and Roman Catholicism is the prevalent religion (76,5% of all inhabitants are Roman Catholics). The official language is Croatian, written in the Roman script. In the northern regions, the way of life is typically Central European, whereas the South is Mediterranean.



Although there was an independent Croatian principality and Kingdom from the 9th to the 12th century, today's Croatia is one of the newest states in Europe. It adopted its constitution on 22nd December 1990; and was recognised internationally on 15th January 1992. The international recognition of its sovereignty and its acceptance into the membership of the UN in 1992 marked the end of a crucial period in the establishment of Croatia as a new state in the European and world community.

The capital of Croatia is Zagreb, a city of 1 million inhabitants, the hub of Croatian culture, education and trade.

The unit of currency is the kuna(KN).

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DUBROVNIK

The famous British author George Bernard Shaw wrote in 1929: "Those who are looking for Paradise on Earth should come to Dubrovnik".

The region of Dubrovnik is the territory rich in carefully cultivated land and small places of great historical importance.



During the turbulent history, a large number of empires and maritime forces encountered here and collided: Byzantium, Saracens, Croats, Normans, Venice, small principalities and kingdoms, then the Hungarian-Croat empire and then numerous other empires - Roman-Germanic, Ottoman, the Habsbourgs and Napoleon in the end.

In such circumstances the small town of Dubrovnik succeeded in obtaining, due to the political ability of its patricians, a form of the autonomy that was so great and complete that during the centuries it existed as an independent country - the Republic of Dubrovnik. Dubrovnik has transformed this independency into the universal cult of liberty, that was celebrated ever since by the politicians, messengers and poets.

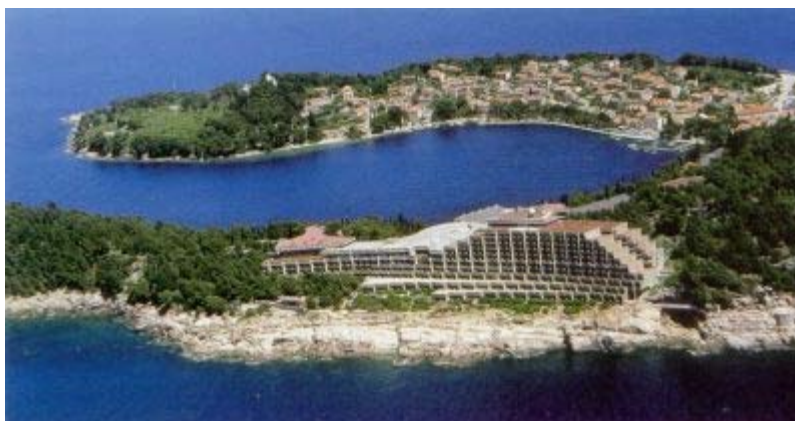


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Cavtat

Cavtat is the ancient Epidaurum of the Adriatic-Civitas Vetus - predecessor to Dubrovnik, a medieval town, planned and built on the southern slopes of a peninsula with two gentle shores. It was built during the course of centuries on the same architectural principles as Dubrovnik and displays rich creations of creators from all historical periods, both in the material and spiritual sense.



Hotel Croatia lies in a beautiful position on a peninsula overlooking the Adriatic on one side and the picturesque old town of Cavtat on the other. The world famous medieval walled city of Dubrovnik can be seen from some hotel terraces.

The hotel is situated in the immediate proximity of the Dubrovnik international airport (6 km). It would be difficult to find a similar hotel, where the architect has so cleverly succeeded to incorporate all amenities of a modern five-star hotel into the surrounding green vegetation and the beautiful blue colours of the sea.



Nearly 500 nicely appointed and air-conditioned rooms offer all the comforts needed for a pleasant stay.

Beside its two natural beaches, hotel Croatia offers an indoor and an outdoor sea-water swimming pool, with a snack bar. Surrounded by a pinegrove, the outdoor swimming pool is one of the most beautiful on the Adriatic.



Other facilities include a large shopping area, tennis courts, water sports equipment, sauna, massage room, gymnasium, poolroom, table.tennis, walking and jogging paths, taxi service, baby sitting service, hairdressers, beauty salons.

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Dear colleagues and dear friends,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to Cavtat, on the occasion of the 17th CIRCOM Regional Conference. For us, the HRT, it will be a great opportunity to work with the colleagues from all the European television stations, and for you, to get to know one more European country and European broadcasting organization with a longstanding tradition. HRT was founded 43 years ago and it was going along with the developments in the broadcasting world.



Nowadays, when many television stations are facing new conditions, new strategies and new working philosophy, so are we trying to make one step further. After getting our own country, we wish to make our own television for the 21st century. This is not so easy considering the years of war, the war damages and the conditions we lived and produced in.

Our goal today is to transform the HRT into the strong public service founded on the principles of profession, professionalism and democracy.

We are aware that this is not easy, and therefore we are asking for every bit of your experience that could help us. Therefore, it is the honour to be the host station and the host country to the Conference which will, once again, confirm the importance of the CIRCOM Regional in communication, exchange of ideas, co-productions, information and education.

It remains for me to wish you a successful Conference, as well as a very pleasant stay in Cavtat and Dubrovnik, the pearls in the necklace of the Adriatic.

IVAN VRKIC
director



A FEW WORDS ABOUT CROATIAN RADIO-TELEVISION

Croatian Radio and Television, the host of the 17th Annual Conference of CIRCOM regional has strong roots in this part of Europe. In 1926 the radio signal was first broadcast from Zagreb, and in 1956 the first TV picture was seen in the former Yugoslavia. Again, broadcast from Zagreb. That same year marks the beginning of Zagreb Television. After the first democratic election it changed its name into Croatian Radio-Television.

Some ten years ago Croatian Television moved into its new building. A few years later Croatian Radio followed. This ended the difficult stage during which the two were separated and personnel and equipment had to be regularly transferred to 28 different locations in the city of Zagreb. Both Radio and Television were then gradually modernised and now they are adopting digital technology.

With some 3500 employees and hundreds of free-lancers working with Croatian Radio-Television, both Radio and Television, with three channels each, broadcast all kinds of programmes. Television broadcasts some 45 hours of programmes per day. Its programmes are also transmitted digitally, by satellite. It is important to emphasise that Croatian Radio-Television is capable of producing all sorts of programmes, ranging from cartoons to feature films and documentaries. Special attention is paid to our sports programmes.

While 4.5 million citizens of Croatia, with 1.5 million television sets watches Croatian Radio-Television regularly, Croatian Radio-Television is well known beyond Croatian borders.

As we have numerous reporters throughout the region and a constant regional coverage in our daily TV programme, it was only natural for us to establish regional TV-centres. These centres, almost a dozen of them, are actively involved in exchange and production of their own programmes. At the end of 1998 Croatian Parliament adopted the Law on Croatian Radio-Television, which marked an important step forward in making Croatian Radio-Television a real public television, which is not always easy in a country in transition such as Croatia. Still, it is definitely a sign that we are honestly aiming at this direction.



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IT IS GOOD TO KNOW!!!!

TECHNICAL AND OTHER TRAVEL ADVICE:

BOOK YOUR FLIGHT IN TIME: As the majority of flights go via Zagreb, and there are only two flights per day from Zagreb to Dubrovnik, book your seat in time!

VISAS: The citizens of the following countries require visa to enter Croatia: Albania, Belarus, Andorra, Cyprus, Estonia, Iceland, FR Yugoslavia, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine.

PLEASE: Submit your request in the nearest Croatian embassy or consulate, at least 30 days in advance!!!

TRANSFER: Buses will be provided on 1 and 2 June, from Dubrovnik airport to the Croatia Hotel, and on 6 June from the Hotel to the airport.

INFORMATION POINT: There will be one in the transit airport Pleso in Zagreb.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE: In Pleso (Zagreb airport), in the airport of Dubrovnik, and in the Croatia Hotel, it is possible to exchange your money at any time.

LOCAL CURRENCY: The local currency is kuna (kn). All goods and services should be paid in kuna. The hotel bill can be paid with every known credit card.

HOTEL: Croatia Hotel is a top-class hotel. Every room has an Air-condition. Also, for the guests there is a bar, a swimming pool and a gym; there are tennis courts, a possibility to go for journeys elsewhere. Should you wish to extend your stay, please notify the Conference Secretariat.

TELEPHONE: All rooms have direct telephone lines. In the lobby and in the city of Cavtat there are card-phones; cards can be purchased in the hotel. In the city of Cavtat one can also use a GSM phone, the signal is strong enough.

CLIMATE: Typical warm Mediterranean climate. The beginning of June can already be warm enough for sunbathing and swimming.

CAUTION: The sun can be dangerous for all skin types!!! (If one is a regular in the workshops, there is no danger!)

WATER: Tap water in the region is very good and potable.

NOTE: For further information please do not hesitate to contact any person in the Organising Committee (e-mail addresses and phone and fax number as follows). During the Conference, please contact any person from the Organising Group or the Hotel desk.

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!



YOUR CONTACTS

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CONFERENCE TIME TABLE

tuesday 25 may

Training seminar for young journalist
(till the end of the Conference)

tuesday 1 june

09:00

Meeting of the CIRCOM Regional Executive Committee

09:00

Alice meeting

wednesday 2 june

09:00

CIRCOM Regional Board meeting

09:00

Alice meeting

20:30

Ceremony Prix Circom Regional Awards

thuesday 3 june

09:00

Opening Ceremony

11:00 - 21:00

Video library

11:00 - 18:00

Co-production

14:30

Workshop: Weather Forecasts on TV

15:30

Workshop: Minorities in Europe

17:00

Workshop: Social action Programmes

friday 4 june

09:00 - 21:00

Video library

09:00 - 18:00

Co-production

09:00

Workshop: Training for the Future

10:00

Workshop: Digital Technology

11:00

Workshop: Sports on TV

12:00

Workshop: Broadcasting on Internet

14:30

Workshop: One mean Bands

15:30

Workshop: Regional co-production in the same country

16:45

Workshop: Freedom of the media

saturday 5 june

09:00 - 15:00

Video library

09:00 - 13:00

Co-production

09:00

Workshop: New ideas

11:00

Closing session

15:00

Cruising to Dubrovnik

sunday 6 june

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