

Circom Report

CIRCOM Regional Newsmothly - CR is the European Association of 380 Public Regional TV Stations - February 2000 / Issue 5

CR EC meeting in Brussels

The CIRCOM Regional Executive Committee members will meet in Brussels, February 21, at 14.30. All project leaders for the Potsdam conference, the Prix Circom Regional, Training and Euromusica are also expected to join the meeting, which will be held at Tele Brussels premises,

located close to the Atomium.

On February 22 a reception and presentation of CR for the representatives of the European institutions will take place at the EBU Office in Brussels. All members of the EC and participants of the EC meeting on Feb. 21 are invited to the event.

Regional Television on the way to a digital society

"Regional Television on the way to a digital society" will be the topic of the keynote speaker professor Dr. Albert Scharf, President of EBU, at the opening of the 18th annual CIRCOM Regional conference to be held in Potsdam, Germany, May 30-June 2. This session will be followed by "The digital future", with experts from Europe & USA giving their views on the topic, on May 30. Opening day's workshops up to this moment, include such key issues as "New technologies networking", "Nonlinear Broadcasting Systems", "The digitalised Internet", "Experiencing Digital Techniques". For more detailed and updated information about the workshops those interested should see CR homepage as of April 2000: www.circom-regio.si



Judges will review best CR programs in Klagenfurt

More than 40.000 euros will be awarded to Europe's best regional television programs participating in the Prix Circom Regional 2000. This year's awards are worth more than ever before and will attract a large entry from all over Europe. Five winners will get a cash award and a bronze trophy and two other winners will get trophies.

The categories are:

- News: Grand Prix of Circom Regional 9,000 euros
- Documentary: Grand Prix of Circom Regional 9,000 euros
- Cross-border: Sponsor: EC Regions Directorate 8,500 euros
- Europe Matters: Sponsor: European Parliament 6,500 euros
- New Technology: Sponsor: ISPO 6,500 euros
- Most Original: Sponsor: France 3 trophy only
- Contribution to Democratic Journalism Training: Sponsor: BBC World Service Training Trust trophy only

The judging will take place in Klagenfurt, Austria. It is expected that

judges will arrive on the afternoon of Wednesday 5 April, when there will be a full briefing. Judging will take place all day (0900-1800) on Thursday 6, Friday 7 and Saturday 8. Sunday will be a free day - provided the task is complete. Members of the judging panel are: Kathy Nelson (BBC Midlands), Jerzy Boj (TVP Gdansk), Zoran Medved (RTV Slovenia, Maribor), Svein Prestnik (NRK Nord-Trondelag), Eelco van der Kerkof (RTV Oost), Eva Zombori (MTV Szeged), Per Eric Nordquist (SVT Karlstad), Christel Hinrichsen (BRF Munich), Olivier Brumelot (France 3 Nord), Alfred Dickerman (ORF Klagenfurt), Miodrag Ilic (RTS Novi Sad), Jürgen Hassel (WDR Köln), Branko Lentic (HRT Zagreb), Canter Bax (ERT3 Thessaloniki)

May 30-June 2 The 18th annual CR conference in Potsdam

The 18th annual CIRCOM Regional conference which will be held in Potsdam, Germany, May 30-June 2, starts with the Executive Committee Meeting on May 27. The next day is the summit of CR's European Board. From May 20 till the end of the conference the training seminar for young journalists and producers will take place in the premises of the Ostdeutsche Sparkassen Akademie, site of the conference. The full program is on page 2, changes that might occur will be on CR's homepage as of April 1: www.circom-regio.si.

Location: Ostdeutsche Sparkassen Akademie (OSA) Am Luftschiffhafen 1 D-14471 Potsdam
Tel.: 0049-331-907-8034 Main
Conference: Tuesday, May 30, Friday, June 2, 2000
CR's Executive Committee: May 27, 2000
CR's European Board: May 28, 2000
Training Seminar: May 20, - June 3, 2000
Tuesday, May 30, 2000

REGIONAL TELEVISION ON THE WAY TO A DIGITAL SOCIETY

09.30-10.15 Opening Ceremony
Musical introduction/
Adresses

Plenary:

10.15-11.15 Regional Television on the Way to a Digital Society
Opening: Prof. Dr. Albert Scharf (President EBU)

11.15-11.30 Coffee Break

Plenary:

11.30-12.30 The Digital Future (with experts from Europe & USA).

12.30-14.00 Lunch (Conference Restaurant)

Tuesday, May 30, 2000

WORKSHOPS*

The schedule of the panels and meetings

Wednesday, May 31, 2000
LIFELONG QUALIFICATION
TRAINING TODAY AND TOMORROW

Plenary:

09.30-11.15 Training Today and Tomorrow:
Hearing with Experts from International Companies and Media Organisations.

11.15-11.30 - Coffee Break -

11.30-12.30 Training Programmes of European TV-Organisations and Journalist-Schools (Methods and Aims).

12.30-14.00 Lunch (Conference Restaurant) -

Wednesday, May 31, 2000
WORKSHOPS*:

Thursday, June 1, 2000

SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE THE QUEST FOR DEMOCRATIC MEDIA

Plenary:

09.30-11.15 Today's Media Landscapes in South-Eastern Europe: Reports from the States of the Region.

11.15-11.30 Coffee Break

11.30-12.30 CIRCOM regional: Independent Partnership Project TV-South-Eastern-Europe.

12.30-14.00 Lunch (Conference Restaurant)

14.00-15.00 Media and Corruption in Southeastern Europe.

Thursday, June 1, 2000

WORKSHOPS*:

14.00-17.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . New Technologies Networking. . Nonlinear Broadcasting Systems. . Experiencing Digital Techniques. . The Digitalised Internet. . ARD-Digital - Demonstration. . New Programme Elements and Structures by Using Digital . Social Implications of New Technologies. . Programme Cooperation I: The Future Concept (General Debate). . Programme Cooperation II: „ Europe by Satellite". . Programme Cooperation III: How to get money out of European Institutions. . Public Broadcasting - Private Broadcasting: Guesses on the Future. . Television in Responsibility for the Region (Regional Identity). 	14.00-17.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Training Concepts of International Companies (Methods and . Training Concepts of European TV-Organisations. . Training Concepts of European Schools of Business. . CIRCUM regional's Training Seminars (Trainees and Participants in Discussion). . Strategies for Staff Development . Technologies in Journalists Hands. . Electronic Reporting. . Training Traumas with New Technologies. . How to get Audiences, hold them and grow them. . Programme Cooperation IV: How CR's Homepage can help. . Programme Cooperation V: Traditional Projects. . How to develop a Corporate Identity for CIRCUM. . Prix CIRCUM Regional: The Winners. . Committee of Regions: Presentation. 	15.00-17.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Media Activities of the European Commission and the Stability Pact. . Media Activities of CIRCUM regional. . CIRCUM regional's Independent Partnership-Project Southeastern Europe Television". . Relations between Political Authorities and Regional TV-Stations in Southeastern Europe. . Demands of regional TV - Stations in Southeastern Europe: Programming, Personal, Technic. . „Neighbour in need". A Radio-Partnership-Project of ORF/ Austria. . Code of Ethics for TV-journalists. . „Dialogue on Europe": Presentation and Discussion of a new Project of the European Commission. . Programme cooperation VI: New Projects.
15.30-16.00	- Coffee Break -	15.30-16.00	Coffee Break	15.45-16.00	Coffee Break
17.30-18.30	Happy Hour (Foyer of conference center) -	17.30-18.30	Happy Hour (Foyer of the conference center) -	17.30-18.30	Happy Hour (Foyer of the conference center) -
17.30-17.45	Today and Tomorrow (a daily conference TV-news-programme)	17.30-17.45	Today and Tomorrow (a daily conference TV-news-programme)	17.30-17.45	Today and Tomorrow (a daily conference TV-news - programme)
19.00	PRIX CIRCUM REGIONAL (Pricegiving) & Dinner Buffet	19.00	Dinner Buffet	19.00	Shipping Tour on the River Havel with Dinner Buffet on Board.

* For more detailed information about the workshops please see our homepage as of April 1st 2000: www.circum-regio.si.

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Friday, June 2, 2000

**FINAL PLENARY
&
BERLIN VISIT**

Plenary:

09.30-10.30	Final Session.
10.30-11.30	Trip to Berlin.
11.30-16.30	Visiting Programme (organised) including shipping tour through the center of Berlin.
16.30	Time for Individual Berlin Sight-Seeing Tour.
22.00 / 23.00 / 24.00	Returns to Potsdam.

Saturday, June 3, 2000

Day of Departure.

Educational seminar on "Production management" for Balkan TV stations

In Iasi, Romania, April 10-16

"Production Management" is the main theme of a seminar organized by the Thomson Foundation (UK), and Romania's TVR, in Iasi, Romania, April 10-16. The Thomson Foundation provides practical, intensive training both in the UK and abroad, along with a wide range of consultancies, to journalists, managers, technicians and production staff in television, radio and the press. The Thomson Foundation was established by Lord Thomson of Fleet in 1962. Today it is internationally recognized as a leading independent provider of practical training without political, ideological or

The seminar will run from Monday, April 10-14, daily from 9.30 to 16.30, with a break for lunch. Saturday (April 15) and Sunday (April 16), a trip is scheduled to the monasteries of Northern Moldavia. Participants are expected to arrive in Iasi on Sunday (April 9), and depart on Monday (17). There are flights from Bucharest to Iasi three times a week. The seminar is aimed at managers and senior producers in different areas of television.

Topics to be discussed are:

- General principles of current broadcast management. § Public service: challenges of competition, attracting audiences, earning income, operations.
- Broadcast management: commissioning of programs, running a new service etc.
- Flexibility in the organization (human resources, contracts, etc.).
- Leadership, delegation, team building, responsibilities.
- Objective recruitment, training and development.
- Broadcast ethics and values.
- Regulation by law and by the rules of the organization. The audience; relationship with, assessing needs, audience research, quality and quantity of audience and programs. Minority interests of all kinds.

The working language will be English. The Romanian Television will cover the costs for meals and accommodation for one representative of each Balkan station. The participants are expected to cover their travel expenses to Iasi (via Bucharest).

**Balkan TV Sports enhanced by
meeting
in Iasi, Romania**



TVR, the Romanian Television, is organizing the 3rd meeting of the "Balcan TV Sports Magazine" in Iasi, April 17. The meeting, whose aim is establishing new and concrete ways of cooperation between the Balcan public TV stations sports departments, is open for Turkey, Moldova, Bulgaria, Serbia, FYRO Macedonia, Albania, Greece and Romania. Romanian Television will cover the cost of accommodation and meals for one representative of each Balcan station, April 14-18 (four nights). Participants are expected to book their flight tickets to Iasi, via Bucharest. There are flights from Bucharest to Iasi three times a week. The schedule of the participants stay includes visit to the historical monasteries of Northern Moldavia and a night's stay in the city of Sucevita.

The Balticum Film and TV Festival

A special grant of 350,000 DKK. (approx. 50,000 USD) from the State Lottery and Football Pool Funds meant a last minute rescue for the 11th Balticum Film & TV Festival. Thus, the preconditions are in place to once again gather film professionals from all over Europe for a week long film outing at the small Bornholmian village of Gudhjem. The time for the festival (3-9 June) has since long been decided. However, problems with collecting the budgeted 1,6 million DKK (230,000 USD) needed for the event made it necessary for the organizers-The Baltic Media Center and The Danish Film Institute-to apply for complementary funding from the Danish Ministry of Culture. On February 3 the Ministry decided to allocate funding from their share of the State Lottery and Football Pool Funds. The Danish Film Institute cover 440,000 DKK, whereas the rest of the budget is covered by the Baltic Media Center and a range of external sponsors. The late decision on the grant means that the organizers are now in a hurry in order to put together a program matching previous years high standard.

The highlights will be:

- The Balticum competition for documentaries from all nine Baltic Sea countries.
- European Film School Competition. Meet some of the most talented young directors from all over Europe and see examples of their ideas on films for the future.
- Seminars with outstanding European professionals.
- Feature films and children's film in Ronne Cinema.

But besides these well-known features, new elements will also be introduced. For instance, it is planned to present a special program on films and film producers from the Balkans in order to promote co-operation between this severely tried corner of Europe with the Baltic region. More information will be published continuously on the website -www.bmc.dk- or can be obtained by contacting Festival Co-ordinator Cindy Jorgensen or Kim Caspersen, Head of Information, on phone: +45 7023 0024.

A special report for the European Union's associated partner

Hungary-especially when compared to its Southern and Eastern neighbors-seems a fairly western-type country that is mature enough to join the European Union. However, living here and seeing the situation from inside, one can easily recognize more than one detrimental effect of both the heritage of the previous political regimes and the political struggles that have characterized the period since the most recent change of the regime. The concept of regionalism does not go back to a very long history in Hungary. Neither the public political thinking, nor the mentality of the everyday people acknowledges the role that regions play in the organization and promotion of economy and culture. The main reason is that during the 20th century, Hungary has increasingly become an over-

competencies and has been acting, and continues to act, rather selfishly when distributing development resources. As a result, there has been a growing gap between capital and country, while some of the regions also lag behind other regions. Today, the concept of regionalism is one of the core issues within the European Union. This is where Hungary-already as an associated partner, but even more so as a member state-can expect the most support from the Union. Such support would indeed be necessary, even though there is still much to do in the spheres of public thinking and policymaking before the concept of balanced regional development takes root. In this article, we will concentrate on one aspect of this situation, namely the unsatisfactory standard of regional television

centralized, Budapest-centered country. The national capital has drawn to itself most decision-making

making in Hungary.

Hungary, like all other former communist countries, had to face the change of the regime with a single centralized television organization. Television played quite a significant role in the communication of the change of the political system. At the end of the 1980's, the national television, which was still controlled by the declining single-party political system, afforded a forum for open public political debate. Leading journalists openly promoted the idea that the political system should be changed. This was the situation until the issue in focus was the opposition between the old system and the new system. When the various political forces that were initially united in their efforts to make the change of the regime happen split up and defined themselves independently and against one another, and especially when the first public election was held, an immense race started for the control of the most efficient of all forms of media, the television. It seemed to be obvious from the political experience of the change of the regime that controlling the television means an almost unlimited opportunity to influence public opinion. For the first freely elected government, it took almost a whole four-year term to subdue the then one-and-only television, the national, that is, state-owned television. This, however, turned out to be more of a harm than any help for the ruling government. Within the organization of the Hungarian Television, pro-government journalists held the important positions in news programs and political shows. However, because of their lack of practical experience and talent, the government's tricks defeated their purpose; during the 1994 election

The fight over Media control in Hungary

that the approved act was based on the bargaining of the political parties became its most significant defect. The supervision of the public service television totally became a helpless toy at the hands of the various political powers, while professional, cultural, religious, and minority organizations could not really play a significant role in any of the supervisory bodies of the television. The text of the act also contained a hidden door that allowed the governing parties at all times to exert an even greater influence on the operation of the television through the appointment of its officials and through the approval of its budget. The Hungarian public service television has worked, and, to a certain extent, still works as a semi-commercial television. Until the commercial television companies were established, the public service television held a monopolistic position in the market of the most efficient and therefore most expensive television advertisements. The earlier professional and moral

sudden, television became dominated by relatively cheap talk shows. A barely hidden process of privatization and first capital accumulation also started within the state-owned television. Private production companies were established one after the other. These production companies were managed by program makers who stayed in the full-time employment of the state television and continued to pick up their salaries without doing any actual work, while they also received extremely high bonuses from the production companies that, ironically, used the technical equipment and facilities of the state-owned television instead of their own equipment. This drained the budget of the national television significantly. As a result, although advertisement related revenues were still very high at the time, the state television accumulated such an increasingly high deficit that the government, or, to be more accurate, the ruling coalition refused to consolidate it. This

campaign, the governing parties' campaign was so negative and underhand that it made the opposition more and more popular and contributed significantly to the overwhelming victory of the socialists and the free democrats. The coalition that came into power in 1994 tried to learn from the lessons of the previous four years. The governing parties considered it important to draw up an act to regulate the operation of the television and the radio. Already the first media act, which was adopted in 1995, stipulated that Hungary's electronic broadcasting should be split into public service and commercial channels. The acceptance of the media act was quite a slow and painful process, because all the parliamentary parties wanted to make sure that the act they accept guarantees them their due share from the pie of media control. Eventually, the very fact

values within television making were uprooted partly because of this semi-commercial situation, partly because of the general uncertainty of the transition period. As a rule, only those television shows survived that succeeded in finding sponsors. The number one criterion of advertisers and sponsors was, of course, good viewer statistics, which meant that television program makers were forced to continuously and gradually lower their professional standards. There was no more money for drama making, no more money for children and youth no more money for animations, because these were relatively costly. All of a ows, and

gave the governing parties an opportunity to apply constant political pressure to the leaders of the state-owned television through budgetary control. The struggles over the establishment of the commercial televisions is just another telling aspect of the political fight between the Hungarian Socialist Party and the liberalist Alliance of Free Democrats, the two parties of the ruling coalition between bids were submitted for the two available commercial frequencies. Two of the bidders seemed to be either neutral or slightly leaning towards the socialists, while the third bid den 1994 and 1998. Three bids

The fight over Media control in Hungary

were submitted for the two available commercial frequencies. Two of the bidders seemed to be either neutral or slightly leaning towards the socialists, while the third bidder was a consortium obviously controlled by managers closely related to the free democrats. The socialists learned a lesson from the example of the Czech Nova TV (Nova TV was operated by the same companies that, in cooperation with Irisz TV, a company closely associated with the free democrats, also submitted a bid in Hungary) and wanted to push their coalition partners out of direct media



control. Using their political leverage, they awarded the tender to the other two companies—a decision that was easy to challenge from a legal aspect. The decision was followed by a series of lawsuits. After two years, the legal status of the two winning commercial television channels is still uncertain. In 1998, the socialist-liberal coalition was replaced by a right-wing coalition. As soon as these political sources took their newly acquired government positions, they were eager to declare their best intentions "to establish the balance of the media". In the electronic media, this meant that they would make full use of their controlling opportunities, which included both the means approved by the media act and the position of power they enjoyed because of the financial dependence of the severely indebted public service television. They also appointed a loyal board of trustees to head the public service television. Again, the appointments were easy to challenge legally, because the board of trustees was dominated by a management closely aligning itself with the government's guidelines. At the same time, about 1,000 television employees were laid off. Since television channels were at the mercy of the political forces, the second most important consideration in their programming was the introduction of political programs, the number one target being making money by any means. Both the public service television and its

commercial counterparts soon came to the right conclusions. In addition to a mass of soap operas, game shows, and low quality entertainment, they introduced a multitude of news programs and other panel discussion type shows allowing politicians to speak in public. Today, Hungary's national political struggles focus on a number of scandals in high politics; these scandals are mostly blown out of proportion, and their media coverage is partly intended to entertain, and not only to provide information. As a result, the events and trends of the world outside Budapest is severely underrepresented in both the public service television and the commercial televisions; there is by far not enough space provided for the promotion of the European thought or for the presentation of program makers' creative talents or cooperations. This is very well reflected in the miserable situation of regional television making in Hungary. Although there are six regional television studios in the country, their ownership is still a controversial issue; only two are clearly owned by the public service television. It is even a greater problem that they have a very limited amount of allocated program hours, and most of those hours are only broadcast within the region. In other words, very few programs are made about any given region, by far not enough to establish any regional cohesion. On the other hand, there is no possibility to present any region's values

the outside world or towards the other regions; there is no opportunity to form a regional image; there is hardly any forum that would allow the exchange of ideas that have proven to work. A further concern is that there seems to be no solution for the problems of regional television making. Political attention continues to focus on designing ever new ways to involve the media in the struggles of high politics, preferably without spending too much of the national budget. The political representations and the self-assertive mechanisms of the various regions are poorly developed; much more expressed is the desire of a number of settlements to become independent, to engage in rivalry in their dealings with the "center" or with the various ministries, and to lobby. This means that there is only a very little chance that regional studios could grow any stronger from local resources. The process forms a vicious circle. The weaker the concept of regionalism, the slower the development of regional television making. This means that there is no medium through which to promote regional thinking. The final result is that, despite all the declared efforts, Hungary, contrary to its very interests, is not getting any closer to Europe in terms of regionalism; in fact, it is drifting further and further away from models functioning successfully in more developed countries.

ISTNAN TANACS

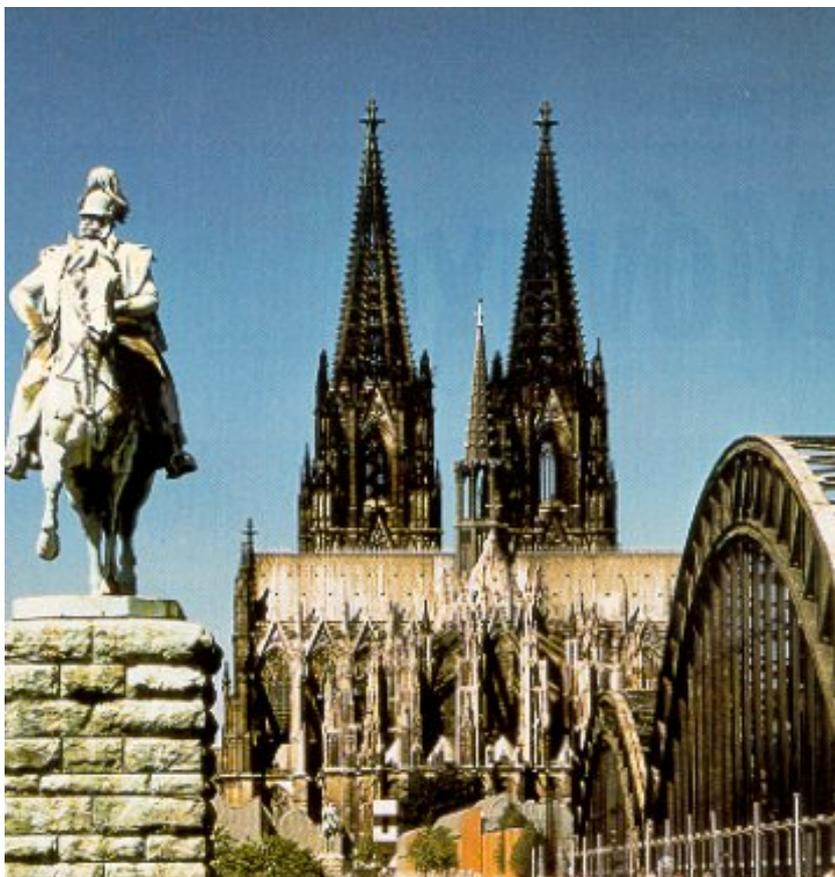
The "Information Center Europe" is an institution of the City of Cologne and Regio Rheinland (a cooperation of different companies and institutions of this region), funded by the European Commission in Germany. Not being a commercial institution, the "Information Center Europe" uses films and other materials exclusively for the purpose of documentation and classes.

Tasks of the "Information Center Europe"

They would like to present each region in their Center by means of films, brochures, books and lectures. They plan to inform the citizens about selected topics of the above mentioned region by TV-features. These features should help them to discover and discuss common ground and make them think about how to resolve problems of their own region. The Information Center is interested in video-films about the following subjects: - Unemployment and strategies for creating new jobs - Examples for new types of jobs in the realm of service and information - Examples for the application of new media (internet etc.) in the educational sector or the public health system - Research and development of new technologies - Types of caring for aged people, for example medical care, insurances, new models of dwellings for the old, integration of the aged into society - Preventive medicine, health insurances in general - Drug policy, different models of fighting drug abuse and delinquency - Types of non-profit, charitable work in society - Examples of interesting projects in the field of education - Etc The TV-features dealing with the above mentioned subjects should, for technical reasons, have been

On one hand the "Information Center Europe" aims to provide openness on the topics of European politics to the citizens and to grant an access to these themes. On the other hand, the "Information Center Europe" gives information about selected regions in Europe to support the development of a "European consciousness". Last but not least the "Information Center Europe" has the task of building up a network of and for "European protagonists" in the region of the Rhine.

The Information Center Europe supports the development of a European consciousness



Cologne

German, Dr. Mustafa Danesch, representative of the ICE in Cologne/Germany says. I would be very grateful if you could provide the necessary material about your region and thus support the European integration. Even if financed by the European Commission, our means are modest. That is why we are only able to pay the costs for the

and would be very glad if you could support us in the above mentioned way, as many other European regions already do. If possible, I would like to meet you personally to discuss the project in detail and to select the films. I could travel to your country in order to select the most interesting films and to copy them, so that I can take these tapes back to

already broadcast. "We would then translate the texts and provide for the recording in

material, for example videocassettes of shipment. I hope you understand this. I am looking forward to your answer by phone or fax (Germany / 0049 221 519 787)

Germany with me. During my stay in your country we will also have sufficient time to discuss the future cooperation between our respective institutions".



Romania's TVR Timisoara: international awards certify value of station's production

TVR Timisoara and Videovest Association organized successfully the third local and regional Festival in Roumania "Televest 99". Brindusa Armanca, Director of TVR Timisoara and Francois Benoit, Director of the French Cultural Center proposed to this writer to introduce the activities of CIRCOM Regional and France 3 Alsace in the workshop: "Local and Regional Television t in Roumania: luxus or necessity? with the participation of: Mr. Gareth Price, Director Thomson Foundation, UK, Mr. Wolfgang Breuer, SWR Studio, Karlsruhe, Germany, Mrs. Monica Zvirjinschi, Director of the International TVR and Mr. Cristian Hadji Culea, President of TVR and the Directors and supervisors of the regional TV stations: Cluj-Napoca, Iasi, Craiodva, Timisoara.

Around Europe Festivals, Workshops and More

February

16-19 : RAB 2000 Radio Sales & Marketing Conference (Denver, Colorado).

16-18: Real Screen Summit (Washington).

16-28: 2nd International Exhibition Cable & Satellite Russia (Moscow).

17-23: 40th Monte Carlo Television Festival (Monte Carlo).

19-22: 108th ACS Convention (Palais des Congres, Paris).

20-23: 22nd Monte Carlo Television Market (Monte Carlo).

21-22: CIRCOM Regional Executive Committee Meeting (Brussels).

26 February -1 March: San Remo Song Festival (San Remo, Italy).

28-29: New Media Sports (London).

28-29: Public Service Broadcasting. The digital and online challenge (London).

March

2-4: Small Screen Big Picture TV Conference (Perth).

6-7: Sports Broadcasting Rights 2000 (The Hatton, London).

10-19: Cinema du Reel (Paris, France).

20-21: Promax & BDA Europe (Berlin).

20-23: Sportel America (Miami).

27 March-2 April: 2nd International Documentary Festival (Thessaloniki).

April

8-9: Mipdoc (Cannes). 10-14: MipTV (Cannes).

25-29: COPEAM Conference (Casablanca).

May

26: Elizabeth Taylor: a musical celebration (Royal Albert Hall, London).

29 May-June 3: CIRCOM Regional Conference (Potsdam).

JUNE

28 June-2 July: Atlantic Television Festival-MAT 2000 (Sao Miguel, Azores).

September

4-8: Le Rendez-Vous 2000. French TV Screenings (Saint-Tropez).

Circom Report

The "CIRCUM Report" is the new monthly publication of CIRCUM Regional, the European Association of Public Regional TV Stations - available on the CR Internet site and coming to CR member stations and personnel either through E-mail or as an A-4 size printed newsletter, through the CR General Secretariat from Ljubljana.

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Editor is Lefty Kongalides, member of the CR Executive Committee (Thessaloniki). The "CIRCUM Report" is planned and edited in ERT 3, Thessaloniki, Greece. Phone (3031) 299611-610 fax (3031) 299 655. E-mail : ert3pl@compulink.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.

TVR Timisoara started broadcasting its first programs in 1994, after TVR Iasi and TVR Cluj. It is the regional studio of the Romanian public television for the western part of the country. The reports of the studio cover events in Timis, Arad, Caras-Severin and Hunedoara counties. TVR Timisoara broadcasts exclusive 7 hours weekly programs on the public Channels 1 and 2. It also provides news, reports, TV films for the main TVR programs. TVR Timisoara is a CIRCUM Regional member since 1995. In 1999, they participated at the CTF co-production "50...et un monde" and made a portrait (26') of this series as well as loan Muslea, Director of TVR Cluj-Napoca, winner of Televest 99. Their national and international awards certify the value of their production: APTR Awards in 1996, 1997 and 1999, The great Award Mediafest in 1997, The Great Award

and the Trophy "Televest 98", Special award at CIRCUM Regional 1998, six prizes at the National Festival Televest 99 and many other TV programs nominated at the national and international festivals. Today TVR Timisoara wishes to develop a modern regional studio and broadcast the regional programs on their own station. TVR Timisoara has concluded collaborative protocols across the borders with Yugoslavian and Hungarian studios for training, experiences exchanges, coproduction, mutual acquaintance and support. Today, TVR Timisoara requested the licence for the regional broadcast which would allow to cover the ancient country side territories from Banat, which are located in Hongria and Serbia, le Czongrad et la Voivodine. TVR Timisoara collaborates already with the TV from Czongrad (city of Szeged).
MARIE-PAULE URBAN

Whispers

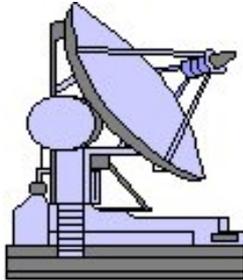
Rick Thompson was in Kiruna, in the Swedish Arctic Circle, with average temperature minus 20 degrees...Klagenfurt, the capital of Carinthia, is a town of 100.000 inhabitants and most famous for its quality of lifestyle with the surrounding lakes and mountains. The ORF regional station serves a region of 200.000 potential viewers with an 80% market share and a daily produced 30-minute news program...CNN Turk is available to more than seven million households in Turkish speaking regions and countries with large Turkish

Eve, using digital technology to erase the logo of rival network NBC. CBS's live millennium broadcast from Times Square in New York showed its main presenter, Dan Rather, standing in front of a large billboard flashing his network's symbol to millions of viewers. But anyone actually in the square that night would have seen that the billboard actually carried the NBC logo...**Canadian TV**

country's Caracol radio network. He must have told at least 10.000 jokes...**NATO** showed videos of the bombing of a passenger train on a bridge in Yugoslavia last spring at three times the normal speed, bolstering the impression that the fatal attack, in Grdelicka, was unavoidable, German newspaper Frankfurter Rundschau said...**Hollywood** studio MGM has teamed up with video rental chain Blockbuster to allow customers, by the end of 2000, to

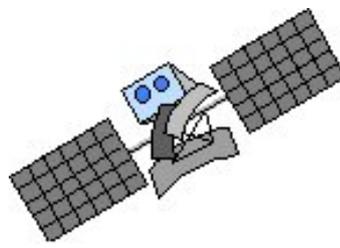
communities. The 24-hour news station is staffed by 80 news professionals, with studios in Istanbul and Ankara...

The BBC plans to have the Lockerbie bombing trial televised, despite a ruling refusing the corporation permission to film inside the court. Two Libyan men are accused for the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 from Heathrow to New York, which blew up in the skies over the Scottish town of Lockerbie in 1988, killing all 269 people on board and 11 on the ground... In an effort to keep the national language pure, Malaysia's state run television & radio will no longer allow programs that mix English or other foreign words with Malay... **Turner**



Broadcasting's TNT & Cartoon Network have been barred from broadcasting in China. The ban took effect last month...

A US firm has acquired a stake in Russian's top commercial television station NTV and the smaller TNT station... One of America's main television networks, CBS, has come in for a storm of criticism after it was revealed that the company tampered with news footage broadcast on New Year's



network CTV fired a news anchor woman for comments considered offensive to the disabled and minority groups made without realizing she was on air...

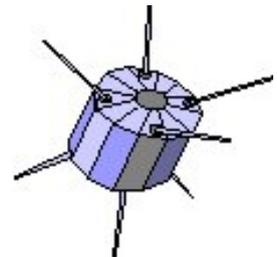
Eutelsat research reveals the number of households in Europe, Middle East & Africa watching satellite TV are up from 95 million in 1998 to 107 million (66.4 million via cable). Eutelsat's Hot Bird satellites at 13 degrees E gained 10 million with a total of 81.1 million homes... Next June CNN will celebrate its 20th birthday... RTP Azores is preparing the Atlantic Television Festival 2000 which will be held on the island of Sao Miguel (Azores), June 28-July 2...

Britain announced tighter controls on the export of television equipment to Yugoslavia to prevent state-run television using it in support of President Slobodan Milosevic. Equipment includes TV cameras, transmitters and satellite earth stations... **A Balkan** TV station that will broadcast to the SE European countries is to be installed in Thessaloniki by a group of American-Canadian investors... Steve Smith, a British sports journalist has been reprimanded for making racist comments during a televised commentary on last year's Rugby

download its films from the Internet...

Andrei Babitsky, a veteran reporter for the US-funded Radio Liberty was exchanged by Chechen guerrillas for three Russian servicemen... **King** Abdullah of Jordan has said the Jordanese government will grant licenses to private radio and television stations from next year... **Women** journalists in Egypt are struggling for representation in a country where the political and media establishments remain almost entirely male dominated...

CBS finalized a \$20 million deal for a US version for the sought-after



Dutch import "Big Brother"-a pact likely to take advantage of the network's new synergies with Viacom-owned cable properties. This entertainment reality series lets viewers watch what happens when strangers thrown together in a house and monitored continuously by cameras...

World Cup. He had offensively referred to a French player as a "stroppy little frog"...



Jose Ordonez, a Colombian TV and radio personality, seeking to raise funds for a local charity, told 62 consecutive hours of jokes in a live broadcast over the

