



European Association of Regional Television  
Association Européenne des Télévisions Régionales

**PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2004**

## **JURY REPORT**



TG4 HEADQUARTERS

GALWAY, IRELAND

<http://www.circom-regional.org>



Prix Circom 2004 judges during jury sessions and visiting TG4 headquartes





Thanks to Prix CIRCOM hosts TG4 and Pol O'Gallchoir (standing) jury members had an excellent opportunity to meet and talk to independent producers working for TG4



This was Prix CIRCOM 2004 jury session in Galway – see you in Wroclaw!

**PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL**  
**2004**

**WINNERS' CITATIONS**

**and**

**JUDGES' COMMENTS**

**Chairman of Judges**  
**DAVID LOWEN**

**May 2004**

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## COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JUDGES

It is my pleasure and duty once again to summarise the main points of another successful Prix Circom Regional.

### Entries

There were 173 entries, well up on last year's 137 and ahead of 2002's 164.

The category breakdown was:

News	29	(2003: 23)
Documentary	57	(63)
Current Affairs	45	(26)
Cross Border	22	(25)
Sport	20	(no category)

There were entries from 26 countries, compared with 25 last year and 22 in 2002.

The top entries were from:

Poland	39
Germany	15
UK	15
France	11
Romania	11
Denmark	9
Ireland	9
Slovenia	9

But perhaps the greatest interest is not in the high numbers but lower down the quantity scale. No entries from Belgium or Switzerland. Only two from Italy. Hungarian entries have slipped from 10 in 2002, to 6 last year, to only 4 this year.

But to set against that: 2 from Cyprus, the first time of entry. 1 from Portugal after none for two years. 1 from Serbia and another from Montenegro. Rising interest in Bulgaria, with 5. And a mention for Romania with 11, up from 4 two years ago. Truly the shape and strength of European programming is changing and a new confidence in newly enfranchised states and regions is evident.

### Categories and criteria

I was satisfied with the adjustments in categories and criteria for 2004 but we need to do some hard thinking about 2005. There are new developments in regional programming and broadcasting we need to reflect in the awards. We should not stand still.

The Cross Border category is the one category which is unique to Circom Regional and to the Prix Circom. It was, therefore, especially encouraging that the category winner was a Circom Regional co-production. This proves we have within Circom the ideas, the formats, the skills and the administration to create new and original programming and to set fresh standards of excellence.

However, too many entries were not “cross border” but merely “international” – programmes shot by crews from one state on issues in another.

The News category disappointed because of the depressing standardisation of presentation. The varied nature of our regions and their peoples is not reflected in the way we articulate and design our news. Is this right? Is there one, proper language for news and no other? Perhaps.

The Documentary category was once again excellent and proved that the quality of ideas is not a function of a large budget. But the Current Affairs category was little improved. Judges still complain about programmes which lack the grit of good journalism. There are fears that pressures of time and the costs of staff time argue for the choice of quick and simple topical programming to the detriment of good investigations. Once again, the BBC stands out from others: but with its resources, so it should.

The Sport category was new for 2004, to celebrate the Athens Olympics. The documentary format was specified because it would impossible to judge and compare the merits of live outside broadcast coverage – one major part of sport programming – with documentaries or other genres.

The Sport category proved popular and there were some good programmes. We need to consider whether it is retained for 2005 – when, after all, there will be a chance to enter programming made at or around the Olympics. If it is retained as a category, we can decide which genre we choose next year.

The Most Original category is odd in that the entries are derived only from other categories. This may change for 2005. The judges were keen there should be direct entry, especially in the hope that this could stimulate fictional programming – for which no opportunity currently exists in the structure of the awards and which, as a genre in the regions, may need encouragement.

The other category which might come under consideration for 2005 is one which would embrace new media. The News judges commented that it was disappointing that news programmes made so little cross-reference to interactive options or web-sites. Our industry is fast developing interaction – especially for children – health advice and there is growing CD and DVD business. Good regional stations will be exploring the value of such extra audience “stickiness” in their offerings. The Prix needs to do more than keep pace: it needs to set the standards and recognise the achievements of pioneers.

## **Judges**

The judges, as ever, emerged blinking into daylight after three days’ incarceration chained to tv sets and video recorders: Dimitar Bogdanov (BNT), Ove Mulvad (TV2 Fyn), Istvan Hegedus (MTV), Nikos Vezirgiannis (ERT), Peter Sauer (BRF Franken), Hubert Schilling (F3), Jane MacSorley (BBC Scotland, a winner last year), Dagmara Drzazga (TVP3, and also a winner last year), Josko Martinovic (HRT), Amelia Neacsu (a Romanian and former tv producer who has replaced Raymond Maxwell at the Committee of the Regions), Proinsias ni Ghrainne (yet another previous winner, TG4), Christina Ryder (SVT), Gabriel Perez (TVE), Hans Snijders (RTVV Noord).

You will note that we have 14 judges and they come from 14 different countries. It is encouraging that the judges tell me how much they learn from their viewing and how much they enjoy the programmes.

## **Sponsors**

I am delighted to pay tribute to 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 SVT (Sweden), France 3, and ERT3 Greece.

## **Judging hosts**

I thank TG4, the Irish language broadcaster for hosting the judging at Galway. On one their free evening the judges enjoyed some traditional Irish music and hospitality and also met and talked with local independent producers and staff of TG4. Our thanks go especially to Pol O'Gallchoir, the Head of TG4, and to Noirin ui Chonghaile for the arrangements and for the preparation of the tapes. The judges commented that the conditions for judging were excellent.

And finally

My thanks to Kresimir Macan for all his help in sharing the administrative burden of the awards. This year was the smoothest judging session I can remember.

We now look forward to Tim Johnson and TV Syd's welcome to Billund in Denmark in 2005. Legoland here we come.

**DAVID LOWEN**

**Chairman, Prix Circom Regional, May 2004**



# JUDGES

## Chairman of Prix: David Lowen

Amelia Neacsu	Committee of the Regions	
Dagmara Drzazga	TVP 3	Poland
Dimitar Bogdanov	BNT Sofia	Bulgaria
Hubert Schilling	F3 and Circom Regional	France
Istvan Hegedus	MTV Budapest	Hungary
Jane Macsorley	BBC Scotland	UK
Josko Martinovic	HRT Zagreb	Croatia
Nikos Vezirgiannis	ERT3 Thessaloniki	Greece
Christina Ryder	SVT	Sweden
Ove Mulvad	TV2/Fyn	Denmark
Peter Sauer	BRF Franken	Germany
Prionsias ni Ghrainne	TG4	Ireland
Gabriel Perez	RTVE Navarra	Spain
Hans Snijder	Omrop Fryslan	The Netherlands

## AWARD CATEGORIES

### PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL AWARD CATEGORIES

The following award categories were contested in 2004:

1.     **Documentary**            **Grand Prix Circom Regional trophy**  
7500 euros, trophy, free visit to Wroclaw conference  
**Special Award of F3**  
3000 euros, trophy, free visit of Wroclaw conference  
**SVT Award**  
3000 euros, trophy, free visit to Wroclaw conference
2.     **Regional News**        **Grand Prix Circom Regional trophy**  
6500 euros, trophy, free visit to Wroclaw conference
3.     **Current Affairs**       **European Parliament Award**  
6500 euros, trophy, free visit to Wroclaw conference
4.     **Cross-Border**         **Committee of the Regions Award**  
4000 euros, trophy, free visit to Wroclaw conference
5.     **Most Original**        **TVP3 Award**  
3000 euros, trophy, free visit to Wroclaw conference
6.     **Sport**                 **ERT3 Award**  
3000 euros, trophy, free visit to Wroclaw conference

# **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.

## **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 F3) 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 PROGRAMME**

Entries should be complete news programmes made and transmitted in the region for people living in the region. It does not matter whether the news programme is daily or weekly. There is no restriction on the running time of the programme.

Judges will look for a blend of strong journalistic content, a clear understanding of the needs of its regional viewers, an element of originality, with a clean and stylish presentation.

Some “news programmes” may be better suited to the Current Affairs category. The Regional News category is for general news and news magazine programmes, not “special topic”, “event” programmes, news items, or extended single news stories within a programme.

## **3. CURRENT AFFAIRS PROGRAMME**

This category recognises programmes which may be magazine programmes or special report programmes but which do not qualify as “news programmes” or “documentaries”. 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 co-production partners.

## **5. MOST ORIGINAL PROGRAMME**

This award will be given at the discretion of the judges to an entry in ANY of the categories which demonstrates outstanding originality in approach. Stations cannot enter programmes for this category only.

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.

## **6. SPORT**

To celebrate in 2004 the year of the Olympics in Athens and the European Year of Education through Sport, this award will be for the best sports documentary. The documentary may be about any sport, on any sporting issue or about any sports personality: all ideas and approaches are welcome.

However, the judges will pay particular attention to programmes which in some way present a view of the broader Olympian spirit of sport. For instance, documentaries which deal with subjects such as triumph over adversity, or wider involvement in sport, or sport for the sake of pleasure rather than for financial success.

The judges will also take due notice of the aims and objectives of EYES, which has the slogan “Move your body, stretch your mind” and which also promotes the wider benefits of sporting activity.



## **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 from independent producers can be considered only if entered by Circom stations.
2. Each regional station may enter one programme only in each category: News, Documentary, Current Affairs, Cross Border, Sport. The selection of Most Original Programme Award will be from entries in those categories.
3. Programmes must have been broadcast for the first time since January 2003 and should not have been entered in Prix Circom Regional 2003.
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. 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.
7. The entry form, with outline, must be at the TG4 office by Friday 26 March 2004. The Beta SP tape, with a copy of the form and any other supporting material, must be with TG4 by Friday 2 April (to allow for a technical check). VHS cassettes are not acceptable.
8. 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 2004 free of any licence or rights payments. An international version, without sub-titles, will be required for this.
9. 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 2004 free of any licence or rights payment.
10. Entrants agree in advance to promotional non-broadcast showcase screenings organised on behalf of the Prix Circom Regional.
11. 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.
12. The cost of despatch, customs, insurance will be paid by the entrant.
13. Programme cassettes and texts will not be returned but remain in the archives of Circom Regional.
14. 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 and who may finally keep the money and the trophy.
15. 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 2004 NEWS PROGRAMMES

**WINNER**                      **MAINTOWER**                      *HR Hessischer Rundfunk, Germany*

## **SPECIAL COMMENDATIONS**

*FAKTY*    *TVP3 Wroclaw, Poland*

## **JUDGES**

Chairman:	Ove Mulvad	TV2/Fyn	Denmark
	Istvan Hegedus	MTV Budapest	Hungary
	Hans Snijder	Omrop Fryslan	The Netherlands
	Nikos Vezirgiannis	ERT3 Thessaloniki	Greece

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The jury of this year's entries in the news category should be happy! There is no doubt that regional news programmes throughout the Circom Regional area have evolved to be very well made and in every professional sense. For that the jury, of course, was happy.

Then what?

We miss originality, the will to innovate, the courage to challenge the predictable. Even if these programmes were all so well made, we still did not think that any of them could be judged in the category of "Most Original".

Uniform is the word that jumps into your mind watching television news. That should not be the case.

Furthermore, the judges noticed very few signs of new media or media convergence. All our stations now have web-pages, many of them important in the obligation of bringing news and information to the public. But it seems that there still is a long way to go before the new medium is integrated with the old.

Finally, we all know that new production methods are brought into use everywhere. Video-journalism is one of the most significant - and not only for economic reasons. What was brought to Prix Circom 2004 for the category of News did not reflect this innovation.

So the jury hereby challenges Europe newsmakers to think new thoughts, work in new ways and make us even happier at next Prix Circom!

**Ove Mulvad, TV2/Fyn - Chairman**

# **GRAND PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2004 NEWS PROGRAMMES**

## **WINNER**

### **MAINTOWER MAINTOWER HR Hessischer Rundfunk - Germany (18'18) by Ute Janik**

Having watched 30 entries for the category of news the jury was struck by the professionalism in European regional news television.

Then how to choose a prize winner among all these news programmes? Easy enough! After very few seconds in the company of Maintower, you rise a little in your chair. The studio is on the 53rd floor and the background takes your breath away – a fantastic view over the Frankfurt am Main city skyline.

But content is still king and look how the programme team rises to the challenge. An airline company suddenly that morning is made bankrupt. Thousands of travellers are stuck in airports, employees wretse with the shock of facing immediate unemployment.

The story was made very relevant to every viewer: this could happen to you! Two live reports underlined this approach: one from the airport with angry, waiting travellers; another from the airline company with nervous employees.

Apart from the airline bankruptcy, other stories were told - and with no lower quality than the top story.

The judges found that Maintower completely fulfilled its mission described in its entry form: *"The broadcast aims to offer a popular, modern programme flavour in the region and provide excitingly edited information reaching out to a wide public."*

## **SPECIAL COMMENDATION**

**FACTS**

***FAKTY***

**TVP3 Wroclaw - Poland**

**(17'50)**

**by Marek Dembinski and Jolanta Nowacka**

This programme – the winning entry in this category last year - starts off in a lively and engaging way, even if it does follow an international format in general style. There is an attractive green studio and light graphics. The whole show is delivered at a fast pace and with slick editing but without ever losing important points. Never a moment of lost interest here for the viewer! Only one little prayer from the judges: Is everyday life in Poland these days always so serious? Is there not a single, optimistic and amusing story to tell?



## **OTHER ENTRIES**

**Real Stories**  
*Alithina Senaria*  
**ERT3 - Greece**  
**(19'16)**

A programme about ordinary people with extraordinary talents: a portrait of a tightrope walker, a portrait of painter without arms, and a portrait of a 70-year-old pensioner who does amazing things with his body. And many more such characters. This is not really a news programme. It makes a good feature but does not fully match the News category criteria.

**Reporting Scotland**  
**BBC Scotland - Scotland UK**  
**(30'00)**

A programme of high production values and with coherent storytelling. The process of elections can be quite boring in television terms (although highly important in democratic terms) but this production gives a light and entertaining flavour without missing the essential points of the story. It is refreshing that the presenters moved out of the studio taking up positions in front of the new Parliament building. Great work in direction, presentation and editing.

**The Sinking of the Konstantinos**  
*L'échouage du Konstantinos*  
**France 3 Aquitaine - France**  
**(1'43)**

The story is about the Konstantinos, a cargo ship with 22 stowaways. The ship sank just outside the harbour of Bayonne in high winds and stormy seas. The pictures are relevant and dynamic, with good camera work and editing. However, it is a news item rather than a news programme.

**The Sea**  
*More*  
**BNT Varna - Bulgaria**  
**(20'20)**

A normal edition of the programme with topical stories, the first item being about the sinking of the ship, The Hera. The captain of another ship nearby saw it happen and tells his story on a press conference. Well made but also somewhat old-fashioned in approach and with too much talk before getting into the pictures

**Police Fight Prostitution**  
*Policie bojuje proti prostituci*  
Ceská Televize - Czech Rep.  
(01:08)

A short news item on prostitution, with a standard construction. A typical short item but not a full programme.

**In the Eye of the Camera**  
*V Objektivu*  
RTVSlo Maribor - Slovenia  
(25'46)

A standard news bulletin. It starts with an item about a conference then continues with a far more interesting report about lending money. However, this is too much the story of the editor and too little the story of the opinions of the people who are involved: we saw those involved but did not hear them. Their point of view and their experiences are told only as a report.

**South Today**  
BBC South - England UK  
(26'10)

A normal edition with a very interesting opening item about homeless teenagers. One of them, Sabrina, needed £40 to buy herself a tent, because she was thrown out of everywhere else. The construction of the report was good: first the story of the girl, then the surprising tent in the studio, followed by live comments. It was a fine journalistic report with good questions, made very personal and a good story about that region.

**Telescope**  
*Teleskop*  
TVP3 Poznan - Poland  
(30'00)

A regular edition which started with an item about a dangerous gas tank and was followed by an item about angry pig-farmers. Unfortunately (or perhaps fortunately), nothing happened to the gas tank. We consider it had would have been better to switch and to start with the fine item about the farmers. The non-story about the gas tank should have come later in the section with other accidents. This was a well made programme with good use of light, camera work, story construction and presentation.

**Objective**  
*Obiektyw*  
TVP3 Bialystok - Poland  
(21'00)

This programme had a good running order of items. The main story was about patients paying money for consulting a specialist in a hospital. This was strong journalism and very important for the people who live in that region. Perhaps the studio set is not that dynamic but a really well made programme.

**Panorama of the Week**  
*Panorama Tygodnia*  
**TVP3 Gdansk - Poland**  
**(21'04)**

A traditional, weekly newsprogramme with small reports and analyses. Presented in a calm way and giving an overview of the most important events of the week. The presence of a live sign language interpreter in the lower, right part of the screen is good in intention and inclusive but may disturb the majority of the viewers.

**The Day the Rivers Went Wild**  
*Nyheiter fra NRK More of Romsdal*  
**NRK More og Romsdal - Norway**  
**(18'00)**

A special edition of the regular news programme after 24 hours of extremely heavy rainfall in the region. We could not judge the usual and proper construction of the edition because it was more and more of the same. The pictures are impressive but also more of the same. Too often we heard the question: "Did you ever see this before?". The reactions of those involved are amazing, as they can all see the humour in the situation. It is the happiest catastrophe we have seen to date - because the insurance company pays...

**TV Warsaw Courier**  
*Telewizy JNK Kurier Warszawski*  
**TVP3 Warszawa - Poland**  
**(20'00)**

A regular edition of the programme. The construction of the items was very institutional: we see heads, heads, heads, but not enough pictorial action and not enough people of the region involved. The helicopter accident which started the programme was spectacular but even here there were also too many comments from officials. This approach was very different to that of the other Polish news programmes.

**Daily News**  
*Aktualnosci*  
**TVP3 Katowice - Poland**  
**(18'27)**

A traditional news programme: competent but nothing more. There was a topical item about two teenagers who were lost and finally found in the snowy mountains and a report on a coal mine where a body was found. Well made in a traditional way but not that special.

**Daily News from Lodz**  
*Tódzki Wiadomosci Dniq*  
**TVP3 Lódz - Poland**  
**(25'30)**

This programme led on the same story as the news programme from TVP3 Katowice. Topics included juvenile immigrants, drinking too much alcohol, and one of the first prosecutions for molestation at work in the region under new laws. A traditionally made programme, quite well done but not really special.

**Chronicle**  
*Kronika*  
**TVP3 Kraków - Poland**  
**(17'23)**

A straightforward news programme that gives the audience the news service needed. Very professional in presentation, operations and running order. However, viewers might want a little surprise now and then or a glimpse of a smile in the eye of the anchorman.

**Wales Today - Hunt for the Cellophane Man**  
**BBC Wales - Wales UK**  
**(30'00)**

A typical BBC high quality special of a murder case running for 15 years before justice is finally achieved. You are excited to follow the story and learn more about it as you reflect on the consequences of modern investigation techniques like DNA. A very rich magazine that catches and keeps your attention all way through.

**The Lublin Panorama**  
*Panorama Lubelska*  
**TVP3 Lublin - Poland**  
**(23'33)**

Many topics are covered in this solid, Polish news programme. There are lots of pictures, good reporting and editing, and fine camera work. Viewers get just the right amount of information needed. This format is now typical worldwide for news programmes and no longer innovative.

**The News**  
*Aktualnosci*  
**TVP3 Rzeszow - Poland**  
**(26'10)**

Like the other news programmes from Poland, the news from Rzeszow also proves that there is a homogenous production structure in Polish regional television. The influence of international standards and formats are very clear from the opening, with no fewer than three hosts: news anchor, weather woman and sports anchor!



**News of the Day**  
*Nuacht TG4*  
**TG4 - Ireland**  
**(26'00)**

Yet another fine example of the high standard of regional television news. The programme from TG4 has good and solid reporting and high production values in technical matters. The regional viewer gets everything they need and should expect. This Irish language news programme also covers international topics.

**News from Smaland**  
*Smalandsnytt*  
**SVT Syd Vaxjo - Sweden**  
**(20'00)**

Sometimes a regional station just cannot avoid the biggest story of the day in its country. So it is interesting but understandable that SVT Vaxjo deals so much the murder of Foreign Minister Anna Lindh. It is an important obligation for regional television to widen out its perspectives and show the reaction of people throughout the country.

**News Programme 19:30**  
*Nyhederne 19:30*  
**TV2 Oestjylland - Denmark**  
**(25'00)**

A regular news programme, traditional but very well made, especially the second story about a road construction which is very important for the people who live in that region. Excellent camera work, editing and an original editorial approach.

**Lorry News**  
*Lorry*  
**TV2 Lorry - Denmark**  
**(30'00)**

A standard news programme, well made but with nothing outstanding. There was a lack of strong journalistic content. The items were all charming but lacked hard information. Over all, too soft.

**News from Poland, News from Germany**  
*Nachrichten aus Polen/Deutschland*  
**RBB Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg - Germany**  
**(05'00)**

The innovation here is that a regional station in a major city offers every day five minutes to tell stories from neighbouring countries. We get many short reports of everyday life in Poland packaged in a professional presentation.

**Midnight 22.15**  
*Mittnytt 22.15*  
**SVT Sundsvall - Sweden**  
**(10'00)**

If you risk to start your news programme untraditionally with a casual host and then make the first story a sports story, you need to maintain the originality. SVT Sundsvall disappoints a little starting out so young and fresh but soon thereafter falling back to traditional ways. However, your information needs are not disappointed and all the main stories of the day are there.

**Regional News**  
*Regionale nyheder*  
**TV2 SYD - Denmark**  
**(30'00)**

This programme starts with a murder of a woman who had been drinking. The background was interesting but it was too long and without sufficient context. It was, of course, an awful crime but there was too much. There was good camera and editing.

**Eastnews**  
*Ostnytt*  
**SVT Norrköping - Sweden**  
**(10'00)**

A short news magazine from regional television aiming at younger people. The presenter seems fresh and informal and tries to give some pace to the programme. However, the reports are not equal in direction, editing and further involvement of the viewer. Overall, a good try to produce a much younger regional news magazine which is neither boring nor patronising.

**Juvenile Crime**  
*Ungdomsbrott*  
**SVT Sydnytt - Sweden**  
**(4'27)**

”Get the chance, take the chance” is what society offered three young Swedes heading for a criminal future. In this well told news story, they took the chance, ending up optimistic for their future. The reporter gives sympathy to the young people and so do you as a viewer. But this is a news item, not a news programme.





**GRAND PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2004  
DOCUMENTARY PROGRAMMES**

**WINNER**

**MICHAEL'S STORY**  
*ZYWOT MICHALA*  
**TVP3 Wroclaw - Poland**  
**(51'00)**  
**by Beata Januchata**

We follow the experiences of an alcohol addict in this social drama about the alcoholic sub-culture. It is all painfully realistic but also warm and gentle and full of understanding for marginal people. The use of camera is excellent and the specially composed music even better. The director has achieved a great closeness to the heroes (or anti-heroes) of this film. Filming continued for a two year period. A masterpiece!

**PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2004  
DOCUMENTARY PROGRAMMES**

**SPECIAL AWARD OF FRANCE 3**

**SEE YOU  
*DO ZOBACZENIA*  
TVP3 Szczecin - Poland  
(32'40)  
by Grzegorz Fedorowski and Zbigniew Grefkowicz**

This a cheerful and positive profile of ten-year-old Patryk, who is blind. Patryk's passion is music and playing his piano. Stylistically very impressive with a visual recurring metaphors of hands. It brings the audience into the world of Patryk both sensually and mentally. Special praise for the composition of picture.

**PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2004  
DOCUMENTARY PROGRAMMES**

**SVT AWARD**

**EARTH PROMISED THE SKY  
*LA TERRE A PROMIS AU CIEL***

**France 3 Alsace - France**

**(52'33)**

**by Sabina Subasic**

A study of some people trying to understand why 27,731 victims disappeared during the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina – among them their loved ones. One old woman is painting portraits of her five missing sons to keep their memories alive. A strong story of a personal search for mass graves told in a slow and compelling way. Impressive and important.

## **SPECIAL COMMENDATION**

### **SILENCE OF THE LAMBS, HAPPINESS OF THE WOLVES**

***WILK SYTY, A OWCE MILCZA***

**TVP3 Kraków - Poland**

**(19'39)**

**by Beata Kolaczyk, Bożena Toporek and Jolanta Tokarska**

What happens when you try to install European high standards of wild animal protection in a poor post-Communist rural community? Attacks by wolves are disastrous for poor farmers but a good story for a gifted director, who also has Brigitte Bardot as one of his stars. The documentary explores well the contrasts between two worlds: it is much easier to promote animal rights in Paris than to live and make a living with animals in Poland.



## **OTHER ENTRIES**

### **Abdre Spada, A Bandit's Life**

*Spada, une vie de bandit*

**France 3 Corse - France**

**(51'42)**

A fascinating story about one of Corsica's most legendary bandits. A rich and highly professional programme about an unusual character – and even amusing, although it is a story about violence. The programme includes archive footage and interviews with the bandit in the Corsican maquis.

### **Tobacco**

*Kapnos*

**ERT3 - Greece**

**(56'00)**

This tells the story of a small tobacco cultivator and his family in the small village of Mega Pisto Komotini. However hard you might work in this poor region, nothing seems to bring enough money to live. There is no future in this traditional work. This is a nice and melancholy report about a way of life that is inevitably disappearing. It has nice camerawork and a slow tempo: well made in a traditional way.

### **Look, there's something on the road**

*Sjoch, der leit wat op 'dyk'*

**Omrop Fryslan - The Netherlands**

**(36'03)**

This is the story about a hat which flies around all its old haunts and finds it can hardly recognise them. The hat has a character all of its own. The tale is also that of the puppeteer who has created dramas from his inventions and the hat is a symbol for the man's life flying around in search of reality. A well made programme with grace and technical perfection – and also Most Original!

### **The Other Side of the Water**

*De l'autre coté de l'eau*

**France 3 Ouest - France**

**(61'00)**

An unusual love story: those who spend most of their lives living apart, year after year. The women in this programme tell us about their lives married to sailors. They speak of the loneliness and sadness, but also of their strong love for their distant husbands. Good use of stock shots, mixed with interviews of personalities, men and women with depth and character.

**Inside Out - Owl Sanctuary Investigation**  
**BBC South - England UK**  
**(10'00)**

A well-made report on an owl sanctuary which was mismanaged so that the birds suffered. This was crisply edited, with secret filming and good evidence of maltreatment by the owner of the sanctuary. A good piece of news reportage.

**The Way of the Wine**  
*Patiat na Vinoto*  
**BNT Blagoevgrad - Bulgaria**  
**(25'00)**

The art of making wine is one of the attractions in this invitation to the unknown Bulgaria. It is a well made and, like a postcard, there are nice views which we would like to see behind.

**Vox Populi (Voice of the People) Knin**  
*Glas naroda - Knin*  
**HRT Zagreb - Croatia**  
**(25'00)**

The people of Knin are invited to put their views to a camera in the street. Naturally enough, we meet a variety of exhibitionists and fantasists. Sometimes we can laugh with them but often we can find ourselves laughing at them, which is sad. Not a true documentary treatment but an interesting experiment.

**The Last Dictator in Europe**  
*Ostatrni Dyktator Europy*  
**TVP3 Bialystok - Poland**  
**(24'00)**

An impressive study of power and the corruption of power in Belarus. This describes the circumstances surrounding Aleksander Lukaszenkas and his rise to the Presidency in 1997. The President of Belarus is now accused of violating civil liberties. Critics and supporters express feelings and opinions. A strong opening matched archive footage with haunting music but, perhaps generously, the viewer is allowed to decide on the evidence of corruption.

**A Man of Action**  
*A Tettek Embere*  
**RTVSlo Lendava - Slovenia**  
**(34'05)**

A mix of drama and documentary which tells the life of a lawyer, Mihaly Hajos Kakasdi in Lendava. This is also an historical evocation of Lendava, a sleepy town which developed into an important cultural and economic centre during the last years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**War and Memory**  
*Wojna I Pamiec*  
**TVP3 Poznan - Poland**  
**(25'00)**

Polish, German and Russian veterans of World War Two recall memories, 50 years after the fall of Citadela. At that time, German bodies were burnt at the military hospital and now the group is searching for any graves. This programme is about the art of forgetting. A good idea but one which could have been presented with a more distinct angle – and which might also have benefited from tighter editing.

**The Antiques Collector**  
*Starinar*  
**RTVSlo Maribor - Slovenia**  
**(30'00)**

We follow a dealer through Slovenian antique markets. It is a parade with a misleading title, because this is less the portrait of a man than everyday market-life that is part of many European cities.

**The Island**  
**RTÉ Cork - Ireland**  
**(26'00)**

Fascinating images of Ireland. This is technically professional with an educational approach which will appeal to a wide audience. This is about Nature (with a big N): landscape and sea, ebb and flood, but with no presence of human beings. The long-distance shooting from helicopter creates even more distance even if the images gained are impressive.

**45 Years with Neptune**  
*45 Lat 2 Neptunem*  
**TVP3 Gdansk - Poland**  
**(25'59)**

The history of television in Gdansk, Poland over the past 45 years. There are many interesting events and comments on public service – but where are the viewers in this programme about their own programmes?

**Living in the Back of Beyond**  
*Der ingen skulle tru at nokon kunne bu*  
**NRK - Norway**  
**(29'02)**

There are so many beautiful images in this interesting programme about life in Styvi near a Norwegian fjord. It is like discovering a piece of the country through the television set and a wonderful visual experience - but with no attempt to do anything further.

**Death by Shooting**  
*Pacctpejt*  
Centre TV Moscow - Russia  
(20'00)

An historical document about the execution of 4,000 Jews in Yalta during World War Two. This is told with a classical treatment, where stock shots are mixed with fresh interviews. It makes for a good lesson about our modern history.

**We are an Escape from Ourselves**  
*Uciezka Od Nas Samych Jestesmy My*  
TVP3 Warszawa - Poland  
(23'00)

The story of a drug addict who reforms after to the birth of his baby girl. The entire piece is shot with techniques to attempt to mimic for the viewer the effect of the addict's distorted vision. This makes it hard to watch. One can understand the thinking but the treatment feels over poetic and allows style to get in the way of storytelling.

**Pictures of Landscapes: Mountains of Glatz**  
*Bilder einer Landschaft- Das Glatzer Bergland*  
Bayerischer Rundfunk - Germany  
(43'00)

Tape submitted on the wrong format under the rules and not viewed.

**Rondo - Feast of Derenk**  
*Rondo - Derenki Bucsu*  
MTV - Hungary  
(26'00)

The ethnic drama of the Gurals (a Polish minority in Hungary) has been successfully evoked. The disappearance of a Gural village 50 years ago is described in interviews and shots of village ruins.

**Hello Europe**  
*Hallo Europa*  
TV2 SYD - Denmark  
(79'45)

Two young Danish teenagers visit the new member states of the European Union. In these countries, they meet similar youngsters and they talk with them about special issues in that country, about school, about radio stations, about relationships and the things which matter to young people. It is charming because both the Danish teenagers are enthusiastic, authentic and funny.

**What is Life Worth? Simek Kitty the Star Assassin**

*Mit er egy Elet?- Kitty, A Sztargyilkos*

**MTV Pécs - Hungary**

**(13'33)**

An excellent story about 14-year-old girl who killed her step-father after sexual abuse and became a national TV star. The producer poses some difficult ethical questions about the power of a media which can ruin a child's life faster and more completely than violent parent.

**A Tale of Torture**

**BBC Scotland - Scotland UK**

**(29'03)**

This is an investigation of the imprisonment and torture of two Britons in a Saudi Arabian prison for a crime they did not commit. The story is told by a mixture of interview and reconstruction. It is well structured with a well paced and clear chronology. The context is always made clear. Both main interviewees are very good and all production techniques are of a high standard.

**Time To Come Out Of Hiding Martin Bormann Junior**

*Jetzt muss ich aus der Deckung*

**Bayerischer Rundfunk - Germany**

**(45'00)**

Tape submitted on the wrong format under the rules and not viewed.

**The Fifth Commandment**

*Piate przykazanie*

**TVP3 Rzeszow - Poland**

**(38'41)**

The programme covers the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the mass murders of Polish people by their Ukrainian neighbours. The pace is very fast for a story told by old people and often the style is inconsistent and clashes with the sadness of the story. The music is also inappropriate.

**Black is the White World**

*Crn si svijete bijeli*

**PBS BIH - Bosnia and Herzegovina**

**(56'00)**

This film observes the day-to-day life of the Roma gypsy community. Poverty and prejudice have kept them on the edge . However, one project in Sarajevo has now ensured that the quality of life for the Roma has improved through housing and education for Roma children. A sound observational documentary with good access achieved but the jury believed that the cause of the specific problems could have been explored further.

**Unsung Heroes: June 17, 1953**  
*Helden ohne Ruhm- Der 17. Juni 1953*  
**RBB Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg - Germany**  
**(84'00)**

A factual account of the revolt against the Communist Party in East Germany. There was good use of archive footage and interview. However, there were too many facts and references and not enough human stories. The first 10 minutes passed before there was a truly personal story.

**This is our Homeland**  
*Ayth Winai Hnatpiala Mae*  
**CyBC - Cyprus**  
**(63'49)**

A journey through the villages of Cyprus – villages occupied 30 years ago after the Turkish invasion. A male voice over follows a woman's journey but there is not enough connection between this woman and the theme of the documentary. Rather too much of a travel guide feel.

**A Ship for the Gods**  
*Ein Schiff für die Götter*  
**NDR Schleswig-Holstein - Germany**  
**(60'00)**

The story of how the Nydam, a German warship, was brought to the surface and taken to Copenhagen in 2003. The programme traces the ship's other journeys during its history as a German warship. This is visually beautiful presentation with camera work, editing and structure all very strong. These are backed up by a suitable voice over. Despite the abstract theme, it held the attention well.

**My Far Away Home**  
*Une vie volée, 57 ans sans revoir la France*  
**France 3 - France**  
**(54'00)**

Renée followed the father of her child to Russia in 1946. Her life in Communist Russia under the rule of Stalin became a nightmare. This programme tells the fascinating story of the attempts by a Dijon community to bring Renée back to her native France. The narrative very clever, cutting between her interview in Russia and her old classmates in France.

**Crash**  
**RTÉ Dublin - Ireland**  
**(47'00)**

A story about the real impact of 'boy riders' and road accidents. It all starts very promisingly with the introduction of two youngsters who have been crippled due to a horrific road accident. There is some good camera work and editing. But then the story becomes a little

confusing. It is difficult to tell when incidents are being dramatised. It also becomes predictable, at times.

**The Red Frame: The Prestige**  
*Das Rote Quadrat: Die Prestige*  
**HR Hessischer Rundfunk - Germany**  
**(45'00)**

A story about the sinking of the oil tanker Prestige in high seas off the Spanish coast two years ago. Who is guilty and who suffers from this disaster? The programme makes clear where it went wrong. There are beautiful and painful pictures, with excellent camera work.

**Eternal Water**  
*APA VIE*  
**TVR - Romania**  
**(25'00)**

An "exploring" programme with a woman who behaves like a curious traveller. The programme is light and well produced with a good rhythm in composition and editing. Good camerawork. A pleasant way to learn about folk life in most landscapes and cultures.

**Fair Cops**  
**BBC Wales - Wales UK**  
**(50'00)**

This is like an episode of Inspector Morse. The wrong men are convicted of the horrible murder of a mother, her two daughters and her grandmother. The programme follows the police officer as he tries to solve the riddle of who really committed the crime. The build-up of the story is very clear and makes the viewer desperate to know what happens next. This documentary is excellent in its factual content, its presentation and its construction.

**Music by Wokciech Kilar**  
*Muzyka- Wojciech Kilar*  
**TVP3 Katowice - Poland**  
**(58'16)**

A very interesting programme, which is a personal portrait of one of the most famous European composers, Wojciech Kilar. The programme focuses mostly on the music rather than the person behind the music. There are many musical segments from concerts and clips of films for which Kilar wrote music. The composer himself talks about his music along with comments from others. The programme is well made with a clear narrative structure.

**12 m.p.h.**  
*12 m.s.u.*  
**TG4 - Ireland**  
**(26'00)**

A well made film about an old steam train which used to run from Dingle to Tralee and the memories it awakens in old people who used to travel on it. The directional approach is very

clear and convincing with smooth editing, blending the use of archive material, live interviews and shots of the old train operating. This is a finely balanced composition.

**Lost World**  
*Swiat utracony*  
**TVP3 Lublin - Poland**  
**(29'49)**

This is a warm and intelligent reconstruction of old village of Beltz (today Bilgoraj in Poland), childhood home of and inspiration to the famous writer Isaac Bashevis Singer. Wars and historical events changed the nature of Singer's birthplace. Thanks to Singer's writing and the smart directing of this film, all that lost world can be successfully reconstructed.

**Track Layers**  
*Carrilanos*  
**TVE - Spain**  
**(50'00)**

An historical documentary about Spanish workers of the last century. We follow the enormous efforts of rail layers who are building the longest and heaviest part of the national railway network. This makes good material for documentary treatment. There is a rich visual archive matched with the dramatic experiences of those hard workers. Some deserved to be leading story tellers.

**Uncle Laci, Sir**  
*Laci Baci*  
**TVR - Romania**  
**(10'54)**

A fine reportage about a jolly eccentric living on a river island. He is isolated but not alone. He has his animals, his mobile phone by which he contacts friends and relatives. He gets a lot of visitors – including a good reporter who explained well the eccentric's "joy of life" philosophy.

**Anamilia**  
*Anamilia*  
**Telemadrid - Spain**  
**(26'30)**

An episode from a series on animals and the people work with them. A ferret is brought to the vet, the Civil Guard dog is trained and the tortoise is checked. This is an entertaining magazine for a lifestyle series but not truly a documentary.



**Unique Point of View: Thierry Malandain**  
*Regards Singuliers: Thierry Malandain*  
France 3 Aquitaine - France  
(26'15)

This film never quite explains why Thierry became a ballet dancer. But by watching the documentary, the viewer can feel and understand the motive forces of his life and the reasons for his professional choice. Pictures, in this case, speak better than words. Without any pompous philosophy; so simply put; so fabulous.

**The Bear: A Return to Grace**  
*L'ours, Histoire D'un Retour*  
France 3 Sud - France  
(52'37)

The programme has an impressive and creative beginning, with brilliant camera work at the highest professional level. The commentary is poetic and there is interesting archive research. There even seems to be good political support from local and state authorities who were joining together in the big adventure of helping the bear to make a come back in Southern France.

**Traces of Czechs in the Carpathians**  
*Ceske stopy pod Karpaty*  
Ceská Televize - Czech Rep.  
(58'00)

The historical tragedy of Sub-Carpathian Czechs, whose homeland was annexed to the Soviet Union after World War II. We are taken back 50 years and lives and places then are compared with lives and places now. Little has changed.

**The Closest**  
*Bliznji*  
RTVCG - Montenegro  
(21'33)

We hear dramatic prison confessions. There is a strong emotional impact and a good subjective exchange between colour and black and white techniques. Unfortunately, prison regulations and legal restrictions, restrict creative freedom, especially for camera work.

**Super Dollars**  
BBC Northern Ireland - Northern Ireland UK  
(44'02)

This story about an IRA, ex KGB and North Korean conspiracy to produce fake dollars is as exciting as a good crime story best-seller. This is a strong programme both in content and execution. The subject is well treated, with good camera work and excellent direction and editing. A great documentary.

**They call it Ullared**  
***Dom Kallar det Ullared***  
**SVT2 - Sweden**  
**(28'00)**

Shoppers are obsessed with shopping in the Ullared store. The story follows two pensioners and two sisters on their way to a day's shopping. Everything starts well but gradually gets repetitive as the joke wears thin after some minutes. It needs to move on and fails to.

**Soul Prisoners**

**TVP3 Bydgoszcz - Poland**  
**(15'00)**

What is the difference between a sect and religious community? What happens when a charismatic sect leader become aggressive to his followers? Can the violence be considered as part of religious ritual? This is a good story well told about "New Age" phenomena in post-communism Poland.

**OUH-Odense University Hospital**  
**TV2 Fyn - Denmark**  
**(13'27)**

The vivid and amazing approach to organisation at one big hospital. The immense size of the hospital is shown through the stories of two employees and some patients. It makes for a very entertaining programme.

**Hooligans Post-Mortem**  
***Huligani Post Mortem***  
**TVR Timisoara - Romania**  
**(25'42)**

Great historical moments of freedom always have thousands of forgotten victims. Families of hundreds of demonstrators from Timisoara who were killed are now looking for justice. The men who committed that political terror are still free and building a new civil society. This is a heavy and sad story typical for so many in Eastern Europe and, as such, it survives poor technical work.

**Visiting-Amateur Collectors**  
***Na obisku-Ljubiteljski zbiratelji***  
**RTVSlo Koper-Capodistria - Slovenia**  
**(30'09)**

This is an episode from series on collectors which centres on profiles of those who have a passion about memorabilia from World War One. Informative but lacks innovation.

**The Westerschelde Tunnel from Bank to Bank**  
*"The Westerschelde Tunnel, van oever tot oever"*  
**Omrop Zeeland - The Netherlands**  
**(39'00)**

The programme tells the story of pioneering underwater tunnel builders from The Netherlands. Viewers are given different insights from the authorities, from architects, and from workers) on the same civil engineering project. There is high quality archive research.

**Dead Man Talking**  
**BBC West - UK**  
**(29'00)**

The memoirs of novelist Thomas Hardy are told from his only remaining personal notebook. He chronicles stories of wife sales and cruelty in Victorian Dorset. This is told by a mixture of reconstruction and interview with the editor of new publication. There are very high production values but emotion and innovation are lacking.

**White Salt - Dun Souls**  
*Sal Branco - Almas Negras*  
**RTP Acores - Portugal**  
**(27' 22)**

The programme follows a group of young people from Portugal and Canada sailing from Portugal to Canada in order to relive history and adventure. The style of the programme is a mixture of narrative segments, reportage and dramatisation. It opens poetically with beautiful pictures and music but fails to maintain that style and pace.

**Unique Trees**  
*Arboles Con Nombre Propio*  
**TVE - Spain**  
**(19'00)**

In Rioja, Spain, some trees have personal names: The Ladie's Oak in Pedrosa is one of them. And there was a time when especially oaks were considered sacred. This is an unusual report about the relation between people and trees. The programme stimulates the discovery of a forgotten part of the natural world but fails to identify or explore any conflicts.

**The Tragedy of Monongah**  
*La Tragedia di Monongah*  
**RAI - Italy**  
**(61'00)**

This is the chronicle of the mining tragedy in which hundreds of men died, many from Italy. The story is told mainly by the use of archive footage and narration to tell the emotion behind the biggest mining tragedy of all time, creating a style somewhere between reportage and current affairs. The narration never takes break and gives the viewers no time to digest the story.

# **PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2004 CURRENT AFFAIRS PROGRAMMES**

**WINNER**                      *BELFAST-THE CHILDREN AND THE CURSE OF HISTORY*  
*HR Hessischer Rundfunk - Germany*

**SPECIAL COMMENDATION**  
*ROMANIAN TWINS* *BBC Northern Ireland - Northern Ireland UK*

## **JUDGES**

Chairman	Jane Macsorley	BBC Scotland	UK
	Gabriel Perez	TVE	Spain
	Dimitar Bogdanov	BNT Sofia	Bulgaria
	Amelia Neacsu	Committee of the Regions	

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

This year's entry level was around a third more than last year and it is good to see a rise in the number of entries. However, it would appear that the overall standard of the programmes submitted has not really improved that much since last year.

Many entries were certainly nowhere near hard hitting enough: some might be considered reporting on issues hardly worth exploring at all. Some of the programmes makers should be commended for making very brave attempts at tackling complex subjects but this was often to the programme's detriment. There was a clear journalistic purpose to some stories but getting too immersed in the detail too soon was a common problem. Good story-telling was missing in many of the programmes coupled with giving the viewer a real reason why they should keep watching.

It was not overly difficult in reaching a short-list this year. However, what was difficult was choosing the overall winner.

BBC Northern Ireland's investigation into a scandal involving overseas adoption was an excellent example of solid and thorough journalism. It was a story extremely well told.

In the end, however, what left a lasting impression on the jury was Belfast: The Children and The Curse of History. This story of life in Northern Ireland has been illustrated time and again on television but what the programme makers of this film captured was quite something else. This is a very inspiring and reflective film which fully engages the viewer.

**Jane Macsorley, BBC Scotland - Chairman**

**PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2004  
CURRENT AFFAIRS PROGRAMMES  
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AWARD**

**WINNER**

**BELFAST-THE CHILDREN AND THE CURSE OF HISTORY**  
***BELFAST – DIE KINDER UND DER FLUCH DER GESCHICHTE***  
**HR Hessischer Rundfunk - Germany**  
**(52'00)**  
**by Esther Schapira**

This explores the story behind the events that took place in Belfast in summer 2001 when what should have been a simple school run developed into one of the largest police operations ever mounted in the troubled history of Northern Ireland.

The programme delves very well into answering what led up to images being broadcast round the world of the Catholic children of Holy Cross Primary School trying to walk to school through a torrent of abuse from Protestant families.

It was excellent in how it captured a true insight into the minds of both children and parents. A cinematic feel also gave the programme a real edge over the other entries in this category. The programme could have very easily been over dramatic but was not – it was a very reflective piece of authored journalism.

Despite its heavy subject matter, the programme had an upbeat feel which left a lasting impression on the judges. An excellent watch.

# **SPECIAL COMMENDATION**

## **ROMANIAN TWINS**

**BBC Northern Ireland - Northern Ireland UK**

**(28'55)**

**by Marie Irvine**

There are two levels to this investigative programme. The first examines the circumstances surrounding Romanian baby twins who were adopted and brought to live in Northern Ireland. Within months one of the babies was dead and the other had suffered multiple injuries. No-one was charged with the death of the baby. The remaining twin was taken away from his adoptive parents.

But there was a second angle also. It was thought that the twins were orphans: but what is uncovered is that their parents are alive and well and living in Romania.

This was a well structured and thought provoking investigation. The programme clearly illustrated the problems surrounding foreign adoption. It also demonstrated how let down the twins were not only by the authorities in Romania but also in Northern Ireland.

The end of the programme was particularly powerful both journalistically and visually when the reporter confronted the former adoptive father of the twins.

## **OTHER ENTRIES**

### **Delicacies**

#### *Delicates*

**Centre TV Moscow - Russia**

**(30'00)**

The magazine programme included reports ranging from prison conditions in both US and Russia to snakes in China. The programme was good in that it has a very global and informative feel. However, the three reports would have been more engaging if there had been more interview material. There was extensive commentary.

### **Telecourier At Night**

#### *Telekurier Noca*

**TVP3 Poznan - Poland**

**(53'00)**

This programme deals with a very current issue looking at the dangers of children surfing the net at times when “internet paedophilia” is becoming a growing problem. The programme was a very brave attempt but would have benefited more if the cases had been more recent. They were a number of years old and this detracted from the importance of this increasing social issue.

### **Marquis of Santillana**

#### *Marques De Santillana*

**TVE - Spain**

**(28'00)**

Inigo Lopez de Mendoza, best known as Marquis of Santillana, was one of the greatest writers and politicians of medieval times in Spain. The programme follows the Marquis' life. It was a very solid illustration of his life and the overall impact of the programme was good.

### **Wanted for the Future of Romania**

#### *Cautat Pentru Viitorul Romaniei*

**TVR Iasi - Romania**

**(18'17)**

The programme looked at a non-government organisation's project for orphaned children. The judging panel felt that the remit could have been wider. It perhaps could have looked beyond this one project. It was an engaging watch that certainly merited further illustration of similar type projects.

### **From Konigsberg to Kalingrad**

#### *De Konigsberg á Kalingrad*

**France 3 - France**

**(24'35)**

This is a magazine programme dealing with the future enlargement of the EU. It includes two reports focusing on how Russia is gearing up to become a member. The reports also look at

how rural parts of the eastern block have evolved over hundreds of years. The production values for the programme are very high. It is a programme which is fairly heavy in its analysis and because of this it is sometimes difficult for the viewers to come to terms with all of the information being discussed.

**Batasuna, Andoain**  
*Batasuna, Andoain*  
**France 3 Aquitaine - France**  
**(7'00)**

The story is set in a town near Saint Sebastian in the Basque Country where the mayor is a member of Batasuna, the political wing of ETA. The situation in the town has become very tense after two political assassinations. It was an excellent choice of subject for a programme. However, the judging panel felt the programme just fell short of the mark in engaging the viewers.

**4/2 Magazine Cluj**  
*4/2u Magazinul*  
**TVR Cluj - Romania**  
**(4'30)**

The programme showed the achievements of a team of doctors in the Clinic of Urology and Renal Transplant in Cluj, Romania. It was a very interesting subject to illustrate because of its medical and social importance. However, this was not exploited to the full as the duration of the programme was less than five minutes.

**Inside Out - Identity Fraud**  
**BBC London - England UK**  
**(8'30)**

The report looked at the increasing problem of identity fraud. It was a well structured programme which dealt with the issue in a rather innovative way. The reporting was very solid.

**Focus**  
*V zariscu*  
**RTVSlo Maribor - Slovenia**  
**(38'48)**

The programme focused on how Slovenia deals with its problem of drink drivers. The programme certainly benefited from the personal approach that was adopted. However, the judging panel felt that the impact of this increasing social problem in the country could have been made stronger.



**Less Than a Ton of Coal**  
*Mniej niz tona wegla*  
**TVP3 Katowice - Poland**  
**(10'14)**

The programme looked at Polish miners who had survived serious accidents at work. It was a very worthwhile programme to make and was tackled well. The pictures were strong and worked well with the commentary. A fairly solid programme that could have perhaps made an even stronger impact on the viewer.

**Openly**  
*Okrito*  
**BNT 1 - Bulgaria**  
**(30'00)**

The programme tells the story of an Bulgarian woman named Elena living in France and who is married to a Frenchman. It tells the story of their struggle to adopt a Bulgarian child. But all is not straightforward – Elena is already married as well as having two children living in Bulgaria. It is a very strong story which is initially illustrated in a studio format. It is a fairly complex story for the viewers to grasp and would have benefited from less of a studio format and more on location. A very strong story nonetheless.

**The Golden Dreams of the Mankind**  
**RTS - Serbia**  
**(30'00)**

The programme deals with a very delicate issue – what remains from once highly praised socialist symbols? This is a co-production of five former Yugoslavian countries, Romania and Albania. The treatment makes over extensive use of archive footage.

**Inside Out**  
**BBC South - England UK**  
**(29'00)**

This programme included two investigations into local debt companies and a puppy farm. The undercover footage looking into debt companies is certainly to be commended. It was a very thorough and well illustrated investigation. It made a strong impact on the judging panel, so much so that it was felt that the format of the programme should have perhaps been modified to allow for a half hour investigation. The puppy farm story was not as engaging and detracted from the overall impact of the programme.

**Wednesday Inquiry**  
*Wyn op woansdei: Boksen (Olympia)*  
**Omrop Fryslan - The Netherlands**  
**(27'11)**

The programme is the story of an Armenian boxer who is an asylum seeker living in Holland. The chairman of the local boxing school in Leeuwarden offers free membership to him. The

programme engaged the viewers with its pacey feel. The judging panel felt that this entry was more like a sports magazine item than current affairs.

**Foreign Workers A-Plenty**

*Main-d'oeuvre exotique*

**France 3 Ouest - France**

**(26'00)**

This magazine programme shows the conditions under which foreign workers in the West of the France live and work. This region in particular is renowned for its unwelcome attitude towards immigrants: however, the programme highlights that this is going to change. The programme was well balanced and structured and made a lasting impact on the judging panel. However, there were times when its pacey feel overcomplicated the issue.

**New Roma People**

*Nowi Romowie*

**TVP3 Krakow - Poland**

**(21'29)**

The programme presents positive examples of how Roma people have been integrated into “normal” society. Some are now in higher education; others are taking jobs; others building a family inside society. The programme is dynamic and easy to view and explores an issue common across Europe.

**In the Crossfire**

*Brisani prostor*

**HRT Zagreb - Croatia**

**(50'00)**

This is a magazine programme with several reports on interesting subjects, which are of national or regional interest. The reports range from Croatia’s possible future entry into the EU to the work of FINA, the Croatian Financial Agency. The judging panel felt that some of the stories were too general.

**The Magic Eye**

*Ochiul Magic*

**TVR Bucharest - Romania**

**(51'46)**

This programme’s style is that of a “police file”. It is a sad story but there is no message. There are too many details, which may be useful for a prosecutor but deaden the issue – and with it the viewer’s attention.

**The Scanzano Protest**  
*La Protesta Di Scanzano*  
RAI - Italy  
(30'00)

The programme follows the strong feelings and action against the creation of a nuclear power plant next to the village. It looks much like very long news report mixed with picture archives of the village's history.

**Angel of Death**  
*Der Todesengel*  
RBB Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg - Germany  
(44'00)

It is a very emotional documentary tracking German war crimes in Italy. The judging panel felt, however, the programme just missed in engaging the viewers.

**Fishing with Walesa**  
*Z Walesa na oybach*  
TVP3 Gdansk - Poland  
(14'19)

The programme's focus is on a conversation between two anglers, one of which is the former president of the Republic of Poland – Lech Walesa. His participation certainly helped to lift a subject matter which is of limited appeal. Access to him has to be commended.

**Pilgrimage to the Vatican**  
*Vatikani Zarandoklat (Szunto Drom)*  
MTV Budapest - Hungary  
(22'00)

The programme follows the journey of Romany gypsies en route to the Vatican to obtain a blessing. It was a solid observational piece of television as well as being an original subject to tackle. Perhaps a focus on a few central characters would have given the programme a more personal feel. This would have helped with engaging the viewer more.

**Europe**  
*Europa*  
BBC Scotland - Scotland UK  
(28'40)

The programme focused on recovering alcoholics living in a very remote part of Scotland. It was very well structured and dealt very sensitively with the subject matter. Commentary, sync sound and the pictures blended very well, leaving the viewer with a solid understanding and empathy for those dealing with their demons. Access to the film's remarkable characters has to be commended.

**Football Mom**  
**ΠΟΛΟΣΦΑΙΡΟΜΑΝΑ**  
**CyBC - Cyprus**  
**(9'30)**

A short film about a woman married to a former famous footballer. She has five sons, four of whom are footballers – all in different teams. It is a very original subject tackled in a humorous way. The programme would have benefited if the focus had been solely on the mother, with less of her husband: he added nothing substantial other than comical looks.

**Ambrosia**  
**Parlagfu**  
**RTVSlo Lendava - Slovenia**  
**(30'22)**

A look at the pollen allergy, ambrosia. A worthy programme – educating viewers on a subject known to few. It may have benefited from more commentary rather than a lengthy “talking head” sequence. It is a difficult subject to make appealing and interesting. However, the production team managed this well.

**A Small View**  
**Widoczek**  
**TVP3 Rzeszow - Poland**  
**(12'30)**

The programme looks at the neighbourhood surrounding a “lovers lane” area. An original subject matter and well crafted together. The characters worked very well in bringing humour to a rather seedy issue. An unique look at an age-old problem.

**Compassion for the Children in Bethlehem**  
**Palastina: Kein Herz fur die Kinder in Bethlehem**  
**"Bayerischer Rundfunk, Munchen" - Germany**  
**(7'18)**

This tape was submitted on the wrong format under the Rules and was not viewed.

**Blood, Sweat and Tears**  
**BBC Wales - Wales UK**  
**(30'00)**

An investigation into a company supplying migrant workers to Welsh factories where exploitation of the workforce is commonplace. The programme was well supported by very good use of hidden cameras and testimonies of various employees being exploited. It was a subject matter well tackled.

**Week in the Lense**  
*Tydzien W Obiektywie*  
**TVP3 Bialystok - Poland**  
**(20'00)**

A magazine programme looking at weekly events in a region in Poland. The programme had pace but at times, though, it left the viewer wanting more analysis. The programme displayed a rather original and light-hearted way of looking at current events in the area. This helped to lift some of the subject matter.

**Air Ambulance**  
*Faktor: Luftens livreddere*  
**NRK - Norway**  
**(28'28)**

The programme looks in detail at the Norwegian Air Ambulance and how it deals with daily emergencies in remote areas. A good access-driven programme which gave a clear insight into the working life of one of the country's key services. The programme could have benefited from more actuality footage rather than extensive use of reconstructions.

**Mex - The Market Magazine**  
*Mex - Das Marktmagazin*  
**HR Hessischer Rundfunk - Germany**  
**(30'00)**

This tape was submitted on the wrong format under the Rules and was not viewed.

**Prime Time Investigates: Atlantic Dawn**  
**RTÉ - Ireland**  
**(31'00)**

The Atlantic Dawn is the biggest fishing boat in the world and the programme investigated the problems and alleged misconduct behind its launch in 2000. The programme details its impact on both Irish and European politics after a licence was issued to this boat to fish in African waters when this would be in breach of Irish and EU regulations. Given the complexity of the subject matter, there was much information to impart. This made it difficult to come to grips with the story.

**Channel 3 - After Hours**  
*Trójka po godzinach*  
**TVP3 Wroclaw - Poland**  
**(20'00)**

A look at some of Wroclaw's cultural events. The programme was well compiled and had good pace. This was not truly "current affairs" but rather an interesting look at a city's cultural timetable.

**Incidents**  
*Zdarzenia*  
**TVP3 Lublin - Poland**  
**(14'00)**

A magazine programme tackling issues ranging from border corruption to land rights. The programme adopts a very direct format. It goes straight to the heart of the subject matter. This is at time confusing as the viewer is left with insufficient understanding of what is actually going on.

**Adam and Eve**  
*Adam si Eva*  
**TVR Timisoara - Romania**  
**(24'00)**

A programme looking at a couple who could be considered the Adam and Eve of today because of their primitive lifestyle. This was a very unusual subject matter to tackle and the production team made a good attempt. A well shot programme but at times it is unclear what the programme is seeking to explore.

**Insigt. The Mobile phone - the new weapon**  
*Indsigt. Mobiltelefonen - det nye vaben*  
**TV2 Fyn - Denmark**  
**(10'03)**

The programme looks into the use of text messaging as a bullying tactic in schools. This is an original take on bullying among young people. Since the programme limited itself to only one school, it left the viewer with the feeling that it was not a significant enough issue to tackle.

**Amid the Waves**  
*Med Valovi*  
**RTVSlo Koper-Capodistria - Slovenia**  
**(30'29)**

A magazine programme looking at sea-related topics. The format of this programme works well with a mixture of both short and more in-depth reports. The programme worked well in engaging the viewer despite the limited appeal of the subject matter.

**The Archipelago Doctor**  
*Skaergardsdoktoren*  
**TV2 SYD - Denmark**  
**(41'00)**

The film follows a young couple who work as doctors serving the remote island of Vega. An unusual subject matter, this was well shot and put together. The viewers get a good feel of what life is like for the young doctors and their families. A commendable piece of observational television which might suit better a category other than Current Affairs.

**Homeless Intern**  
*Hemlosefange*  
SVT Sydnytt - Sweden  
(4'40)

An observational programme looking at life for Malmo's homeless community. This was a very strong subject tackled head on and the viewer was left wanting to know more.

**Inside Out - Cornel Hrisca-Munn**  
BBC Birmingham - England UK  
(29'10)

Programme looked at the story an 11-year-old severely disabled boy living in England but who comes from Romania. He was given a new home after being taken from a orphanage in Romania. It followed him and his foster parents back to Romania where they met Cornel's natural parents who were forced by the country's authorities years before to give him away. The film was a very touching and moving account of life today for Cornel. It was a very emotive piece of television which told a harrowing account of life for Cornel in a very sensitive way.

**Berserk in Loekken**  
*Laken Amok*  
TV2 Oestjylland - Denmark  
(25'00)

The programme took an in-depth look at a youth holiday camp in Denmark where the emphasis is to party and drink as much as possible. A solid observational report which left the viewers with a real insight into the goings on of young people playing away from home. The reality of the camp was well captured.

**Inside Out**  
BBC West - England UK  
(29'00)

A magazine programme looking at subjects ranging from animal protection to Foetal Alcohol Syndrome. Access to good characters (in the three short films) helped make the issues more interesting. The subject matters being tackled were very varied and give a real flavour to the local community but, at times, there appeared to be lack of focus.

**Hunger Riot in Slovakia**  
*Éhséglázadás Szlovákiában*  
MTV Budapest - Hungary  
(20'00)

The film details events that took place recently on the Hungarian Slovakian border at a time of a hunger riot. Very compelling pictures have been captured which speak volumes of what life on the poverty line can still be like. The viewer feels compelled to watch. However, the film at times lacks direction.





**PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2004  
CROSS-BORDER PROGRAMMES  
COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS AWARD**

**WINNER**

**THE NEW TEENAGE EUROPE  
TV2 SYD - Denmark  
(30'00)  
by Tim Johnson and Lene Kruger**

This magazine programme illustrates different issues with wide European interest to society at large but is presented especially to the target audience of teenagers.

We consider the programme fully reflects the need for increased participation in decision making at a regional level. It also explores cultural similarities across borders as required in the criteria.

The camera work was most original and the programme is certainly well crafted. The best entry by far in this category.

The idea of The New Teenage Europe was developed as a co-production through Circom Regional by TV SYD. The 20 or so partners in the co-production have produced about 360 hours of television for and about young people in Europe. In all, there are about 100 items which are available to the stations which are co-operating. Thereports are combined into a weekly magazine and distributed by EbS.

This award reflects credit on all the partners and on the value of co-operation between regional stations.

# **SPECIAL COMMENDATION**

## **THE LIVING MERCHANDISE**

*MARFA VIE*

**TVR - Romania**

**(11'30)**

**by Cristina Madgerau**

This is an investigative programme about trafficking in human beings from Romania to Italy and Germany. The programme is made in a dynamic way and has left a lasting impression on the judging panel. It highlights a very topical situation with pan European interest.

## **OTHER ENTRIES**

### **Views of Europe**

*Euroblick*

**Bayerischer Rundfunk - Germany**

**(30'00)**

This magazine programme included reports ranging from test driving cars in Lapland to a famous gypsy band in Romania. It is a very informative and pacy programme with high production values. It is understandable why such a programme would have a fairly wide appeal. However, none of the issues it deals with are truly cross border as opposed to items from other countries.

### **The Other Side**

*I Alli Plevra*

**ERT3 - Greece**

**(54'00)**

The programme detailed the experiences of the Turkish Cypriots during the summer of 1974 and during the 1960s, the time of the inter-communal violent confrontations. The programme benefits from the very personal account of the narrator, a Turkish Cypriot poet. She helps inject passion into a very serious issue. The programme makes excellent use of archive footage mixed with well shot pictures from the present day.

### **People and Land**

*Ljudje in Zemlja*

**RTVSlo Maribor - Slovenia**

**(49'20)**

The first part of the programme looks at tourist farms in Slovenia and Austria. They are both part of a joint European project, Farm Holidays Without Borders. The second part of the programme looks at a small village on the Croatian border which prides itself on the determination of its inhabitants to develop tourism in the area. The programme is very well shot and has high production values. It offers a good insight into cross border tourism.

### **The Road To Drama- A Dream and Reality**

*Patiat Za Drama-Mechta I Realnost*

**BNT Blagoevgrad - Bulgaria**

**(29'40)**

The programme looks at the life of people in the border region of Gotze Deltchev. The pictures and the commentary appear to be rather at odds with each other. The commentary is very informative but there appears to be a lack of writing to the pictures. It is a brave attempt at a difficult subject.

**Sunday in a torn Village**

*Duminica Unui Sat*

**TVR Iasi - Romania**

**(24'00)**

This programme looks at how life is today for some villagers in Romania and the Republic of Moldova. Some of the local characters certainly help bring the programme to life. The film has a certain appeal but it is at times confusing as to what exactly it is about.

**Vis A Vis at Home**

*Vis a Vis a la Maison*

**France 3 Alsace - France**

**(28'30)**

This is a magazine programme looking at how the French and the Germans live. It is a light hearted informative look at the home life of two nations. The programme has a certain appeal and a quirky feel to it which is to be commended. The light hearted style suits the programme content.

**Regions in the EU**

*Regionu w Unii*

**TVP3 Gdansk - Poland**

**(18'20)**

The programme looks ahead to the integration of Poland into the EU. It focuses on city of Elblag, at how it has developed over the centuries and how its residents now hope to benefit from EU membership. It is an informative programme but as its main thrust is simply on the impact on Elblag, it fails to explore any real cross border issues or how they have been resolved elsewhere.

**Something New at the Border**

*Na granici nesto novo*

**HRT Dubrovnik - Croatia**

**(7'30)**

A look at the border region in South Croatia, the Prevlaka peninsula, where there is now a concerted effort to promote tourism. Those concerned have high hopes for the area keen on the idea of promoting its history especially the former mines. It is a short film that is very upbeat and informative. However, it falls a little short in its production values.

**Absolut - for Young Europeans**

*Absolut-Magazin fur junge Europaer*

**RBB Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg - Germany**

**(27'00)**

A magazine programme aimed at younger viewers. The reports ranged from a Russian political youth organisation to sex education in England. The production values are very high. It is well shot and structured and has a very pacey feel. Unfortunately, the various elements in

the programme are quite simply international reports with no emphasis on cross border activities.

**Baltic Sea Report**  
*Ostseereport*  
**NDR Schleswig-Holstein - Germany**  
**(45'00)**

This is an interesting and well done look at those who work around the Danish Royal family – the cook, the gardener, the court marshal and so on. It is a pure Danish story told by a German reporter and there is no evidence of any cross border issue or evaluation.

**Regional News for Sweden, Norway and Finland**  
*Oddasat*  
**NRK - Norway**  
**(14'00)**

This is a regional news programme for Sweden, Norway and Finland. The programme contains stories ranging from animal rights to computer software. There were NO sub-titles which is a necessary requirement to be considered an entry in the Prix Circom Regional.

**A Summer in Short Strand**  
*Dialann Samhraidh-Páistí ón Trá Ghearr*  
**TG4 - Ireland**  
**(25'30)**

The programme deals with an issue which has been covered many times before – the difficult situation of the small Catholic community in East Belfast. This time it is viewed through the eyes of children. We welcome the good camera and editing and the inclusion of authentic video footage but we missed the opposite opinions.

**Neighbours**  
*Sasiedzi*  
**TVP3 Rzeszow - Poland**  
**(30'00)**

The programme is a public information magazine which covers current issues important in the trans-border regions of Poland and Ukraine. This is a very good example of a cross border programme but unfortunately the programme did not score highly on how the subject matter was tackled. The format was not engaging enough.

**The Roots of John Kerry**  
*Koreny Johna Kerryho*  
**Ceská Televize - Czech Rep.**  
**(1'51)**

This is a very good news report (but not a programme) dealing with an original subject. The report looks at archives found in a small Czech village which reveal that US presidential

candidate John Kerry has Central European roots. Although it is a well told story, the jury felt it did not match all the requirements of the criteria.

**Olza River**  
*Zaolzie*  
**TVP3 Katowice - Poland**  
**(13'02)**

The programme reports on a very good example of a multi-ethnic society – the Czech town of Jablonkov, where Czechs, Poles and other nationalities live together. Although the programme deals with ethnic tolerance and cultural understanding, there is no strong journalistic issue or treatment.

**The Festive Rhine-Vorarlberg's Rhine Valley Part 2**  
*Rhein festlich/Le Rhin festif*  
**SWR - Germany**  
**(28'30)**

This is part of a series of showing the festive life along the Rhine from the source to the North Sea. This is a well presented and edited programme with good camera techniques. However, it feels rather like a tourist presentation.

**Prime Time Investigates Ireland's Forgotten Generation**  
**RTÉ - Ireland**  
**(52'35)**

The programme tells the story of several outsiders living in London but of Irish origin. They are named Ireland's "forgotten generation" because the authors consider them as a collective picture of all the Irish emigrants to London since Second World War. Although worthy, it hardly holds the attention of the viewers.

**The Theatre of Three Nations**  
*Teatr trojga narodów*  
**TVP3 Wroclaw - Poland**  
**(22'16)**

This is a programme looking at the 150-year history of the Legnica Theatre. It is an informative programme which details in a lively way the very coloured past of the theatre from its days as a headquarters of the Soviet army through to present day with the Polish Theatre Group availing of the splendour of the building. It is a good watch but lacks cross border significance.

**100 Neighbours in 100 Days**  
*100 Nachbarn in 100 Tagen*  
**ORF Burgenland - Austria**

No tape arrived in time for judging.

**Homeless in Copenhagen**  
*Hemlos I Kopenhamn*  
SVT - Sweden  
(5'52)

This explores the life of a Swedish drug addict who is now living in Denmark. He admits to there being a better tolerance of his addiction in Denmark than in his home country. The film looks at a valid and worthy case. It would have benefited from a more in depth look at the problem rather than taking the opinion of only one drug addict.

# **PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2004 SPORT**

**WINNER**                      *ICH BLEKIT*                                      *TVP3 Katowice, Poland*

## ***SPECIAL COMMENDATIONS***

*FEARLESS - 3 IRISH SPECIAL OLYMPIANS RTÉ, Ireland*

*BOPPELACH 7E KLASSE A                      Omrop Fryslan, The Netherlands*

## ***JUDGES***

Chairman	Nikos Vezirgiannis	ERT3 Thessaloniki	Greece
	Ove Mulvad	TV2/Fyn	Denmark
	Istvan Hegedus	MTV Budapest	Hungary
	Hans Snijder	Omrop Fryslan	The Netherlands

## ***CHAIRMAN'S REPORT***

This is a new category added to the Prix Circom Regional this year, the year of the Athens Olympics.

The judges were all encouraged by the high quality of the regional television productions which were entered. Both technically and thematically, the documentaries we viewed proved that quality storytelling is an endless challenge. There were a wide variety of themes, views, approaches, styles and creativity. So it was difficult to select the winner and so easy to get carried away with the stories and the characters presented.

Some programmes were merely reports on sports activities, personnel, or events: others were historical films or portraits. There were many entries with a strong, personalised approach to people and their everyday lives, relationships, dreams, expectations and disappointments. All matters around and within the athletic spirit and hope which influences our daily life.

Sport is an important social factor of regional life and that was represented in most films. After all, it is the regions of Europe that provide so much of the great talent in all professional sports. Athletic activities get people involved in many different ways and that can be a great source of ideas and inspiration for television producers.

All judges felt that this new category should remain in the future, because it covers a significant production effort in regional television and one which deserves recognition. Sports documentaries can be educational, entertaining, and inspiring: they are always global and fresh for all viewers.

**Nikos Vezirgiannis, ERT3 Thessaloniki - Chairman**



**PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2004  
SPORT  
ERT3 AWARD**

**WINNER**

**THEIR BLUE  
*ICH BLEKIT*  
TVP3 Katowice - Poland  
(13'42)**

**by Ewelina Tomasik, Donata Chrusciel and Ewa Kozik**

This is the optimistic story of a crippled teenage boy who fulfilled his dreams by winning a swimming gold medal at the Para-Olympics.

Mateouz lost all muscle control in his legs when a small child but is driven by his love of swimming and sport. His mother has had to do everything for him at home but, despite his handicap, Mateouz plays football with his school friends and is popular with the girls. At home, his sister difficulties with an invalid brother who gets all the attention in the family and this makes for an honest portrait.

This is a documentary with a solid and clear storyline that keeps the viewer involved from the start, without exaggerations or tricks. It is beautifully shot and the underwater photography is exceptional. There is strong direction, with balanced and engaging editing and with honesty towards the main character. The programme remains a clear sports documentary, even though there are some social and psychological elements, which develop the main idea.

The relatively short running time proves that one can tell so much in a little time if you do it in the right way.

## **SPECIAL COMMENDATIONS**

### **FEARLESS - 3 IRISH SPECIAL OLYMPIANS**

**RTÉ - Ireland**

**(55'00)**

**by Christine Thornton and David Power**

This is a documentary with high production values and enormous sensitivity in storytelling. It follows three athletes in their training for the Special Olympics in 2003. The film presents their stories in parallel focusing equally on their everyday life, their efforts to succeed and their personal moments. There was exceptional direction with great photography and smooth, even editing. It is moving and touching at every single moment.

### **7 KLASSE A**

***BOPPESLACH 7E KLASSE A***

**Omrop Fryslan - The Netherlands**

**(8'12)**

**by Arjen de Boer and Simone Scheffer**

This programme follows a very (very, very) low grade amateur football team in a manner which would normally be used only for top teams. It is a special report about one of their games.

It is a vital match and both teams are keyed up for the big game. The referee is nervous – and well he might be. The game ends in injuries and chaos.

It is worthy of special commendation because of the talent of the reporter. He and his cameraman were there at the right time and in the right place. They also know how to make a special report with their material in a way you would not often see on television, regional or national.

Whether you like football or not; the viewer will be astonished at what happens on the football field as well as during the break.

Its originality is in the combination of the way the subject is approached and the development in the story.

## OTHER ENTRIES

**Sportwatch**  
*Sporterica*  
**HRT Zagreb - Croatia**  
**(15'00)**

A charming sports magazine programme about all national championships for children – from football to handball. This is a good initiative to make a sports programme for children. It is well made but not that special. The woman presenter is enthusiastic.

**Dusan Sencar - The Father of the Golden Fox**  
*Dusan Sencar - Oce Zlate Lisice*  
**RTVSlo Maribor - Slovenia**  
**(29'44)**

An intriguing story about the man who was responsible for creating the famous ski slope: the Golden Fox. The report is not really a documentary but a fine collection of interviews and pictures from several archives. It lacks the construction and the dynamics of a modern documentary.

**Training**  
*Proponitirio*  
**ERT3 - Greece**  
**(20'00)**

The ins and outs (and sometimes ups and downs) of judo, boxing, cycling, basketball and volleyball. It has a fashionably slick feel with sharp camera work, clip-like editing and a sporty female enthusiastic presentation. With the slogan “move your body, stretch your mind” in your thoughts, it is really worth viewing.

**Mateusz' Battle**  
*Walka Mateusza*  
**TVP3 Rzeszow - Poland**  
**(21'19)**

This is the story of a 15-year-old boy who lost a leg because of cancer. He now plays basketball from a wheelchair and this helps him cope with his disease and to fight his physical and mental problems. A good story well told with good camerawork, good construction, and fine development of the storyline. It is emotional without being sentimental. There is a fine personal perspective: there is not only drama with his cancer but also the drama of his maturing from being a nuisance of a teenager.

**Football Isn't for Girls**  
*El Futbol No Es Para Las Chicas*  
TVE - Spain  
(16'00)

This entry is different to all others in this category: it is a play about a nine-year-old girl who loves football and dreams of being a star in the football team of the neighbourhood. The scenario is rather artificial scenario but charming and - of course - with a happy ending

**Far Away from the Theatre of Dreams**  
*Gu a fra havet nar aldri Lerkendal*  
NRK Sámi Radio - Norway  
(29'30)

A comparison between Sorlid, a poor football club in the north of Norway, and the richest club of the country, Rosenborg. This is fine traditional report with adequate camera work and editing but without an exciting or original treatment of the story and little sense of humour. It is a pity the film does not begin with the commentary which is placed at the end: Sorlid have not won a game in two years: they have zero points: and 42 goals against them after seven matches.

**Faster than the Wind**  
*Szybciej Od Wiatru*  
TVP3 Bialystok - Poland  
(20'59)

This is the story of an old man and his memories of a lake in the years between the wars.- then famous for its iceboat-regattas. It is a nice and charming story about 'the old days' which ends by looking at a revival of this famous iceboat races (but now there is no wind!). Good work, well done, traditional in its form (archive pictures and the story of the old man). It loses now and then the attention but the archive pictures are really wonderful.

**Sporting Heroes- Pat Spillane**  
*Laochra Gael - Pat Spillane*  
TG4 - Ireland  
(25'00)

A portrait of Pat Spillane, an Irish Gaelic football legend in the 1970s and 1980s. It is made with love for the football player, good camerawork, nice archive pictures, good editing. It starts well but, in our opinion, a documentary should have a development from A to B – and that is what we missed.

**Sport Panorama**  
*Panorama Sport*  
**TVP3 Gdansk - Poland**  
**(18'00)**

A well made magazine programme of sports events combining video reports with highlights of the matches with live studio interviews and comments. The programme is well organised in a somewhat academic way. A plus to the show is the special editing of the video reports.

**Little Athlete**  
*Maly Silacz*  
**TVP3 Warszawa - Poland**  
**(23'00)**

This is a portrait of a great man who, despite his disability (being a midget), became a world champion in weightlifting and found true love with a beautiful woman. We follow the couple, Andrzej and his wife, through many places and situations from the past to today. It is a beautiful, human and inspiring story that attracts a viewer's attention from the first moment of watching. Excellent directional approach and editing process. However, the story line is the relationship between the man and his wife rather than any broader view of an Olympian spirit of sport.

**Nature & Adventure, Indian Joe**  
*Naturá Si Aventurá, Joe Indianul*  
**TVR Cluj - Romania**  
**(27'18)**

This is an exciting programme showing the very hard and difficult conditions for the mountain climber - and the television crew. You could call it a slow programme but watching it makes you forget the time. It proves that a strong and good story does not always need original production techniques. It is also important that the film in the end becomes a tribute to a highly spirited young man, who gave his life trying to fulfill his dreams.

**Quiet**  
*Tihi Hodove*  
**BNT Blagoevgrad - Bulgaria**  
**(22'00)**

A documentary that creates portraits of the masters of chess based on an horizontal, narrational structure. It is more appealing perhaps to chess fans. However, it does reveal important secrets of the mysterious world of great intellect and passion. There is much archive footage of great players of the past, combined with interviews of today. The narration is a bit too heavy and somehow dominates without and light or shade.

**Sports on Monday**  
*Sport op Maandag de deide helft*  
RTV Oost - The Netherlands  
(18'00)

This tape had a fault and, despite several attempts on different players, it could not be viewed.

**On the Verge of Palestine**  
*Na skraju Palestyny*  
TVP3 Wroclaw - Poland  
(15'23)

What do you do if everyday life is filled with poverty and no hope? Where you have to steel coal from train wagon to make some kind of living? Well, forming a football team might be the answer. This is what they did in "Palestine", a very poor Polish district. The programme has good direction with nice camerawork and editing. However, the idea of letting the sport help solve social problems is not really the main focus here as much as the problems themselves.

**The Winner**  
*Invingatorul*  
TVR Timisoara - Romania  
(10'20)

A beautiful and sensitive told about a boy, born with only one leg, who is brings new meaning in his life by playing football. Sport is shown as having very important social and personal functions. It might have been better to reach the key point earlier. The set-up was good but we had to wait quite a long time for the pay-off. The film emphasises more the psychological side of the main character and is more of a personal story.

**Tonny, Groningen's Hero**  
*Tonny Held van Groningen*  
TV Noord - The Netherlands  
(24'37)

No tape arrived in time for judging.

**Sledge Race in Turecka**  
*Krnacky v Tureckej*  
STV Banska Bystrica - Slovakia  
(9'21)

A pleasant and funny reportage about sledge race in Turecka. It has all the important elements of a complete report for such a topic: varied camera angles, tight and balanced editing, short interviews with people. The film is dominated by a sense of optimism, adventure and well being for all participants: young, old and the not exactly highly-trained professional.



# **PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2004 MOST ORIGINAL PROGRAMME**

**WINNER** *SJOCH, DER LEIT WAT OP 'DYK' Omrop Fryslan, The Netherlands*

## **SPECIAL COMMENDATIONS**

*BOPPELACH 7E KLASSE A Omrop Fryslan, The Netherlands*

## **JUDGES**

Chairman	Istvan Hegedus	MTV Budapest	Hungary
	Nikos Vezirgiannis	ERT3 Thessaloniki	Greece
	Ove Mulvad	TV2/Fyn	Denmark
	Hans Snijder	Omrop Fryslan	The Netherlands

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The judges in the Most Original category decided we should focus first of all on creativity in editing, camerawork, the application of new television technologies and original ideas.

This category has no direct entry and the jury selected from the seven productions recommended by the chairmen of the other sections. We unanimously agreed that the best two entries were from the same television company.

We took into account the unusual ways of dealing with the story and how that story was expressed by the editor and cameraman.

It was pity that we saw just a few productions. But those we did see made us think and reflect long after the programme ended. We suggest that in the future most original became specially separated category.

The judges recommend that there should be direct entry into this category next year. We are confident that there are many programmes around Europe which would qualify and which have the quality which should be recognised.

**Istvan Hegedus, MTV Budapest – Chairman**



**PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL 2004  
MOST ORIGINAL  
TVP3 AWARD**

**WINNER**

**LOOK, THERE'S SOMETHING ON THE ROAD  
*SJOCH, DER LEIT WAT OP 'DYK'*  
Omrop Fryslan - The Netherlands  
(36'03)  
by Piter Tjeerdsma**

This is a film featuring a hat; a hat that ends up in places where it has never been before; a hat with thoughts, feelings and memories. The hat returns to the place it came from but hardly recognizes its old haunts.

In a way, this is also the story of the man who wrote the scenario: Feike Boschma. He is a 83-year-old puppeteer who creates theatre with puppets in a combination of dance and visual arts.

The film is an ode to making creative and artistic television. It is a film with grace and technical perfection. Its music, its camera work, its poetic editing makes the film into a wonderful experience to watch.

We consider this is without doubt the clear winner. It can be compared with nothing else and it focuses on a way of making and producing television which derives from the strength of imagination.

# **SPECIAL COMMENDATION**

**7 KLASSE A**  
***BOPPESLACH 7E KLASSE A***  
**Omrop Fryslan - The Netherlands**  
**(8'12)**  
**by Arjen de Boer and Simone Scheffer**

This programme follows a very (very, very) low grade amateur football team in a manner which would normally be used only for top teams. It is a special report about one of their games.

It is a vital match and both teams are keyed up for the big game. The referee is nervous – and well he might be. The game ends in injuries and chaos.

It is worthy of special commendation because of the talent of the reporter. He and his cameraman were there at the right time and in the right place. They also know how to make a special report with their material in a way you would not often see on television, regional or national.

Whether you like football or not; the viewer will be astonished at what happens on the football field as well as during the break.

Its originality is in the combination of the way the subject is approached and the development in the story

## **THANK YOU**

Circom Regional would like to pay particular thanks to those organisations and individuals who have contributed so much to making the Prix 2004 a success.

**EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**  
**Sponsors of the Current Affairs category**

**COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS**  
**Sponsors of the Cross-Border category**

**TVP3, Poland**  
**Sponsors of the Most Original category**

**FRANCE 3, France**  
**Sponsors of the Special Documentary award**

**SVT, Sweden**  
**Sponsors of the Documentary category**

**ERT3, Greece**  
**Sponsors of the Sport category**

**TG4, Ireland**  
**Hosts of the judging**

**TVP3 Wroclaw, Poland**  
**Hosts of the award ceremony**