

Communiqué de presse, Cannes, May 2017 #2

Increasing to 44 members, a new board & future actions!

CineRegio, the European body, which represents Europe's regional film funds, welcomed three new members and a new board, at its General Assembly held on Monday 22nd May during Cannes Film Festival.

The three new members announced: Région Grand Est (France); Mallorca Film Fund (Spain); Filmfond Nord (Norway). They will take the total number of members to 44.

Cine-Regio also announced three new members of the board for a two year term until May 2019: Ms. Pauline Burt, CEO of Ffilm Cymru Wales (UK), Mr. Philippe Reynaert, CEO of Wallimage (BE), and Ms. Gerlinde Seitner, Managing Director of Vienna Film Fund (AU).

Gerlinde Seitner, Vienna Film Fund will continue her role as chairperson of CineRegio and said:

"Thank you to the new board and the General Assembly for the vote of confidence. Cine Regio has achieved a lot on a European policy level and I would like to continue that direction even though many of the current issues are to be decided on a national level. The voice of regions needs to be heard and can make a difference. I am still convinced that it is necessary to defend cultural diversity and the production and distribution of European content – on our own terms (and not those of someone else). Also, we will continue producing the CineRegio Focus Reports - important strategic work on different topics and a tool which have proved to be popular also outside the CineRegio circle. For me Cine Regio is THE platform for sharing best practices and it should continue to be that.

Pauline Burt, Ffilm Cymru Wales:

On a geo-political point, at this particular time when the UK is in the process of exiting from the EU - but not of course from Europe - I feel that it sends a powerful message of our continued and indeed increased commitment to working alongside our colleagues throughout Europe. In terms of focus areas, there are many benefits to sharing working practices that enable a more diverse talent base and workforce; and to collectively working to maximise our approach to getting the most value and reach from the intellectual property we're developing.

Philippe Reynaert, Wallimage:

VOD, SVOD, VR, AR, 360°... those letters and figures are deeply changing our audiovisual world ! Despite the outstanding CineRegio studies by Michael Gubbins, we only started discovering the strength of the digital tsunami in our day-to-day life as film funds. I'm passionate about the search for new business models fitting with the technologies of our 4.0 universe.....

In a divided Europe, more and more driven by selfishness and outdated nationalisms, the Regions

have to communicate with each other in order to promote their own culture in a spirit of exchange. We all feel that culture is more important than ever to make the world less sad and bad. And the audiovisual language is more than ever also THE link between young people around the planet. So our responsibility is huge! Cine-Regio is already a cement between us and may become a shelter in the next years.

The CineRegio board consists of six persons. In addition to the chairperson Gerlinde Seitner (Vienna Film Fund, Austria) it includes Philippe Reynaert (Wallimage, Belgium), Pauline Burt (Ffilm Cymru Wales, United Kingdom), Nevina Satta (Sardegna Film Foundation, Italy), Ralf Ivarsson (Film I Skåne, Sweden) and Marijke Vandebuerie (Flanders Audiovisual Fund, Belgium).

Cine-Regio is a non-profit association of regional film funds in Europe. The network counts 44 regional film funds from 12 European countries – and together the members represent an annual total funding capital of €170 million to support film culture. At the 70th Cannes Film Festival the members backed 32 feature films and 4 shorts, including 8 in main Competition (out of 19), 4 Special Screenings & the Kids-screening; 9 in Un Certain Regard (out of 18 films); 5 features & 2 short films in Directors' Fortnight, - two being feature film debuts and in Critics' Week a feature debut animation (further details in CineRegio Communique de Presse, Cannes, May 2017 #1)



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