

4th Newsletter Cine-Regio - DONOSTIA - SAN SEBASTIAN 2004

THE EUROPE OF REGIONS: NOW IS THE TIME!

By including a Regions' Day in its official programme of activities, the 52nd Donostia-San Sebastián Festival has given formal status to a slow but irreversible evolution in the European audiovisual landscape. As early as Cannes, our Coordination was a partner to the brand new Producers' Network organised by the Marché du Film. The regional dimension is thus in keeping with a new very concrete situation for film professionals, especially producers.



Photo of the little girls in Lucile Hadzihalilovic's first feature which was supported by Belgium's Wallimage and invited to screen at Donostia-San Sebastian. The Europe of the Regions is awash again with "Innocence"!

A recent study by our partner the European Audiovisual Observatory shows that Regions have invested nearly 20% of the public funds spent to date on audiovisual production in the Europe of 15.

As the Europe of 25 gets set to be represented by its new Commissioners, it seems more pressing than ever for the Regions to make themselves heard and to speak with a single voice in their interactions with Parliament and the Commission in the enlarged Europe.

This is the political meaning we give to our action. While we are committed Europeans, we are also Regionalists. The two go hand in hand. The only way to keep the enlarged Europe from taking on the face of "Big Brother" is to make sure it puts down its roots as close to citizens as possible, namely in the Regions. But the only way to keep regionalism from becoming protectionist and backward-looking is to give our Regions development perspectives at continental level.

That will take consultation and dialogue among the different Regions and with the European authorities. **Viviane Reding**, one of the few Commissioners whose term of office has been renewed, is known for her attachment to audiovisual policy. She welcomes the support we have managed to secure from the **ERDF** by means of an **Interreg IIIc** plan placing us squarely in a perspective of regional development that recognises the film industry's economic importance and job-creating potential.

The Europe of Regions is now or never. In the film industry, the best way to work towards that goal is called "CINE-REGIO".

Philippe Reynaert

Lead Partner ECRIF-AV

EUROPEAN REGIONS DAY

Cine-Regio has been chosen by this year's Donostia-San Sebastian Film Festival as an innovative European projects which will be presented in a day event - "Cinema And Regions In Europe" - on September 23 to highlight the dynamic nature of European regions for the film industry.

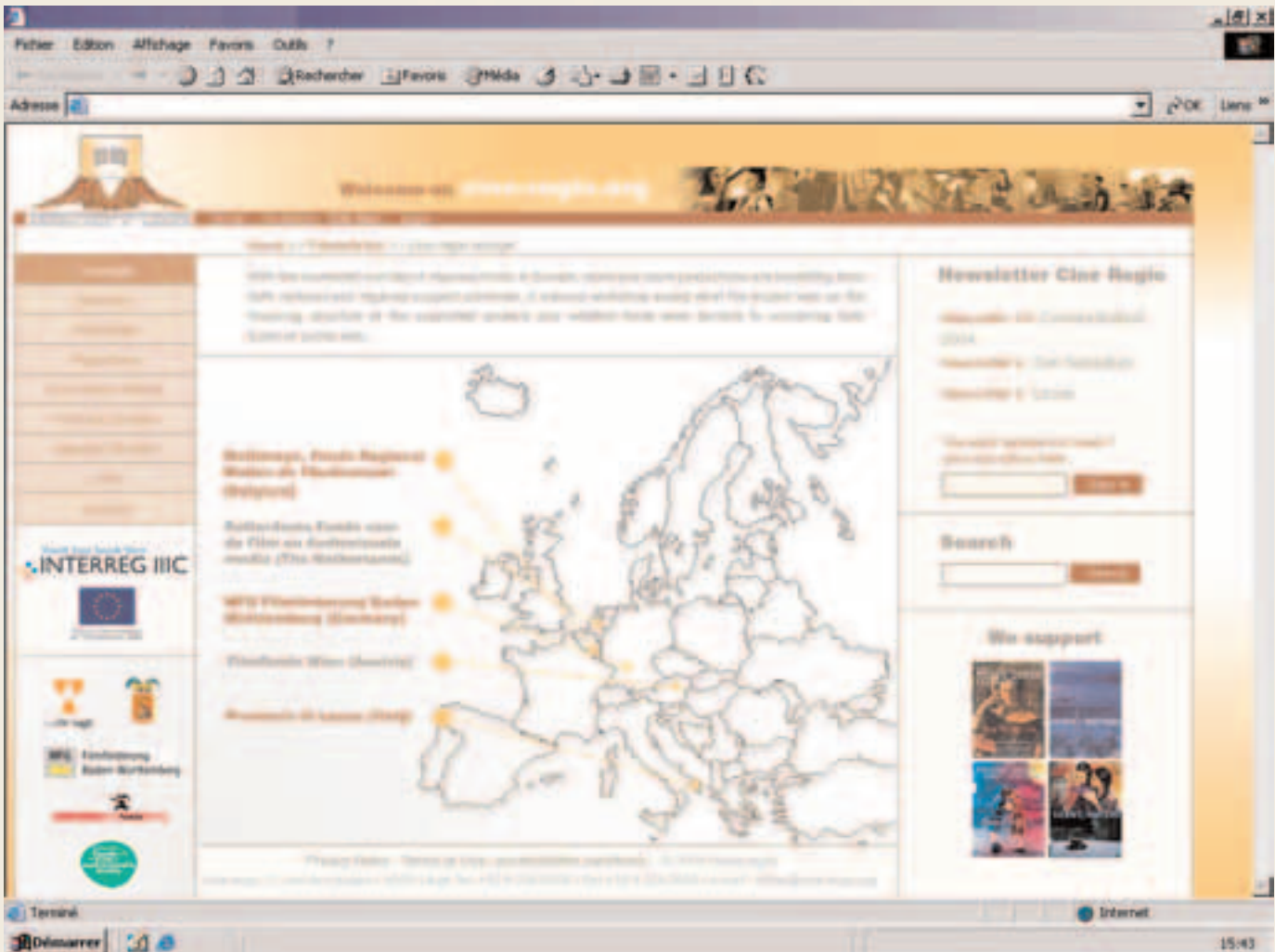
The agenda for the day will concentrate on the vital role played by regional institutions and public entities internationally in the preparation, development and realisation of film projects. The event will be rounded off by working sessions, professional meetings and information on the work carried out by the film commissions. Sala Andía (Edificio Kutxa ^ calle Andía s/n - San Sebastian).

NEXT MEETING

CINE-REGIO will be holding its conference in the Italian town of Lecce from October 22-24. The opening session will include presentations of the new members as well as of the network's website and database.

The afternoon session will see the film commissions and producers/funds splitting off into different working groups: producers with projects will be able to meet fund representatives to discuss the potential for co-productions while Rotterdam Film Fund's Jacques van Heijningen will lead an exchange of views between the film commissions. The final day will see the producers group being taken on a location tour of Salento and the fund directors drawing conclusions from the ideas thrashed out in their working groups.

COMING SOON



WAITING IN THE WINGS

Finland's POEM, Spain's IVAC, and Denmark's Filmby Arhus are among over half a dozen European regional funds lining up to join the ranks of the Cine-Regio network.

Founded in 1999, the Northern Film and Media Centre (POEM) was set up to establish the city of Oulu as a major regional resource and development centre for film, television and mobile game production in Finland. Films supported include: Rollo And The Spirit Of The Woods (2001), The Last Summer (2003) and Zetor - Born Free (2004).

Meanwhile, the aim of the Valencian Institute of Cinematography (IVAC) is to manage and develop the cultural policy of the Autonomous Community of Valencia in the areas of audiovisual heritage, education, and film and television production. The annual budget of around Euros 1.3m is spent on such activities as screenplay or production support as well as bursaries for further studies in the audiovisual field.

The West Danish Film Fund is another prospective Cine-Regio member and describes itself as "a regional pro-active, development-oriented film industrial growth incentive programme with a cultural and business perspective." Films supported include: Facing The Truth (2002), 2 Moves And A Pass (2003) and Nordkraft (currently in postproduction).

Lead Partner:

Founding members:

General Coordination
and contact

- Wallimage, Fonds Régional Wallon de l'Audiovisuel (Belgium)
- FilmFonds Wien (Austria)
- MFG 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)
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