

Communiqué de presse #2, Berlinale, February 2018

Inspire, exchange and share! CineRegio kick-off study on Documentary in a new Ecosystem

During Berlinale Cine-Regio - the European Network of Regional Film Funds - kickoff the discussion for the CineRegio Focus Report 2018: *DOCUMENTARY IN A NEW ECOSYSTEM* written by Mikael Gubbins.

The report will look at best practice and consider a radical and practical assessment of how regional public funds can help create a new era for documentary.

Michael Gubbins, SampoMedia: *There is a strong argument that from a social and cultural point of view, there may never have been a more important time to support documentary, as a means of exploring and sharing the realities of our lives. Production of documentaries has been rising fast in Europe and the sector has seen interesting, and potentially important innovations, in everything from crowdfunding and crowdsourcing, cross-media creation and distribution, and the embrace of new platforms to reach audiences. But these are tough times too with key revenues falling, audiences fragmenting and competition for consumer time increasing on every screen and platform.*

General Secretary, Charlotte Appelgren: *The digital era has certainly been highly disruptive to documentary, eating away the core revenues from terrestrial television. As funding for cultural products are not getting any easier it is important to be clear about the role of regional film funds in this environment. One way forward is to inspire, share ideas and approaches to ensure that the funding we have is used in the best possible way. In this new environment the Report will be a strategic tool for regional film funds that want to invest in unique stories - both from proven and emerging filmmakers.*

We are really thankful that three members of our network - Film i Skåne (SE), Zürich Film Fund (CH) and Nordnorsk Filmsenter (NO) - decided to allocate time to initiate and ensure the realisation of this Report, - and to also lead the first ever survey among the 45 CineRegio members in this field.

The new survey shows that all CineRegio members are supporting documentaries and almost all (97%) have been involved in minority co-productions with 63% offering specific support to develop documentary talent. Another interesting finding is that 43% had experimented with supporting interactive forms, including Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR). Much more interesting data will be revealed in the months to come.

Ralf Ivarsson, CEO, Film i Skåne: *Documentaries are reaching new heights across Europe, however, what I also see is that the growing creative strength and influence seems to be offset by economic fragility, by the fragmentation of audiences, and by other social, political and business trends, - all topics which I am very pleased are to be explored in the new CineRegio Focus Report.*

What is also important for me is that the report will provide concrete policy recommendations. I will encourage anybody who reads this to think about how we in Europe can work better together including reaching audiences and creating new business models - given that the public money for documentaries is not likely to increase in the years to come. Our society needs independent documentaries - so let's find solutions.

EDITOR'S NOTES:

At the 68th Berlinale the CineRegio members backed 39 films, including 9 films in the documentary form reflecting the members commitment to support visually and artistically strong documentary films for the benefit of the European citizens:

Out of Competition

- *Eldorado* by Markus Imhoof // Cineforum + Zürcher Filmstiftung

Panorama Dokumente

- *Game Girls* by Alina Skrzyszewska // PACA + Région Nouvelle-Aquitaine
- *Kinshasa Makambo* by Dieudo Hamadi // PACA + Cineforum
- *Family Life* by Rosa Hannah Ziegler // Filmförderung Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein
- *Hotel Jugoslavia* by Nicolas Wagnières // Cineforum

Forum Competition 48th

- *Aggregate* by Marie Wilke // MittelDeutsche MedienForderung
- *SPK Komplex* by Gerd Kroske // Filmförderung Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein
- *Casanova Gene* by Luise Donschen // Filmförderung Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein
- *The Waldheim Waltz* by Ruth Beckermann // Filmfonds Wien

Cine-Regio is a non-profit association of regional film funds in Europe. The members invest in film culture and foster regional business by collaborating across Europe. The network counts 45 regional film funds from 14 countries – and together the members represent an annual total funding capital of €180 million to support film culture.

At the 68th Berlin Film Festival the members backed 39 films, including 8 of the entrants in Main Competition, 2 titles Out of Competition and 5 in the Special Gala. At the 70th Cannes Film Festival the members backed 36 films, including 8 in Main Competition and 9 in Un Certain Regard.

For further information please contact:

Charlotte Appelgren, General Secretary
ca@cineregio.org // M: +45 40 40 35 45

www.cineregio.org & info on Cine-Regio members: www.cineregio.org/members