

5th Newsletter Cine-Regio - LECCE 2004

FACILITATING EUROPEAN COOPERATION

Cine-Regio was founded, on the one hand, to stimulate the exchange of experiences and good practices between its founders and extend it to other regional funds for their investment policies and the nature of supported projects.

"The service aspect of Cine-Regio for the members is particularly large with the working groups, database, newsletter, and website", says

Financial Director Daniel Zimmermann, "but Cine-Regio can also help in the assessment of what is needed in terms of helping European co-productions, what makes the funds attractive and what makes them necessary. This comes at a time when the regional funds are representing an increasingly significant source of film financing while, at the same time, the national funds' means are getting scarce."

"Joining the Cine-Regio network makes you part of this community which has a growing importance in the European landscape and is playing a key role in helping projects to get off the ground," he explains, adding that "if the funds were to agree to certain rules of reciprocity, one could create a pan-European scheme which would stimulate the funding bodies' co-production activities. The focus would be on looking at how one can facilitate co-productions rather than at aiming for a harmonisation of guidelines. I think we should rather talk of flexibility in operations between the funds, so that the ways to finance European co-productions become more efficient."

According to Zimmermann, the presence of five European film commissions at the conference in Lecce and the establishment of a dedicated working group on film commissions is "a part of the open dialogue we want to have with these bodies. Sometimes, a region has both a fund and a film commission and, in other cases, there is only one of the two. Having an open discussion with them, we can see what common actions one could undertake."

As far as the future development of European policy vis-a-vis public (regional) funds is concerned, he suggests that Cine-Regio's database - which will be presented for the first time at the conference in Lecce - could become "an ideal tool for analysing the working practices of the funds and evaluating the question of policies for territoriality and co-production."



NEWS

Vienna Film Fund looks East

Exploring the potential for collaboration with countries in Eastern Europe has been one of the strategies followed by the Cine-Regio founding member Vienna Film Fund under director Peter Zawrel.

This summer, Zawrel travelled with a delegation of producers and industry officials (including the Austrian Film Institute's new executive director Roland Teichmann) to the CineLink co-production market at the Sarajevo Film Festival to meet their opposite numbers from the South East European region.

Zawrel, Austrian producer Franz Novotny and his Bosnian co-producer Ademir Kenovic on Pjer Zalica's Silver Leopard-winning Gori Vatra participated in a panel discussion entitled "Co-production of European Neighbours: Fuse creativity and funds!" where they talked about the experiences and challenges for international co-productions between Austria and the new European states.

Actimage unveils database

The Cine-Regio database project developed by the IT consultants Actimage follows two important phases: the realisation of a public website with a collaborative extranet, and the conception and implementation of the database.

The website aims to give information presenting Cine-Regio's concept, the different members, the newsletters, and photographs from various events, etc.

The other focus of this project has been the conception and the implementation of the database, providing information about the Cine-Regio member funding bodies, the "programmes" they operate, and the productions these programmes support. Some information will be restricted to the Cine-Regio members, but most of it will be for access by anyone.

A next step will be the installation of an inter-connection and synchronization service between the Cine-Regio and KORDA (European Audiovisual Observatory) databases.



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WALLIMAGE

Organisational structure:
Independent body.

Volume and origin of the financing:
€ 3,3M from the regional government.

Number of funding programmes: 2
- Financing of audiovisual works presented by Walloon production companies; € 2,5M
- Financing of services companies of the Walloon audiovisual industry; € 800.000

Types of productions supported:
Feature film, documentaries, animation.

Type of assistance:
Selective, economical aid.

Level of regional effect required:
Production company must undertake to spend 100% of at least € 250.000 within the region of Wallonia.



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VIENNA FILM FUND

Organisational structure:
Local Authority.

Volume and origin of the financing:
€ 8M per year from the council of the city of Vienna

Number of funding programmes: 4
- Project development (incl. script writing)
- Production
- Distribution (cinema-release in Austria)
- Participation in international film festivals

Types of productions supported:
Feature film and documentaries for cinema, Tv and new media

Type of assistance:
Grant which must be repaid in the event of success. Non-repayable grant awarded after success

Level of regional effect required:
100%



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MFG-FILMFÖRDERUNG BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG

Organisational structure:
Independent body run by local and regional authority.

Volume and origin of the financing:
€ 11,5M, limited company backed by the state of Baden-Württemberg and broadcaster SWR.

Number of funding programmes: 8-10
(incl. digital content, script development, state funding, production, distribution and exhibition).

Types of productions supported:
Feature film, TV fiction, documentaries, animation and multimedia.

Type of assistance:
Selective, cultural subsidy, economic aid.

Level of regional effect required:
120%



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ROTTERDAM FILM FUND

Organisational structure:
Independent body.

Volume and origin of the financing:
€ 2,7 M per year.

Number of funding programmes: 6
1. Production loan max. € 200.000 -
2. International co-production loan max. € 100.000
3. Postproduction loan max. € 100.000 -
4. Special project loan max. € 25.000 -
5. Development feature films max. € 25.000
6. Development other films max. € 10.000

Types of productions supported:
Feature, short, documentary, animation, tv-drama, video, experimental, website.

Type of assistance:
Loan.

Level of regional effect required:
200% by regulations (inter co prod 150%); 425% in 2003 after productions.



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POEM

Organisational structure:
Local and Regional Authority.

Volume and origin of the financing:
€ 1 M from the local and regional public funding, European funding

Number of funding programmes: 4
- Script Support
- Project Development
- Production
- Distribution and Marketing

Types of productions supported:
Feature film, TV fiction, documentaries, short film and animation, mobile games.

Type of assistance:
Selective

Level of regional effect (2001-2003):
Regional invest, for POEM activities has been around 1,6 M €, POEM regional effects are appr.6,2 M€.

Région



Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur

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REGION

PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTES D'AZUR

Organisational structure:
Regional Authority.

Volume and origin of the financing:
€ 2,48M from the Regional Council of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur.

Number of funding programmes: 15
(including funding for screenplays, development, research, production).

Types of productions supported:
Feature film, TV fiction, documentaries.

Type of assistance:
Selective, cultural subsidy, "avances remboursables sur recettes" ..

Level of regional effect required :
50% of the filming must be carried out in the region (a minimum of 4 weeks).



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IVAC LA FILMOTECA

Organisational structure:
Regional Authority.

Volume and origin of the financing:
€ 1,292 M from the Valencian Government.

Number of funding programmes: 4
- Audiovisual Production: € 1,202
- Script Writing: € 18.000
- Audiovisual Training: € 15.000
- Other Audiovisual Activities (festivals, etc.): €57.000

Types of productions supported:
Feature film, TV fiction, documentaries, animation, short films.

Type of assistance:
Selective

Level of regional effect required :
Participation of regional companies and shooting in the region will be considered.



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INSTITUT CATALÀ DE LES INDUSTRIES CULTURALS

Organisational structure:
Regional Authority.

Volume and origin of the financing:
Around € 11M from public funds (Catalan Government).

Number of funding programmes: 11
9 funding programmes are addressed to independent producers, for cinema and television productions that are in different development phases.
2 funding programmes are addressed to movie theatre enterprises and to cinema distributors.

Types of productions supported:
Feature film, documentaries, animation (cinema and television).

Type of assistance:
Selective, economic aid, automatic, cultural subsidy, and also, soft loans.

Level of regional effect required:
According to the nature of cinema and television production (Catalan production, Spanish co-production, and international co-production) we demand a certain % of production and post-production expenses realised in Catalonia.



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CONSORCIO AUDIOVISUAL DE GALICIA

Organisational structure:
 Regional Authority.

Volume and origin of the financing:
 € 3M from the regional authority.

Number of funding programmes: 2

Types of productions supported:
 Feature film, TV fiction, documentaries, animation, short films.

Type of assistance:
 Selective, economic aid.

Level of regional effect required:



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THE WEST DANISH FILM FUND

Organisational structure:
 Local and regional authorities

Volume and origin of the financing:
 € 0,8 m from the regional government

Number of funding programmes: 1

Type of production supported:
 Feature film, TV fiction, documentaries, animation

Type of assistance: Selective

Level of regional effect required:
 1:2 (spend twice the investment)



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SCREEN SOUTH

Organisational structure:
 Independent body.

Volume and origin of the financing:
 € 1,26 m from the UK Film Council

Number of funding programmes: 10
 including RIFE Open Fund - Quarterly Deadline, Good Foundations, Digital Shorts and First Cut. See website for further information.

Types of productions supported:
 Feature film, TV fiction, documentaries, animation, other.

Type of assistance:
 Selective

Level of regional effect required:
 Must live or work (eg have a company) in the region.



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FILM I VÄST

Organisational structure:
 Independent Body (public company run by the region).

Volume and origin of the financing:
 € 7,5m (regional grant € 3,2 M; ERDF € 0,8M; Municipality grant € 0,6M; State grant € 0,4M; comm.inc. € 2,5M).

Number of funding programmes: 2

Types of productions supported:
 Feature film, tv fiction, documentaries, animation, shorts.

Type of assistance:
 Selective, co-production investment.

Level of regional effect required:
 However the production has to be mainly localised in the region with an objective of 50%.



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SALENTO FILM FUND

The Salento Film Fund will be operational from
January 2005 on.

Organisational structure:
Local Authority

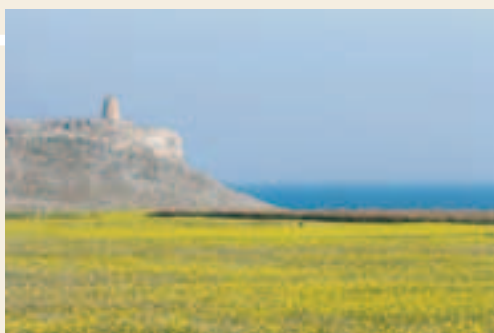
Volume and origin of the financing :
700.000€ from Provincia di Lecce

Number of founding programmes :
5-6 (including script development, postproduction,
distribution)

Type of production supported :
Feature film, TV fiction, documentary

Type of assistance :
Non refundable and reimbursable support

Level of regional effect required :
Employment and local audiovisual industry impact
expected



The Province of Lecce promoting this fund considers audiovisual to be a fundamental segment of the local cultural system, with a decisive role in the promotion of this region. Thus the choice to set up a targeted system of benefits through the constitution of a support fund, based on the model that has by now asserted itself in all of central, northern Europe.

The ECRIF-AV project, in the context of the UE Interreg IIC Program, has allowed the Province of Lecce to elaborate the regulations of its fund in close

contact and through a valuable exchange of experiences with the most qualified European Film Funds, contributing at the same time to the birth of CINEREGIO, the association representing these funds.

The Salento Film Fund, nevertheless, maintains some significant differences based on the characteristics of the local audiovisual system and, at the same time, on the cultural history and geographical location of the Salento.

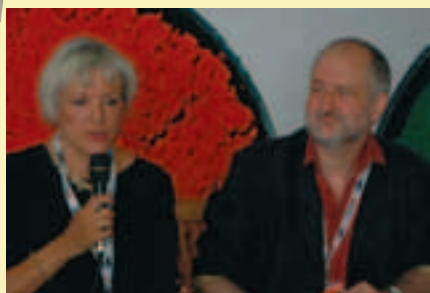
The support fund established by the Province of Lecce intends to contribute to the development of local cinematographic and audiovisual productions; to further the setting up and affirmation of new vocations; to discover new talents; to create new professions; and, to promote the Salento's regional image and cultural identity through cinema and new media.

It will be possible to follow up these objectives through the direct support of local productions and a system of benefits promoting co-productions between local enterprises and companies from other regions, both on a national and international level, thereby furthering the employment of local professionals in productions for which the Salento has been chosen as a shooting location.

The topic of co-productions, which will be considered during the Lecce conference, is the field in which the Province of Lecce will be most successful in promoting its Euro-Mediterranean vocation. The regulations of the Salento Film Fund, in fact, grant privileges to co-production projects engaging European production companies and companies from Balkan Europe as well as other countries on the Southern Mediterranean shore. The system of incentives foreseen by the fund of the Province of Lecce also takes into account the reality of local productions by specifically supporting low cost projects and young producers in their role of renewing the cinematographic and audiovisual scene, both with respect to new professions and contents. One of the most innovative aspects of the Lecce Fund lies in the fact that it does not limit itself to economic incentives but, by taking on some of the specific characteristics of the Film Commission, will be able to guarantee services and consultancies promoting the Salento as an ideal territory for cinematographic productions not only from a technical and environmental point of view, but also from a creative perspective.

Sandra Antonica,
Assessore Cultura Provincia di Lecce





Lead Partner:

Founding members:

- Wallimage, Fonds Régional Wallon de l'Audiovisuel (Belgium)
- FilmFonds (Austria)
- MGF Filmförderung Baden-Württemberg (Germany)
- Provincia di Lecce (Italy)
- Rotterdams Fonds voor de Film en Audiovisuele media (The Netherlands)
- WALLIMAGE, Fonds Régional Wallon de l'Audiovisuel (Belgium)

General Coordination and contact

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