

Secretary General Annual Report 2018

*Yearly report submitted by Fernando R. Ojea, Secretary General.
This report describes the operations of CIRCOM Regional during 2018.*

Nominations and Membership

Jyri Kataja-Rahko, YLE, Finland is elected President of CIRCOM Regional at the Annual Assembly on 23rd May 2018 in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands.

Marcel Oude Wesselink, RTV Oost, became National Coordinator for the Netherlands in January 2018

Sevda Gaydarova-Dimitrova, BNT, became National Coordinator for Bulgaria in March 2018

Werner Herics, ORF, became National Coordinator for Austria in May 2018

Joe Reddington, RTE, became National Coordinator for Ireland in June 2018

Alexandros Kanter Bax, ERT, became National Coordinator for Greece in July 2018

Frank Böhm, HRK, became National Coordinator for Germany in October 2018

Marcel Nevin, ČT, became National Coordinator for Czech Republic in December 2018

Marcel Oude Wesselink, RTV Oost, the Netherlands, is elected a Member of the Executive Committee at the European Board on 23rd May 2018 in Leeuwarden

Tone Kunst, NRK, Norway, is elected a Member of the Executive Committee at the European Board on 23rd May 2018 in Leeuwarden

Radio Televisión Madrid SA/TeleMadrid, Spain became Member of CR in May 2018

Castilla-La Mancha Media/CMM, Spain became Member of CR in May 2018

Canal Extremadura, Spain became Member of CR in May 2018

Budget

The budget plan for 2018 is taking into consideration the subscription fees applicable for 2017 and the confirmed Prix CIRCOM sponsorships. Because of the increased number of trainings and workshops, an amount of €5,000 is transferred from project applications consultancy to training. There are also internal transfers from concept accounts to concrete activities accounts so that the budget allocated for concrete training activities gets an 18% increase, in accordance with the training plan.

The outline budget for 2018 is approved at the Annual Assembly on 24th May 2017 in Ponta Delgada, the Azores, Portugal.

Financing

The revenues and expenditures are within budget and there were no unexpected events.

The realisation of budget up to December 31, 2018 was:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Membership fees | 135.734,00 |
| Sponsor Prix 5 | 54.000,00 |
| Other | 26.655,46 |
| | 216.389,52 |

Expenditures

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Conference | 24.940,00 |
| Prix CIRCOM | 40.278,53 |
| Training | 60.843,54 |
| Public relations and networking | 8.570,64 |

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Secretariat | 40.014,07 |
| Other | 5.797,27 |
| | 180.444,05 |
| Result regular activities | 35.945,47 |

Internal auditors concluded that based on the information provided, facts and figures in CR financial books were accurate and truthful to a faithful image of CR revenues and expenditures. CR took good care of its expenditures and the activities were performed to the benefit of the association to preserve its regular activities, to promote the association to the European institutions and partners. There was still a delay in paying a membership fee by some members.

The Annual Conference

The 36th Annual Conference in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands, was hosted by Omrop Fryslân with the theme 'Are we connected'. The focus was on innovation and on the audiences, on online media, on a visual presentation and less on the traditional television. It was a day-and-a-half conference with 195 participants, a successful one by the level of sessions and the Prix Gala as well as by the inspiring effects that everyone could feel, and also because of the positive impact on the image of CIRCUM. Many of the contents are still accessible on our website and we continue working so that the window of knowledge that represents the Prix is also transferred to a growing exchange of programmes among the members.

Prix CIRCUM Regional

Prix CIRCUM 2018 had 11 categories: Documentary, Entertainment and Drama, Europe, Investigative Journalism, Minorities in Society, Most Original and Innovative, Music and Arts, News Stories for All, Video Journalism, Young Onscreen Talent, and Grand Prix. There was also Citizenship Coproduction Special Award.

The Prix CIRCUM Judging was in the Mediapolis centre in Tampere, Finland, hosted by Yle. The direct entries of 223 from 23 countries plus the Citizenship Co-Production entries made the total of 244 which was very close to the best ever.

There have been substantial changes: in the categories Europe, Young Onscreen Talent, Video Journalism, News Stories For All - two entries from anyone region were allowed; winning stations in any category could send two, rather than one, representative to the conference. The category Entertainment was extended to add Drama and the category Music was extended to Music and Arts. Commended entries could also be circulated rights free, as it was done in the past with winning entries only.

Training

Innovation and diversity: these words sum up well the training programme. New activities are offered in 2018 as “translating data journalism into compelling stories” or “fake news and verification”. “New formats for storytelling” remains a key value. Quality but also quantity as 2018 is the year that saw the highest number of trainings ever. 12 in total!

Train the trainers, 5th – 8th February, 2018, with Mia Costello (UK) and Carla Verhagen (NL) as trainers. 8 delegates from 7 countries attended this 3-day interactive workshop at the BBC Academy in Bristol, UK.

New formats for storytelling, 20th – 23rd May 2018, with Guillaume Kuster (FI), Johannes Kardell (SVT), David Tracz (BBC), Wytse Vellinga (Omrop Fryslân) and Hans Jessen (ex-ARD) as trainers. 14 delegates from 10 countries took part in this training.

Senior managers' meeting, hosted by RTVSLO in Ljubljana, Slovenia on June 15th. 13 participants from 12 countries attended this forum entitled “Life with and after TV”.

Translating data journalism into compelling stories. A two-day workshop held at BBC Birmingham (U.K.) on June 11-12th. 13 journalists took part in this training.

Investigative Journalism summer school, Goldsmiths, University of London. An opportunity for member stations to take advantage of this investigative journalism training event with an emphasis on teaching investigative skills. The training took place from 28-30th June.

Leading through change workshop, 10th – 12th October at the EYC in Budapest, Hungary gathered 15 newsroom managers from 11 countries. The trainers for this new training concept were Mia Costello (ex BBC) and Linda Hermansson (SVT).

Joint CIRCOM/The Committee of the Regions (CoR) 4-hour new media workshop, 8th - 9th November during the great CoR yearly event on communications, called EuropCom, in Brussels, for 12 CR participants from 10 countries. The workshop was extremely successful.

Life after TV, 13th – 15th November at the EYC in Budapest, for 14 participants from 9 countries (8 in the content producers group and 6 in the newsroom managers group), with Guillaume Kuster, Johannes Kardell (SVT) and Kulwant Sohal (BBC) as trainers.

New formats: conveying the message, 19th – 21st November at the European Parliament in Brussels – first training with the EP about social media for the European Elections, for 6 journalists and 5 EP participants, led by Guillaume Kuster and Thilo Kasper. 3 other similar workshops to follow in 2019.

Senior managers' meeting, hosted by RTP in Porto, Spain on 23rd November for 20 participants from 12 countries on “How to do more (or equal) with less money”.

“Engaging TV audiences with European Elections 2019”, part 1 on 26th to 28th November at the European Parliament in Brussels for 18 participants from 14 countries, led by Mia Costello and Michael Lally. The second part with the same participants to take place in February 2019.

Developing successful trainings, Université France Télévisions, on 7th December in Paris, about the subject “The digital revolution: an opportunity or a trap?”, for 14 participants from 8 countries. The purpose was to share both the negative and the positive aspects of these digital experiences.

Coproduction

The Citizenship 5 finished on 30/6/2018 and the final report was submitted on 30/9/2018. The second instalment of €130,000 € was made on 13/12/2018 (total 260,000 €) with no reduction.

The call for proposal of Citizenship 6 was submitted to the EP in March and was approved on 30/6/2018 with a reduction of budget – 150,000 €. The themes decided at the editorial meeting in October were: Clean Europe; Money, money, money; Brussels decides.

Strategy

CIRCOM Strategy plan for 2017 – 2020, the strategy in 5 points with proposed actions, being an evolution rather than a revolution, is going on.

Public Affairs and Networking

The European Parliament proposed to reinforce its relationship with CIRCOM through a Memorandum of Understanding which was signed on 24th October 2018 in Strasbourg by the EP President Antonio Tajani and CR President Jyri Kataja-Rahko.

The DSG attended the Advisory Committee of the European Audiovisual Observatory on 22nd March in Strasbourg.

Links have been reconnected with the AER/Assembly of European Regions.

The DSG met with the Intendant of the Saarländischer Rundfunk.

On 24th October the President, the SG and the DSG of CR visited the European Audiovisual Observatory and the Council of Europe.

On 8th and 9th November the CoR organized in Brussels EuroPCom 2018, its annual event with the topic "Campaigning for Europe". The DSG participated at this event.

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