

Circom Report

CIRCOM Regional News monthly • CR is the European Association of 380 Public Regional TV Stations in 38 countries • March 2002/No 29

By CR and the Thompson Foundation

Middle Management Seminar for CR members in Timisoara

From April 2 – 6

CIRCOM Regional is organising a middle management seminar for its member stations, to be held in the city of Timisoara, Romania, at the invitation of TVR and coordinated by The Thomson Foundation.

The dates: The seminar begins on the morning of Tuesday, 2 April, and ends on Saturday, 6 April. All participants are expected to arrive on Monday, 1 April, and depart on Sunday, 7 April.

The place: Timisoara, Romania. There are several flights a day from Bucharest to Timisoara, as well as from other European cities. Accommodation for all participants will be arranged by TVR at the Hotel Perla. (more info on page 8)

Judges announced

for the 2002

Prix CIRCOM Regional



A panel of experienced programme makers has been named for the judging of the Prix Circom Regional in Nuernberg next month.

The judges are: Jean-Marie Belin (France 3 Toulouse); Dippy Chaudhary (BBC Midlands); Sonia nic Giolla Easbuig (TG 4 Ireland); Jerzy Boj (TVP Gdansk); Barna Fabian (MTV Szeged); Christian Baudissin (BR Munich); Luuk Sijbring (RTV Noord); Vanda Condurache (RTV, hosts for the judging in 2003); Stergios Mittas (ERT 3); Per Eric Nordquist (SVT Orebro); Mojca Recek (RTV Slo); Mladen Santric (HRT); Jiri Stejskal (Czech TV), Daniel Parmentier (RTBF) and Peter Sauer (BR Nuernberg). David Lowen is chairman of the awards.

There has been a change to the name of one category: the Most Original Programme Award is re-named the France 3 Special award but it will still be given to the most deserving and original programme entered in the other categories.

The only new rule this year is that all programme entries must now be accompanied by a script in French or English. This script will stay with the programme in the Circom Regional archive in Zagreb to make sure details are always available in the future for any station who would like to transmit the programme.

CR workshop starts in Montenegro, March 17

The CIRCOM Regional South-East Europe workshop in Montenegro starts March 17. Trainees from Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia are participating. Out of the 28 persons, 27 are journalists and one is a cameraman. They will be joined by an experienced cameraman from B92 in Belgrade, a picture-editor also from Belgrade and Julian Minkov from Bulgaria as a cameraman-editor.

Some of the most advanced TV news technology available will be in use. Rick Thompson, who is in charge, announced last week that "the British Embassy in Belgrade have agreed to contribute about 5,000 Euros to the project, thanks entirely to Ljiljana Breberina's persistence and persuasion".

More seminars are to be conducted at the Novisad School of Journalism, on behalf of Irex / ProMedia on March 26-27.

CR EYL programs on EbS schedule

The programs co-produced by CR members for the European Year of Languages have all been scheduled for broadcast by EbS (Europe by Satellite), as follows:

- ❖ March 20,21 and 23: "Alsacien – Elsasser" (France 3 Alsace), "The minority and the language" (TV Syd), "Language cross the border" (TV Syd), "German lessons – no thank you" (TV Syd), "The use of Slovene language in Italy" (RTV Slo).
- ❖ April 10, 11 and 13: "Migrapolis" (NRK), "Wide Horizons" (ERT3), "Bah. German" (RTV Noord).

US sports network ESPN in Europe

US Sports Network ESPN has launched its first branded network in Europe. ESPN Classic Sport showcases classic moments in sports and more importantly it signals the beginning of ESPN's expansion into Europe.

The new ESPN Classic Sport network will launch in France early 2002 and will be available in at least 2.5 million homes. Subsequent launches in other major European markets will follow over the next few years. The new network is 70% owned by ESPN (which is itself 80% owned by The Walt Disney Company) and 30% owned by Sports Capital Partners. TWI, the programming arm of IMG, is producing the channel and also has a stake in Sports Capital's US \$215 million investment fund.

The launch of a channel broadcasting archived material is

a cost-effective way of entering the market. However, the industry is already talking about the launch as a precursor to a live sports channel, which has so far been impeded by the massive price inflation in sports rights.

In the US, ESPN has six networks including ESPN, ESPN2, ESPN Classic, ESPNEWS, ESPN Extra and ESPN Today and operates 20 networks outside the US.

The new channel will cover a diverse range of sports from tennis action at Wimbledon to historic races in the Tour de France and boxing from the ESPN Big Fights Library.

ABC is looking for wild ideas

The ABC is now looking for a "crazy ideas person" to fill the shoes vacated by Jonathan Shier. So suggested ABC chairman Donald McDonald yesterday when he fronted the National Press Club to discuss his bruised organisation publicly for the first time since Mr Shier left it so spectacularly in November.

"I don't mind the description of crazy ideas person, if what that means is somebody who is able to inspire and excite the people who have to create the programs; not necessarily their crazy ideas, but somebody who is a lover of crazy ideas," he said.

Mr McDonald said yesterday the newly redesigned managing director's job was perfect for someone with more creativity than management experience. "In the future, the ABC's managing director should be able to focus more on the creative content parts of the corporation," he said, explaining that the newly created position of deputy managing director would absorb most of the day-to-day administrative work.

Mr McDonald said the ABC board was in "no hurry" to find a successor to Mr Shier, and would carefully consider a short-list when it was finalised.

Replay TV is a viewer's dream

ABC, CBS and NBC want the ReplayTV 4000 off the market and have taken its parent company SONICblue to court, contending that this slim silver box violates their copyrights by letting users share shows over the Internet. But the angst in network executive suites is really more about something else: ReplyTV devices allow viewers to watch what they want when they want and automatically bypass commercials. And that means mayhem for the networks' business model. Unlike its predecessors or its newest TiVo competitor, the RTV4000 is Internet-ready -- and SONICblue is already shipping them by the thousands. The RTV4000 can be programmed to skip all commercials by default. Or you can do it manually with the remote. Careful not to bypass actual programming, it zaps most, but not all, advertising segments. SONICblue also sells Go-Video dual-deck VCRs that will strip commercials from a tape that you dub. So there's a strategy here.

Lithuanian advertising market grows by 43%

The Lithuanian advertising market grew by 43 per cent to E154m last year, in terms of existing advertising rates. Experts said, however, the advertising market did not face a major boom last year and the above figures failed to reflect the actual amount of spending on advertising. According to the data provided by SIC Gallup Media, a market research company, the television advertising market saw the steepest growth last year, with the number of seconds of airtime devoted to commercials rising by 80 per cent to 4 million in 2001 year-on-year, while spending on TV advertising rose by 73 per cent to E104m. Juozas Macys, research director of the advertising agency Mediapool, said despite a rise in the volume of TV advertising measured in seconds of airtime, the amount of actual net revenues television received from advertising still remains to be seen. Radio stations in Lithuania broadcast 1.76 million seconds of advertising, up by 15.04 per cent versus the figure in 2000, but spending on radio advertising slumped by 2.65 percent to E3.8m.

Fifa bans TV replays

Screens will not be able to show goals or replays Fifa has banned replays on giant TV screens in stadiums during World Cup matches. Every stadium in use during the World Cup in Japan and Korea will have giant screens showing the match. But a Fifa committee in Zurich has banned the replaying of controversial incidents or goals.

The committee also rejected an idea to have officially sanctioned drinks breaks during matches. A Fifa statement said: "Giant screens may be used for showing live real-time pictures, but without replays of any scenes whatsoever."

The committee also scrapped a ruling that teams will have to submit a 35-name squad by 30 April. Now national sides will have to submit the names of a 23-player squad by 21 May.

CIRCOM Regional Faces & Smiles



Lefty Kongalides
President
(Greece)



Marija Nemcic
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(Croatia)



Marie-Paule Urban
Deputy General Secretary
(France)



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Pierre Couchard
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(Belgium)



Judit Klein
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David Lowen
Prix Circom Coordinator
(UK)



Valerie Yoyeux
Coproduction & EbS
Coordinator
(Munich)



Peter Kraewinkels
European Projects
Coordinator
(Brussels)

EKO 2002: The 3rd Int'l TV Festival in Ohrid



I. The Third International TV Festival 'ECO' is scheduled for June 2- 6, in Ohrid, FYRO Macedonia.

- The organizers of 'ECO 2002' are: The Macedonian Radio and Television, The Ministry of Environment and Space Plannin, The Ministry of Culture and the city of Ohrid, all in cooperation with CIRCOM Regional and Co.Pe.A.M.

- 'ECO' is to be held on a yearly basis in Ohrid, city under the protection of UNESCO as world treasury of natural and cultural rarity, commencing with the month of June, in the light of June 5 as the Day of the World dedicated to preservation of the environment.

- The Festival is to be governed by the Board of the Festival, The Executive Director of the Festival, Secretariat, International Jury, and other auxiliary bodies.

II. The aims and objectives of 'ECO' Festival:

- stimulation and fostering creation of TV programmes of all genres, directed to animation of the public towards attaining better care, protection and improvement of environmental issues and cultural heritage ;

- presentation of comparative programmes that encompass experiences with the aforementioned issues across the world ;

- improving and deepening of communication between people; developing of the so called 'cultural tourism', introducing to the world the cultural values inherited from ancient civilizations but, nonetheless, provoking awareness for their better protection, simultaneously making them available and usable sources for the generations to follow.

- within 'ECO', besides the TV Festival, numerous accompanying events will take place, such as screening of the best achievements in this field, conferences, symposiums, 'round tables', promotions of books, exhibitions, etc. i.e. manifestations having the same thematic slogan – ecology, culture and their protection.

III. Two categories of television programmes will compete within the festival 'ECO 2002':

1. Programmes dedicated on the protection of the environment;
2. Programm editions on protection and preservation of the cultural heritage;

The festival 'ECO 2002' is widely open to any public service

television organization that could participate with maximum of two programme editions, one of each category, with unlimited program duration and being produced in the last two years. The competition includes program editions of all genres (informative, documentary, scientific, educational, children, feature, entertainment, factual, current affairs, magazines, etc.).

- All programmes should be submitted on tapes - BETA, SP, PAL, dubbed or subtitled in English language. The entry package should also contain five copies of the text in the original language with translations in English, as well as advertising material, prospects, brochures or any other material aimed at highlighting the programmes, authors and producers.

- By registering the programme for 'ECO - 2002' Festival each TV station - participant renounces to the Macedonian Television its rights for programme/programmes broadcasting, thoroughly or partly, within a specialized programme entitled 'ECO – Vision', as well as for the opening and closing manifestations of the Festival. Each TV station will be responsible for the petit droits and the neighbouring rights of the authors and the other participants of the Festival.

- The International jury will institute five awards in money Prize, Medallions and Diplomas for: Grand-Prix for the best programme in general competition, as well as four special awards for the best directing, camera, script, editing (or something according to the jury's findings and estimations).

- Each TV station – participant at 'ECO-2002' accepts to deposit its programme/programmes at the UNESCO and Co.Pe.A.M. video libraries, as well as to renounce the material for its free of charge broadcasting in the member states for non-commercial purposes (if otherwise – to be underlined).

- Official languages of the Festival are to be Macedonian and English.

IV. All tapes with the entry programme / programmes, together with the remainder associated material (texts, photographs, etc.) should be delivered to the following address: Macedonian Radio and Television (for 'ECO' – 2002), Bul. Goce Delcev b.b.; 1000 Skopje, Republic Of Macedonia. Deadline: April 15

APPLICATION FORM

Original programme title _____

Programme title in English _____

Country of production _____

Producer _____

Address _____ Phone _____ Fax _____

Authors: _____ Duration _____

Screenplay-text: _____ Genre (encircle):

Reporter – journalist: _____ / informative / documentary /

Director _____ / educational / scientific /

Camera _____ / children / feature /

Editing _____ / light entertainment /

Other authors _____ / talkshow / magazine /

Brief summary - synopsis _____

Contact person for programme sale and exchange _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Application forms along with the tapes and other accompanying texts and material should be sent to: Macedonian Radio and Television – for 'ECO – 2002', **Bulevar Goce Delcev bb, 1000 Skopje, The Republic of Macedonia**, kindly return this form at the latest by 15 April 2002.

ENTRY FOR PARTICIPANTS

I hereby confirm my attendance at the 'ECO-2002' in Ohrid.

Name and Surname: _____

Country _____ TV station _____

Profession _____ Phone _____ Fax _____

Arrival in Ohrid _____ By plane, flight no. _____ hour _____

Date _____ By bus at _____

Arrival in Skopje _____ By train at Skopje _____

By my own transportation _____

Departure from Ohrid _____ By _____ at _____

from Skopje _____ By _____ at _____

I need transportation both from Skopje to Ohrid and from Ohrid to Skopje!
I would like to book single/double room at the "Metropol" Hotel for the following days _____ at the price of 100,00 DEM (single) or 140,00 DEM (double) per day. The price includes overnights and meals.

Note: Hotel 'Metropol' is located about 7 kilometers from the city of Ohrid and 15 kilometers from the airport, where transportation will be arranged.
Tel: +389. 46. 260660 / 260661 ; Fax number: +389.46. 31212 / 31548

Applications should be sent to: Macedonian Radio and Television – Int'l Relations Dept. – "for 'ECO – 2002' no later than May 15th 2002 Tel: 3892 111 575; Fax: 3892 225 212

The Zagreb CR EC Meeting in Pictures



Turkey shuts down Kurdish TV

Turkey's broadcasting watchdog has suspended broadcasts for one year by a local television station that played Kurdish-language music videos. The move comes despite a constitutional amendment to allow Kurdish broadcasts. Turkey altered its constitution in October to allow Kurdish-language television and radio broadcasts, part of a drive to meet European Union human rights standards, but it has yet to change the relevant laws. "Broadcasts by Gun TV have been stopped for 365 days for playing music pieces with Kurdish lyrics," Turkey's Radio and Television High Council (RTUK) said in a statement. "(Gun TV) was in violation of (laws) barring broadcasts that incite society to violence, terrorism and ethnic separatism and incur feelings of hatred in society," the watchdog said.

An RTUK spokeswoman said the watchdog expects Gun TV to file an appeal once lawmakers make Turkey's legal code conform with the constitutional changes, but said the ban could still stand. The EU has said Turkey must improve its human rights record, including expanding cultural and linguistic rights for its 12 million Kurds, if it is to begin membership talks with the bloc. Security forces have fought Kurdish separatists in a 17-year-long conflict that has claimed 30,000 lives, mainly civilians in the south-east.

Anti-terrorism Unit bags Journalists' phones

Reporters Sans Frontières is calling on France's Justice Minister to amend the Criminal Law Procedure rules following revelations that a French judge ordered the government's anti-terrorist unit to monitor the phone conversations of six journalists as part of an investigation into the activities of a militant separatist leader in Corsica.

The French daily "Le Monde" reported the French National Anti-Terrorist Service (DNAT) has been tapping the phones of Gamma reporter Jean-Pierre Rey, France 2 editor Michèle Fines, "Paris Match" reporter Delphine Byrka, Jean-Michel Verne of "France-Soir" and "Le Figaro" and freelance journalists Guy Benhamou and Roger Auque since 2000.

RSF says French courts continue to give priority to the principle of presumed innocence and the confidentiality of investigations, despite rulings by the European Court of Human Rights which tend to favour journalist's rights to seek out and freely publish information. As a result, journalists who have reported on matters of public interest, have been charged or convicted for defamation, says RSF.

Women journalists appearing less on evening news

A survey released by the Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communications at Arizona State University showed that during 2001, 29 percent of the correspondents on evening newscasts were women, down from 33 percent in 2000.

The study looked at evening newscasts from the big three networks and noted that more diversity can be found in the networks' newsmagazine programs. Sixteen percent of the on-air correspondents were minorities in 2001 year, up 1 percent from the year before.

"It's discouraging to see three years of backward movement for women and hardly any forward movement for minorities after such impressive double digits during the '90s," said Joe Foote, director of the Cronkite School.

EU tones down rules on financial journalists

Responding to pressure from many European journalism and media associations, the European Commission has amended a directive that could have punished financial journalists for reporting misleading information even inadvertently. The directive was crafted originally to control dissemination of false information under the guise of news, intended to manipulate the financial markets for private gain. But legitimate media organizations complained that the proposed regulations would have also punished professional journalists who made honest errors in the course of reporting financial news. The revised directive now distinguishes between journalists and involved market insiders who could have something to gain from circulating misinformation.

German ARD and ZDF ask entry in net rating system

ARD and ZDF, two German public broadcasters, are complaining about being excluded from the country's web audience rating system because they don't put advertisements on their websites. They say can't participate in the standard rating system because it only measures web audience ratings of advertising media. But as public broadcasters, ARD and ZDF are not allowed to put advertisement on their websites.

ZDF chairman Dieter Stolte said that it was essential to have just one national rating system in order to compare numbers. The broadcasters wrote a letter to rating association IVW saying that the strict division between advertising and ad-free online media contradicts the proven standards.

But while the German TV rating system is done by AGF, a joint association of major commercial and public broadcasters, the IVW was originally a print media association that extended its services to measure web ratings. Michael Schallmeyer pointed out in a reply to the letter that IVW is considering extending its services to non-advertising media, possibly by setting up a special company for web ratings.

Using the voice to steer the web

IBM, Motorola, and web-browser company Opera have drafted a proposal to combine voiceXML, which allows navigation of Web pages through the use of voice commands, with XHTML, a mark-up language used to create Web pages. The combination could allow users to access online travel websites through a cell phone with interactive voice response (IVR). Instead of typing in your departure and destination locations on the tiny keypad, you would speak your locations into the phone.

The system would then reply to your request simultaneously through speech and by showing the list on the browser of your phone. The goal of the standard is to help developers create mobile internet applications using voiceXML and XHTML standards, which are already familiar to them. IBM is not the only vendor pushing for voice standards. Cisco Systems, Microsoft and other tech companies are part of an organisation called SALT Forum, which is designed to standardise a new web language that allows mobile device users to access information online using voice input.

Second Digital DTH Platform in Greece

Stormy waters lie ahead as Greece's first satellite pay-TV platform Nova has greeted the launch of a second digital DTH platform with legal proceedings. As part of its lawsuit, Nova's parent company Netmed is also suing Alpha under Greek law for "unfair competitive practices".

Last October the second digital DTH platform, Alpha Digital Synthesis launched just under a year after the launch of Netmed. Alpha launched a bouquet of 15 channels from the Hot Bird position at 13 east, including two sports channels, a film channel, foreign niche channels and two porn channels. In December, Alpha had signed-up over 22,000 subscribers, a more than healthy early uptake in the relatively small Greek market.

The major attraction for new subscribers has been the exclusive sports programming that Alpha has promised viewers. Alpha has been successfully enticing subscribers by having concluded contracts with 25 Greek football clubs, including local giants Panathinaikos, AEK, PAOK and Panionios, for exclusive coverage of their home games. However, the Netmed group (owners of Nova), which has nearly 300,000 analogue terrestrial and over 80,000 digital satellite subscribers, is claiming that many of the football clubs that have purportedly signed up to Alpha have reneged on exclusive contracts already concluded with themselves. Netmed is also suing Alpha for "unfair competitive practices". In an open letter to its subscribers, last November, the

Netmed group claims that it had already signed exclusive broadcasting agreements with 10 of the 14 sides in the Greek Premier League. It has vowed to pursue the matter through the courts in order to secure, on behalf of its subscribers, the sports coverage to which, in Netmed's view, they are legally and contractually entitled.

Interim injunctions are being sought against eight Greek football clubs and the court's decision in now awaited in respect of six of these clubs while Netmed's action against the remaining two will be heard soon. The main legal proceedings are likely to be extremely lengthy and Alpha and the relevant football clubs have already stated that they will vigorously defend the actions.

CNN expands into Middle East

CNN is opening a bureau in Dubai and launching an Arabic-language website in an attempt to broaden its appeal in the Middle East. Chris Cramer, the president of CNN International News Networks, said: "I see CNNArabic.com as the biggest language venture since the CNN brand began. "It is in keeping with our strategy to reach more users in their own language." Part of the company's strategy of launching CNN-branded products in local markets, the move is partly an attempt to dispel the notion the broadcaster is a mouthpiece for American propaganda. The Dubai bureau is intended to complement four other CNN newsgathering operations in the region. These are located in Cairo, Jerusalem, Beirut and Baghdad. CNNArabic.com will compete with a number of local Arabic websites as well as those run by rival global news operations. CNN has hired Caroline Faraj, the managing editor of the Jordan Times and the former political editor of the Jordanian daily paper, Al Rai, to edit the website.

BBC1 looks for new Pop Idol

BBC1 controller Lorraine Heggessey has ordered producers to find the next Pop Idol. She wants the magical mix of talent search and viewer voting of the ITV1 show adapted to new areas in a bid to find the next TV sensation. Her demands come as the BBC find its traditional-style Saturday night entertainment, The Generation Game, pummelled in the ratings against Pop Idol, which is pulling in three times as many viewers for ITV1 with an audience of around 10m. But she has warned she does not want any mediocre copycat shows. Ms Heggessey said she did not want "a million pale imitations of Pop Idol", but rather new formats that could have the same impact as the ITV1 show, which reaches its climax with the final face-off between Will and Gareth on Saturday. In addition, Ms Heggessey said she was keen to see more proposals for family dramas such as I Was a Rat, which went out in the traditional Sunday teatime slot for BBC1 family-oriented viewing at the end of last year.

Journalist wins Top Serbian Post

Milica Lucic-Cavic of RFE/RL's South Slavic and Albanian Languages Service was elected president of the Independent Association of Journalists of Serbia (NUNS) in Belgrade on 9 February. She stressed that her first priority will be resolving the status of professional journalists there.

Italian TV channel devoted to Padre Pio

An Italian town dubbed the Roman Catholic Las Vegas has set up a television station devoted to Padre Pio, a monk credited with performing miracles who is expected to be canonised in the next few months. Capuchin friars at San Giovanni Rotondo launched Tele Padre Pio at the weekend in the first phase of a plan to beam the monk's face around the world. Initially the television channel's range will be limited to the region around San Giovanni Rotondo, in the heel of Italy, but the monks in charge of maintaining Padre Pio's pilgrimage site are confident of finding the E365,000 needed for a satellite deal. Internet users will be able to follow broadcasts from the satellite channel on a website www.teleradiopadrepio.it "When you have the courage to dream you also find the courage to dare. We are evaluating the cost and we hope to make it happen before the canonisation," Friar Francesco Colacelli said. Padre Pio's following is huge, and has continued growing since he died in 1968. Around 7m pilgrims from across the world trek to his hill town each year and the TV station is likely to swell that number.

Breaking web's language barriers

Researchers from the Netherlands, France, Italy, Portugal and the UK have published best practice guidelines for designing multilingual websites. Right now, more than 80 per cent of all websites are in English, but only 43 per cent of the world's web users are native English speakers. That number is expected to drop to 35 per cent by next year. BabelWeb, led by applied research company Eurescom, contains a series of guidelines for designing multilingual websites. The project developed a structure for construction of the sites, starting with a contents database, then the overall structure, and finally the presentation of the multilingual contents on the user's screen. The project also found that the use of translation databases to support translators and website managers could lead to savings of up to 20 per cent in some areas.

Festivals, workshops and more around Europe and the world

- March 17-24: CIRCOM Regional Journalism Workshop (Budva, Montenegro)
- March 21: European Day Against Racism – organised by the Education and Culture Directorate of the European Commission.
- March 21: Brussels. “Television Without Frontiers” conference about EU policy towards TV in the digital age, organised by the European Voice newspaper. www.european-voice.com/nofrontiers +322 540 9077
- March 21-22: Prague. TV 2002 conference, aimed largely at the commercial sector which is suffering from a decline in advertising revenues rosie.nottage@centaur.co.uk 020 7970 4746
- March 21-26: Venice Int’l TV Festival (Lido di Venezia, Venice, Italy). Email: mstren@aol.com
- April 8-9: Promax & BDA Europe (Seville, Spain) www.promax.tv www.bda.tv
- April 15: April issue of “CIRCOM Report”
- April 15-19: Mip TV (Cannes, France) www.reedmidemorg.com
- April 17-20: Prix CIRCOM jury meeting (Nuremberg)
- May 8-11: 9th Co.Pe.A.M. conference (Algiers)
- May 15: May issue of “CIRCOM Report”
- May 16-17: 4th Annual – TV Meets the Web Seminar (Royal Tropical Institute-Amsterdam)
- May 16-19: 2nd Public TV Broadcasters from the BSEC Member States (Kassandra Palace Hotel, Kypogigi, Halkidiki, Crece)
- May 25: Eurovision Song Contest (Tulin, Esthonia)
- May 27 – June 2: CIRCOM Regional annual conference (Kosice, Slovakia)
- June 3-8: Int’l Animated Film Festival (Annecy)
- June 11-15: Euromusica (ancient Olympia, Greece)
- June 13-14: Vienna. European Radio Forum to be held by the EBU. Contact Thomas Alexanderson at EBU. +41 22 717 2601
- June 15: Euromusica Gala (Greece)
- June 15: June issue of “CIRCOM Report”
- July 15: July issue of “CIRCOM Report”
- August 22-26: “Balkan TV Magazine” meeting (Greece)
- November: News Editors Seminar (Strasbourg)

Circom Report

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The “CIRCOM Report” is planned and edited in ERT3, Thessaloniki, Greece. Production and Design: **Eleni Masoura**. Phone (30310) 299611-610 fax (30310) 299655. E-mail: pr@ert3.gr

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

*Sony and Eutelsat are the official CIRCOM Regional sponsors



Middle management seminar

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The seminar is designed for a total of 18 participants, specifically for middle managers of member stations. The emphasis will be on addressing practical problems faced by managers in their daily work, in a structured but informal group environment. The aim of the seminar is to improve participants’ general managerial skills, and to discuss the managers’ own problems, with the ambition of suggesting ways they can be solved in the short term.

The daily sessions will include topics such as: Planning and crisis management; working to deadlines; solving problems and making decisions; effective communication; meetings and action plans; self-management; dealing with staff, fellow managers and senior managers; leadership and teamwork; managing resources and information; finance and operations; enhancing your organisation’s output; the search for excellence; improving your contribution to your organisation.

Participants will be asked to make short presentations of real problems, and groups will suggest ways to solve them. The wish is above all to be practical, and therefore everything is depending on active participation by “trainees”. Effective middle management is crucial to an organisation; it can be challenging and difficult at times, but it could be rewarding, exciting and enjoyable.

The trainers: The team of international trainers, with an extensive experience of television management, will be co-ordinated by The Thomson Foundation.

Gareth Price, Director of The Thomson Foundation, has long experience of television production, as producer and in several senior management positions, including that of Controller at BBC Wales. He also currently advises General Directors and broadcast managers world-wide.

Vanda Condurache, a senior manager at TVR Iasi, brings her own considerable personal and professional experience to the seminar.

Phil Davies, a member of staff of The Thomson Foundation, will lead the seminar. He has worked in radio and television production, and occupied management positions at the BBC, before moving to the Foundation some 10 years ago. He specialises in practical management training and consultancy.

Participants: 18 middle managers from member stations will be invited. The Thompson Foundation is looking for managers who are ambitious, dynamic, and energetic. Whether they are new to middle management, or already have experience, there are always new and better, more effective ways to manage. They want them to leave this seminar with ideas and plans to improve their own performance immediately.

Language: The seminar will be run in English. All participants should therefore be able to speak and understand English at a reasonable level, as their active contribution throughout the seminar is needed.

Costs: Participants will need to cover only their travel expenses to and from Timisoara. All other expenses, such as tuition, accommodation and meals will be paid for by the organisers.

Registration: As there is a strict limit on the number of places available, interested managers are kindly asked to send their registration form in good time. The deadline for applications is Friday, 15 March.

The registration form should be sent to: Phil Davies, The Thomson Foundation, with a copy to Elena Spanily, TVR Bucharest (by fax or email to the contacts given below).

The Thomson Foundation	TVR Bucharest
Phil Davies	Elena Spanily
Phone: +44 29 2035 3060	Phone: +40 1 230 7093
Fax: +44 29 2035 3061	Fax: +40 1 230 0381
Email: daviesjp@thomfound.co.uk	Email: elena.spanily@tvr.ro

