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Three new regional co-production initiatives and seven new members

After the 3rd General Assembly held during Cannes Film Festival, Cine-Regio can welcome seven more regional film funds. The 28 Cine-Regio members from 15 European countries represent a total annual **budget of €135M** targeted towards development and production of film.

New members include FilmFyn, Denmark (€1,4M), FilmCamp, Norway (€2,4), FilmKraft Rogaland, Norway (€1M), Southern Transdanubia Fund, Hungary, Consejería de Cultura Andalusia, Spain, (€4,3M), Belgrade Film Fund, Serbia (€1M) and Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung, Germany (€12M).

Current chairman Mr. Bengt Toll from Film I Väst, Sweden was re-elected for another term. New on the Cine-Regio board are Mr. Vincent Leclercq, CRRAV – Région Nord Pas de Calais, France and Mr. Manfred Schmidt, Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung, Germany.

Three new initiatives were confirmed in Cannes today, reflecting Cine-Regio's objectives on strengthening interregional co-productions and networking:

- Co-production Market & Talent Campus aimed at the regional level, during Sitges International Film Festival of Catalonia. Not only producers and film funds will be present, but also directors and distributors from each member region. This three-day event in Oct. is the first of its kind.
- Partner in CineLink Co-production Market 2007, held during the Sarajevo Film Festival. Here 15 selected feature film projects in development from Southeast Europe will be presented. Also, the annual Cine-Regio Talks in collaboration with Screen International will take place, – the topic is “New Windows - Opportunities & Challenges”.
- Furthermore 2007 will see the launch of Docu-Regio, a new documentary pitching forum initiated by twelve European film funds. The aim is not only to organize training for European regional documentary producers, but also to create a network of parties interested and ready to fund and promote creative documentaries. Workshops will be held in Vienna (June) and Lille, France (Oct.)

Secretary General, Charlotte Appelgren: *It is a great honour today to be able to welcome 7 new members, including three regional film funds outside the EU. Indeed they will play a significant role in securing and further stimulating the cultural, artistic and creative exchange throughout Europe. The regions in Europe represent an increasing share of the public support in the audiovisual sector. Today it stands at 21% and this figure is growing, according to the European Audiovisual Observatory.*

Cine-Regio's activities in Catalonia and Sarajevo later this year will no doubt benefit the film sector and the audience both at a regional, national and European level. Gathering the heads of European regional film funds, together with producers, talents and distributors are a unique opportunity to achieve a number of goals, including strengthening the co-development and co-production of films between regions, promote the film sector and establish new international friendships and contacts.

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