



N°104
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The broadcasting scene is changing and reinventing itself in the highest echelons of organisations or public channels, as in Algeria or Tunisia.

In this month's instalment, don't miss our interview with the new managing director of *Télévision Tunisienne*, Adnen Kheder.

And right from the outset don't forget: **the launch of PriMed 2013**. News features, documentaries and webdocumentaries focussing on the Mediterranean are all welcome. Directors, producers and distributors are invited to **submit entries before 30 September 2012**. PriMed often showcases unreleased productions or films that are unknown to the broad public.

In this month's issue also make sure you don't miss out on our update to the 19th CoPeAM Annual Conference, our feature on the Palestine Film Festival in London, and all our regular columns, including a new one looking at webdocumentaries!

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LIFE IN THE CMCA

**The 17th PriMed,
from June 17th to 21st 2013 in Marseille, European Culture Capital!
Deadline for registration and sending in films: 30 September 2012**



The CMCA is organising the next PriMed **from June 17th to 21st 2013**, to tie in with a score of other events scheduled for Marseille Provence 2013, the European Capital of Culture.

PriMed – the International Festival of Mediterranean Documentary Film and Reportage is open to all film-makers, directors, producers and distributors who, through their programmes or films, contribute to a better knowledge of countries belonging to the Mediterranean basin in its widest sense, from the Atlantic coast to the Black Sea.

The programmes presented address issues relating to culture, heritage, history, society, the life of men and women in Mediterranean countries. They must not contain any advertising or propaganda.

Nine Awards will be up for competition:

The France Télévisions Grand Prix for Best Documentary "Mediterranean Issues" category (6,000 €)

The Mediterranean Memory Award (5,000 €)

The First Documentary Award (5,000 €)

The Art, Heritage and Culture in the Mediterranean Award (5,000 €)

The Mediterranean Coverage Award (5,000 €)

The Special Jury Award (5,000 €)

Young Audience Award (5,000 €)

Best Mediterranean Short Film Award (2,500 €)

The Multimedia Mediterranean Award (2,500 €)

Two sites offer further information:

- **The CMCA site :** www.cmca-med.org
- **The PriMed site:** www.primed.tv. Here you will find all additional information, videos, interviews and coverage of previous PriMed editions.
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[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE SUBSCRIPTION FORM.](#)

LEAD STORIES

3 QUESTIONS FOR ...

Adnen Kheder, **Chairman and Managing Director of *Télévision Tunisienne***



The Tunisian government announced the appointment in January. Télévision Tunisienne's new managing director, Adnen Kheder, answers CMCA's questions about new directions for the television channel.

You have just been appointed head of *Télévision Tunisienne*. Which priorities will the new management attend to first ?

AK : Given *Télévision Tunisienne's* situation, our priorities are as varied as they are important and even urgent. First of all we need to address fundamental legal questions to clarify the nature of *Télévision Tunisienne's* mission as an independent public service. Then we need to resolve the problem of staff status, draw up an organisation chart and establish a funding model.

The transition period (from State Television to Public Service Television in line with international standards) means constantly managing problems arising from the introduction of new goals, in the short and medium term.

Télévision Tunisienne's two channels (*Nationale 1* and *Nationale 2*) and other departments are going to have to carry out their mission according to the rules of the profession, ethics, transparency, independence, impartiality, diversity and respect for freedom of speech...

In this sense, each channel is run according to a road map, with a strong team spirit. Similarly in other departments we need to prioritise communication and consultation so that work programmes are developed and completed.

For you, which are the principle missions of a public service television company ? **AK :** A public service television company's major concern is to ensure its independence and freedom from all other sectors. Its main mission is to serve the overall interest of the public in all sectors of society, including minorities, to promote democracy, diversity and a multi-party system. We need to keep to a line that inspires confidence and credibility by :

- helping to develop and promote democracy, consolidating national identity and solidarity;
- providing access to a large range of information and ideas from different sectors of society;
- informing viewers about news and events unfolding in our country and around the world without being influenced by political or commercial considerations, in a precise, honest and balanced manner;
- reflecting the aspirations of the Tunisian people as much as possible, irrespective of their religious beliefs, political convictions, social status, culture or race;
- expressing the voice of the people by providing a credible platform for democratic debate, and by serving as intermediary between all social, political and economic interests, thereby contributing to social peace;
- communicating with people and with different government spheres (legislative, executive and judiciary);
- developing local / original content. By preserving and promoting culture and national heritage and by acting as a store of “national memory”;
- establishing quality standards for television production and by placing ourselves in the vanguard of programming and technology;
- imposing its public mandate at every instant and by providing service not for commercial ends but for the common good.

The Public Service must therefore be run in a democratic way. In some cases a panel (a programme committee made up of unpaid representative members – NGOs, parties, professionals, academics, sports figures, artists, trade unionists) meets regularly, examining and adopting the channel guidelines. The Editorial Committee is independent, but reports to the Managing Director. The Governing Committee is the executive power of the company. The managing director is the legal head in charge of implementing all the channel strategies.

How and when do you intend to set up regional television?

AK : The *Nationale 1* channel has a broad dimension to meet the hopes of all categories of ages. The *Nationale 2* channel looks at regional news and listens to the young and their worries. Since 2 January 2012, it has been broadcasting programmes focussing on the regions from 7 a.m to midnight under the new name of "The Regional Channel". Its new programme, which lasts 17 hours, aims to promote the wealth and diversity of our country's environmental, cultural and architectural heritage.

The channel is particularly attentive to citizens' concerns and sets out to inform the public on developmental efforts in regions rich in human potential and in skilled youth. The programme schedule is broad and varied and revolves around regional news. It offers entertainment programmes as well as news coverage, sport, debates and interviews. The channel will use “citizen journalists” to investigate stories in the provinces instead of just getting their news from the chief town of each administrative division. The channel already had five regional units (in Sfax, Monastir, Gafsa,

Tataouine and El Kef) and five others have since joined them (in Béja, Kairouan, Kasserine, Tozeur and Médenine).

Also in the news in Tunisian media ...



[# A debate about *Télévision Tunisienne* and its independence](#)

On March 6th *Télévision Tunisienne* obtained recognition of its independent status as a public service, after a conciliatory meeting with the unions. If on the one hand President Kamel Laabidi of the National Instance to Reform Information and Communication (INRIC) greeted this move, on the other the INRIC expressed some reserve, notably concerning the membership of *Télévision Tunisienne's* Board of Directors, which it finds *"unbalanced, as most of these members have been elected by the public authorities, which implies that these authorities control the company, a stranglehold on its independence and the autonomy of its decision-making, its orientation and editorial line."*

The TV production agents trade union reacted by stating that *"on the Board of Directors only 6 of the 17 members represent the public authorities, and one of those has to be specialised in broadcasting."*

In all fairness the structure of the Board of Directors does need to be addressed. A meeting to discuss that was scheduled for 28 March.



[# Publication of a report on Tunisian media](#)

The group of civil associations for democratic transition, which unites 5 Tunisian associations including the National Tunisian Journalists Trade Union (SNJT), published its report on media in the transition phase on February 29th. This claims it found greater impartiality in public service broadcasting than in private entities, over the period from December 2011 to February 2012. Radio stations were apparently more balanced and impartial in their news coverage than the written press.

According to this report, freedom of speech, press and the media should be written into the Tunisian Constitution. The group of associations calls for a restructuring of the media sector and the setting up of a reliable means of measuring television and radio audiences.

ANNUAL CoPeAm CONFERENCE, FROM 29 MARCH TO 1 APRIL 2012 IN MARRAKESH



The 19th Conference and the 18th General Assembly of the Permanent Conference of Mediterranean Broadcasting (CoPeAm) took place in Marrakesh from March 29th to April 1st. More than 300 people from the Mediterranean broadcasting world took part.

This year's edition was particularly important, as Secretary General Alessandra Paradisi's term was coming to an end. The General Assembly was her chance to give an assessment of what she had achieved and to thank the team who accompanied her in her work over the last six years.

CoPeAm members elected :

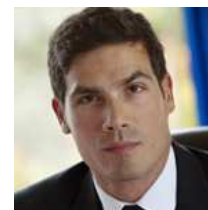


- **Pier Luigi Malesani**, Secretary General. He was previously President of Euronews Supervisory Board, and former Director of Institutional Relations in RAI.




- **Nicola Caligiore**, of International Relations in RAI, Deputy Secretary General.

The CoPeAm Direction Committee also re-elected **Mathieu Gallet**, Chairman of the French National Broadcasting Institute (Institut National de l'Audiovisuel), as chairman of the association.



The CMCA, in this "Mediterranean Broadcasting" newsletter, wishes to take its hat off to **Alessandra Paradisi**, for the constant and tenacious work she has undertaken all these years, to aid media development and stimulate broadcasting co-operation in the Mediterranean world. We need only cite the famous quotation which concluded her progress report: "*a flutter of wings can change the world!*"





After the General Assembly, CoPeAM signed a Declaration expressing its "serious concern" at the way the market in broadcasting rights for international sports is changing. It drew attention to the spread of "commercial practices", which create an "inadmissible price increase in the transfer of rights and [...] powerful groups' monopoly of those rights". The CoPeAM members thereby called on sports federations and public media to come to an agreement in order to "guarantee the normal running of a public service [...] by ensuring that sports programmes were broadcast [...] to the highest possible number of television viewers".

The 20th Annual Conference will take place in 2013 in Cagliari (Sardinia) and will be organised by the RAI.

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LIFE AMONG THE CHANNELS

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[#Algeria / Turnarounds in EPTV organisation](#)

The new Managing Director of EPTV, Tewfik Khelladi, made many organisational changes in the Algerian public television channel at the beginning of April. Ramdane Belhadi, Production Director, and Mustapha Khelafi, Programming Director, were dismissed. Their two departments were grouped into one, Broadcasting Direction, which was entrusted to Lyes Benaribi. The Human Resources Director and the Administrative and Financial Director were also replaced. These changes were applied mainly in order to flesh out programme production scheduled for Ramadan 2012.



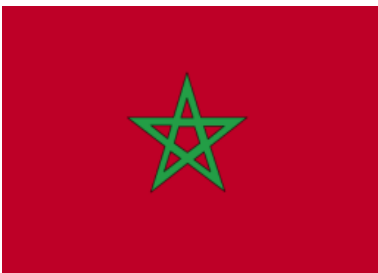
[# Algeria / The word "Islamist" forbidden on air](#)

Algerian television and radio journalists were told that they were no longer to use the term "Islamist", especially when they spoke of a political party. According to the website *Dernières Nouvelles d'Algérie*, it was the new directors of Algerian television and radio who conveyed these orders to the editorial teams last February, without going into details of the whys and wherefores of this ban. *"They asked us not to speak of Islamist movements any more. If our summary or report concerned an Islamic party, they recommended we name the party without speaking of its religious leaning"*, a radio journalist who wished to remain anonymous explained. This news is even more astonishing considering that these instructions were only conveyed verbally and were not accompanied by any written recommendation.

[# Morocco / 80% of Moroccans will no longer pay a television license](#)



Communications Minister Mustapha El Khalfi (*photo*) announced in March that the television license created in the 1990s to finance the 2M channel will be lifted for 80% of Moroccans. More than three million homes, depending on their income and spending, will be exempt from this tax which was traditionally included in water and electricity bills. This measure will set the State back by 70 million dirhams (6 million euros).



[#Morocco / The image of women in the media under surveillance](#)

Communications Minister Mustapha El Khalfi marked International Women's Day on March 8th by promising to set up a national Observatory to improve the image of women in the media. The Observatory, which should be set up this year, wants to "*participate in defining and applying the specifications linked to agreements and conventions signed by the public sector with partners working in the media world*".

This observatory will also award an annual journalistic Prize and will organise training sessions.

According to a study in 2008 by the Higher Institute of Information and Communication, 85% of images of women promoted by the media have a negative impact.



[#Libya / Ibraren Radio & TV Network, a new media group for Libya](#)

A new group joining a television and radio channel emerged in Libya at the beginning of the year. Ibraren TV and Ibraren Radio, both based in Tripoli, broadcast non-specialised programmes in Tamazight, English and Arab.

The two channels have already covered some events abroad. At the end of March, a team from Ibraren TV went to film the opening ceremony of the Annual National Cultural Festival of Tamazight Film in Tizi Ouzou, where two short Libyan films were screened.



[#United Arab Emirates / A new competitor for Al Jazeera as of May 6th](#)

Competition is going to get tougher for Arab non-stop news channels with the arrival of the Sky News Arabia channel on May 6th. Sky News Arabia will be launched jointly by BskyB in London and the Abu Dhabi Media Investment Corporation. It will try to find its niche in a market already dominated by Al Jazeera and Al Arabiya. "Our aim is to create an impartial and independent news channel for the Arab world", explained Nart Bouran, the channel's Managing Director. 400 journalists and television professionals have already been recruited to ensure a successful launch.

Before the end of the year, Al Arab, a fourth channel expressing the same ambitions, will begin to broadcast from Manama (Bahreïn).



[#Spain / RTVE still without a Chairman](#)

As Mariano Rajoy's government has cut the public broadcasting budget for 2012 by 200 million euros, RTVE is experiencing an unprecedented crisis. Since Alberto Oliart (*photo*) resigned for personal reasons in July last year, the Spanish government has not been able to reach agreement on who the next chairman should be. The Board of Directors has therefore been coping in the interim, by nominating a provisional chairman each month, and chosen...by alphabetical order. The Popular Party and Socialist Party have apparently agreed to nominate a new chairman before June 2012.

Before then, RTVE will need to get to grips with an annual budget that has been reduced to one billion euros, while feverishly waiting for a decision from the General Court of the European Court of Justice over whether or not the tax levied from telephone companies to compensate for the withdrawal of advertising on public channels conforms with European law.



[#France / Jean Réveillon appointed new France 2 Chairman](#)

The CMCA Chairman, Jean Réveillon, has stood in as acting chairman of the channel France 2 since the beginning of Bertrand Mosca's sick leave on 13 March. Rémy Pflimlin finally confirmed that the position was his on 2 April. Former special advisor to the chairman of *France Télévisions*, and Director of International Affairs, Jean Réveillon will be assisted by Philippe Vilamitjana, who is to be Deputy Director and Programme Manager for France 2. Their goal will be to consolidate channel audience, particularly for news items, to prepare programming for autumn 2012, to set up new programmes, to promote exceptional news events, and meet the channel's commitments to the creation of new programmes.



[#France / THEMA to distribute Antena 3, Pro International TV and 2M](#)

The French company THEMA, which specialises in the distribution of cable television channels, satellite and mobile media, announced in March that it had acquired three new mandates in international distribution. It will distribute the non-specialised Spanish channel *Antena 3*, the Romanian *Pro International TV*, which is conceived for Romanians living abroad, and the Moroccan public channel 2M. THEMA, which came into being in 2005, currently distributes a portfolio of some fifty channels all over the world, including Al Jazeera Children's Channel, Trace TV or even Fashion TV.



[#France / CSA has chosen six new channels for DTT](#)

The *Conseil Supérieur de l'Audiovisuel*, (CSA – the French broadcasting regulator and watchdog) last March announced the name of the six channels selected for free DTT diffusion. They will all broadcast in high definition from the end of 2012 onwards. They are: *HD1*, a drama channel entered by the TF1 group; *6ter*, a family channel belonging to the M6 group; *Chérie HD*, designed for a female audience and put forward by the NRJ group; *L'Equipe HD*, a sports channel developed by the Amaury group; *RMC Découverte*, a documentary channel belonging to NextRadioTV; and finally *TVous La Diversité*, a channel put forward by Diversité TV France. This last channel is the only real surprise. *TVous*, which includes François-Henri Pinault and Xavier Niel among its shareholders, will try with an initial budget of 35 million euros to promote diversity in backgrounds, family models, cultures, handicaps....

It should broadcast magazines and studio-based shows to "*combat inward-looking attitudes and deal with the danger of communitarianism*". They aim to target an initial audience of 1.8%.



[#France / TV5Monde chosen as support for education](#)

The Liaison Centre for Teaching and News Media (*Centre de Liaison de l'Enseignement et des Médias d'Information*, CLEMI) announced last March that it had selected TV5Monde as an analytical broadcaster to make an educational DVD-ROM to teach people about the media. The many different points of view on information tipped the balance in favour of TV5Monde, which combined the views of its own international editors with those of partner editors, such as *France Télévisions* or RTBF.

Funded by the Ministry of Education, this DVD-ROM will offer "*a comparative analysis of how news is handled on a given day with nine instalments broadcast over 24 hours on TV5Monde*".

PROGRAMMES

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[#Morocco / 2M frees up space of documentaries](#)

The Moroccan public channel 2M has decided to invest much more in promoting documentaries. From now on, prime time on Sunday evening will be given over to a documentary film, when this slot was previously filled by popular shows or drama. *"2M wants to break with the advertising dictatorship"*, explained Reda Benjelloun, Director of news magazines and the channel's documentaries. *"With curiosity and passion even, we go searching for films that are about the joys and tumult of this century. From changes in the Arab world, to conflict in the Middle East, through the effects of a world economic crisis, we shall try to understand the state of the world and the challenges of a globalised planet. Culture for everyone, active citizenship, an opening out to the world..."*.

Salim Cheikh, the head of 2M, chose to highlight a *"real transformation"* in the channel's strategy, adding that this programming remains *"accessible to the majority of viewers, as 2M has no intention of making elitist programmes"*.

Besides two documentary series produced by the channel and directed by Soumaya Derhourhi and Leila Ghandi, 2M has also signed up to 4 co-productions. Finally, *Joking Aside* (photo) by Vanessa Rousselot, which won two awards at PriMed 2011, is one of the documentaries the channel has bought and scheduled for prime time.



[#Morocco / Turkish soaps lure viewers](#)

Moroccans are going the way of more and more viewers in the Arab world – they have recently developed a passion for Turkish-made tele-novelas. While Egyptian, Mexican and Argentinian soaps had traditionally lured Moroccan viewers, now series such as *Ihlamurlar Altında*, starring Tuba Büyüküstün (*photo*), are the latest craze. Most programmes are dubbed into Darija Arab, which increases their popularity, but there are other factors as well: twists in the story, sub-plot after sub-plot, immaculate images ... As well as values and codes "*more familiar to Moroccans than even the most accomplished Mexican tele-novelas*", comments Yassine Ahrar, from *Le Matin*.



[#Italy / A new project for a programme for Roberto Saviano](#)

Roberto Saviano (*photo*), *bête noire* of the Neapolitan Mafia since his book "*Gomorrah*" was published in 2006, could shortly make his comeback on the screen. He last worked as a presenter on RAI3 in 2010 for the political programme "*Vieni Via Con Me*" ("Come away with me"), watched by an average of 10 million viewers. Now he says he is working on a project "*which could come out in May on 7. The programme's a little different, as Italy has changed, and so have we*".

Saviano, who has just published a new book, "*La Lotta Continua*" (*The Struggle goes on*) met astonishing success with "*Vieni Via Con Me*", which he co-presented with Fabio Fazio and which stood out from Italian television programmes by denouncing generalised corruption in the country.



[#Algeria / ENTV and OTA adapt "Extreme Makeover"](#)

From 12 February onwards, every Friday evening at 20h45 ENTV has been showing "*Hanout Maker*", an adaptation of the American reality TV series "*Extreme Makeover*". In collaboration with the private telecommunications company OTA (Orascom Télécom Algérie), ENTV cameras followed a team of design, decoration and building experts who had to renovate several shops throughout Algeria. Their work took them to 12 districts, from Algiers to Tlemcen to Constantine, where the experts buckled down to livening up shops which were on the verge of closing down.



[#Algeria / CFI signs up with the "Couscous Bled" scriptwriters](#)

CFI, in partnership with the Algerian production company HKE, organised three workshops in Sétif from January through to March. Seven Algerian scriptwriters took part in these sessions, which allowed them to get to grips with the script for a new sitcom, "*Couscous Bled*". This will be filmed in the following months to be broadcast next Ramadan on ENTV.

CFI also confirmed its commitment to young actors on the south Mediterranean broadcasting scene, as it had already done in [Méditalents](#) (last application call on 10 May) and in the workshop [Côté Court](#) (see page 23).



[#France / Mediterraneo in April](#)

This month *Mediterraneo* takes a look at tourism and hunts down mythical places.

Tourism is one of the main sources of economic development in Tunisia, yet more than a year after the revolution, its takings have plummeted by 30 % and more than 3,000 employees in the sector have lost their jobs. Given this situation the new country leaders have drawn up a recovery plan to help boost tourism with the aid of the communications sector. Professionals in this field prove hopeful.

The city of Otranto in Puglia, south-eastern Italy, has always been a bridge between East and West as well as much sought out tourist resort. Local authorities are looking to develop its swimming and sailing facilities. But the wealth of this city's cultural heritage is the main attraction for visitors.

Artificial pearls from Palma de Majorca are not only a tradition that goes back to the nineteenth century, they are also part of a story-telling that is an integral part of the cultural heritage of the Balearic Islands. These pearls are doubtless the most popular souvenir that tourists bring back from their trip. We went to one of the biggest pearl factories, to find out more about an exceptional craft.

The ultimate destination in cultural and religious tourism, the old city of Jerusalem welcomes thousands of tourists each year, and on holy days more than 8,000 people make their way through the city's narrow streets. So to cope with this crowding, the town hall has decided to increase tours at night, including the most important event, the Festival of Light (*photo*).



Also featuring : a look at Arab coffee traditions, when fewer and fewer people are tasting it. We shall also go to Morocco and discover tourist initiatives compatible with sustainable development, then learn about wine-growing in Croatia and the production of firewood in Croatia, which is on the increase.

Mediterraneo is broadcast at 11h30 every Saturday on France 3 Corse-ViaStella, at 11h30 every Sunday on France 3 Provence-Alpes and France 3 Côte-d'Azur, and also in the week on TV5 Monde.

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ECONOMY

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[#Tunisia / Nessma TV questions audience ratings figures](#)

The head of the private channel Nessma TV has questioned the accuracy of audience figures published every month by Sigma Conseil agency. *"The results of the last TV audience calculation carried out by Sigma Conseil Tunisie for the month of February 2012 have just demonstrated, once more, the amateurishness of this pseudo pollster, master in the art of twisting figures and percentages, and using them to suit circumstance and to further sordid interests"* he complained. The February audience figures do indeed place the channel run by Nabil Karoui in last position, with an average of 2.9% of market shares, far behind Al Wataniya (37.9%) and Hannibal TV (15.5%).

Tarak Ben Ammar (*photo*), one of the main shareholders in the channel, went one step further: *"These agencies trivialise our efforts and endanger our work [...]. Who are these agencies that pose as true judges of the national economy?"*.

Nessma TV has not won top place in audience ratings since August 2011, namely a few weeks before the *Persepolis* scandal damaged the channel's reputation with its Tunisian viewers.



[#Italy / Mediaset no longer an Endemol shareholder](#)

According the newspaper *Il Sole – 24 Ore*, the Mediaset group has sold its capital shares in Endemol for 72 million euros. This sale, which was announced on 4 April, brings an end to the partnership between Silvio Berlusconi's group, the Dutch broadcasting production giant, and Goldman Sachs bank. According to the same newspaper, Mediaset apparently tried to buy back a large part of the Endemol debt and reportedly met a categorical refusal from its partners, which they claim led to the Italian group's departure.

Goldman Sachs and the Dutch billionaire Jon De Mol are therefore from now on the only major shareholders. Together with Mediaset they had both bought back 75% of Endemol capital from the Spanish group Telefonica in 2007, for the sum of 2.5 billion euros.



[#France / A viewing agreement signed between INA and YouTube](#)

The National Broadcasting Institute (*l'Institut National de l'Audiovisuel, INA*) has reached an agreement with the video sharing website YouTube about viewing its broadcasting archives. From now on 57,000 INA videos will be available on YouTube through special interest channels. INA will be paid

from the advertising revenue generated from the site.

"INA wishes to broaden the consultation of its archives as much as possible to reach a diverse public", the INA chairman Matthieu Gallet explained. "We have already signed with Wat and Dailymotion, it would have made no sense not to do so with the leader in the market".



[#France / Al Jazeera more and more ambitious in the French market](#)

After buying up a part of the broadcasting rights to the French football championship and the Champion League, the Al Jazeera group will launch two sports channels in France this summer. Be In Sport 1 and Be In Sport 2, will be run by Charles Biétry, former head of Sports in Canal+.

The first will be widely distributed, from Canalsat to broadband bouquets, whilst the second will figure on some broadband bouquets. Al Jazeera hopes to start with 3 million subscribers, a far cry from the 9.8 million who subscribe to Canal+, the current leader of pay television in France. Although they made no official announcement about the price of a monthly subscription, it should cost half or even a third of the Canal+ subscription (currently 39.90€/month).

At the end of March the Qatari group launched an invitation to tender to run its advertising sales. TF1, *France Télévisions*, Amaury and Lagardère have all responded.

But Al Jazeera does not stop there, as, according to *Le Parisien* newspaper, the Qataris are also planning to launch a non-stop news channel on French networks in 2013, which would also allow it to reach French speaking viewers in Africa.

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CINEMA

[#Lebanon / And Now where do we go ? garners nearly a million viewers](#)

[#Italy / French cinema makes a breakthrough in Italy](#)



[#Lebanon / And Now where do we go ? garners nearly a million viewers](#)

Nadine Labaki's film, produced last year for a budget of about 7 million dollars, has sold nearly a million tickets. *And Now where do we go?* came out in French cinemas on 14 September and has made good impact on 380 000 French cinemagoers.

Outside France the film has also done well, with 418 000 seats sold, including 300,000 in Lebanon and 26,000 for its first week in Italy. The film has not only sold more than 800,000 tickets, it has also won prizes at the festivals of Cannes, Toronto and Namur, and is the director's biggest success to date.

And Now where do we go? is about a group of women struggling to dissuade the men in their village from going to war or becoming involved in religious conflicts.



[#Italy/ French cinema makes a breakthrough in Italy](#)

Italian audiences traditionally stay away from French cinema, but since the beginning of 2012 French films have been enjoying quite a success on the other side of the Alps. *The Untouchables (photo)*, the film by Eric Toledano and Olivier Nakache (which was a hit in France, selling over 19 million tickets) made 8 million euros in its first four weeks in Italy, and went on to become the top box-office hit in the fourth week. It was released on February 24th and has already done a lot better than *Welcome to the Sticks* (2008), which made 3.1 million euros during its entire run.

The multi-Oscar winning *The Artist*, by Michel Hazanavicius, has made just over two million euros and its recent awards should attract even more viewers.

With the exception of *Amélie* (2001) by Jean-Pierre Jeunet, which ended its cinema run with over 8.3 million euros in takings, most French films have trouble making more than a million euros in Italy. As a case in point *Nothing to Declare*, which was another box-office hit with the French, brought in merely 600 000 euros.

FESTIVALS

The festival of the month...

London Palestine Film Festival, London, from 20 April to 3 May



Since it was launched in 1998, the London Palestine Film Festival has become the best way of seeing films from the Gaza strip and West Bank, and indeed foreign-made films focussing on Palestine.

Organised by the Palestine Film Foundation, the festival shows drama and documentary, and offers screenings at the Barbican Cinema and the University of London. 41 films will be presented this year, including 26 previews, in the presence of the directors.

For the first time there will be public screenings of film archives shot during the British mandate nearly a hundred years ago. In the retrospective category, the festival will also give audiences the chance to see *Promised Lands*, the only documentary ever produced by the essayist and novelist Susan Sontag.

Recent productions will not be left out, with films like Sameh Zoabi's *Man Without a Cell Phone*, winner of the Golden Antigone in the last Mediterranean Cinema Festival in Montpellier, *Last Days in Jerusalem* by Tawfik Abu Wael, and Nabil Ayouch's *My Land*.

If Palestinian films are well-represented, the London festival is careful not to neglect its international dimension: amongst others there will be Italian films, Marco Pasquini's *Gaza Hospital*, Francesco Cannito and Luca Cusani's *Inshallah Beijing*, the Canadian Mike Hoolboom's *Lacan Palestine*, the Chilean Ana Maria Hurtado's *Palestine in the South* and Ursula Biemann's Swiss film *X-Mission*.

Special screenings focussing on the 30th anniversary of the siege of Beirut, Palestinian refugees in South America and the Druze minority in Israel will accompany the official selection.

Finally, a video exhibition will bring together the work of several Palestinian film and video makers, artists in Palestine or originally born in Palestine, such as Elia Suleiman (*Divine Intervention*, 2002), Mona Hatoum, or Sharif Waked.

OTHER FESTIVALS

[#Italy / Paolo Ferrari, a new President for the Rome Film Festival](#)

[#Italy / Venice to have its Film Fair](#)

[#Egypt / Last chance to submit films for the Ismaïlia Festival](#)

[#Romania / Astra Film organises its 12th Documentary Festival](#)

[#Morocco / Agadir welcomes the 4th FIDADOC](#)

[#Morocco / Documentaries set the scene in Zagora](#)

[#Morocco / Faouzi Bensaidi crowned in Tétouan](#)

[#Palestine / Call for Human Rights films for a festival in Ramallah](#)

[#Italy / Arab youth on the big screen in Lecce](#)

[#France / Institut Lumière celebrates "Southern Cinemas" in Lyon](#)



[#Italy / Paolo Ferrari, a new President for the Rome Film Festival](#)

After Gianluigi Rondi resigned in February, the Assembly of Founding Associates proceeded to elect a new President for the Rome Film Festival. Paolo Ferrari (*photo*), the candidate put forward by Rome's Mayor, was elected on March 6th. He had previously been chairman of Warner Bros. Italy and ANICA (National Association of the Cinema, Broadcasting and Multimedia Industry).

Meanwhile Marco Müller, Artistic Director of the Venice Film Festival from 2004 to 2011, has become the new director of the Rome Film Festival. He was appointed at an exceptional Board Meeting organised by the Cinema Per Roma Foundation on 16 March. Alberto Barbera will replace him in Venice.



[#Italy / Venice to have its Film Market](#)

From now on the Venice Film Festival, celebrating its 69th anniversary this year, will host a film market. This was the decision reached at the last Venice Film Festival Board Meeting in March. The Frenchman Pascal Diot, founder of the production company IDPL, will be the managing director. The Market will be held from August 30th to September 3rd, while the

Festival itself lasts from August 29th to September 8th. Three areas will be set up to host professionals: a digital Library, which will offer 40 video outlets, a Business Centre, and a Business Club.



[#Egypt / Last chance to submit films for the Ismaïlia Festival](#)

The 2012 International Cinema Festival in Ismaïlia will be held from the 23rd to the 28th June. Submissions for documentaries and short films (maximum 60 minutes) are welcome until May 1st 2012. This annual festival is organised by the Ministry of Culture, the Egyptian Film Centre and governing bodies in Ismaïlia. It seeks to promote intercultural dialogue by encouraging documentary and short film makers.

Application and payment forms may be downloaded from this address :
<http://www.egyptianfilmcenter.org.eg>



[#Romania / Astra Film organises its 12th Documentary Festival](#)

The biannual Astra Film Festival was set up in 1993 and after specialising in anthropological and ethnographic films, it broadened out to creative documentaries. The oldest Romanian festival has just launched an appeal for applications for its 12th edition, which will take place from 15 to 21 October 2012 in Sibiu. All documentaries may apply, whatever their country of origin, their length or their theme. It should be noted that special sections exist for environmental themes and films made by students.

Payment : <http://www.astrafilm.ro/regulation.aspx>

Application form : <http://www.astrafilm.ro/registration.aspx>



[#Morocco / Agadir hosts the 4th FIDADOC](#)

Although its organisers were mourning the death of their director, Nezha Drissi, last December, the International Documentary Festival of Agadir (FIDADOC) will take place from 24 to 28 April. This 4th edition, initially scheduled for February, will show the first documentaries about the Arab spring. Several well-known directors will be present, including Stefano Savona, who will present "*Tahrir, Freedom Square*" and Jérôme Lemaire, for "*Tea or Electricity*". Professional meetings will also be held and will enable young Moroccan directors to meet a panel of seasoned experts. Five of them will be selected for a Pan-African writers' retreat in May. If you have a documentary project under way, contact Youssef Maman quickly:
youssef.maman@gmail.com



[#Morocco / Documentaries set the scene in Zagora](#)

The Zagora Association for Documentary Films organised International Documentary Encounters from 13 to 15 April in Zagora. Five documentaries from five different countries were presented: *All I Wanna Do* (photo), by the American Michelle Medina, *Between Black Mountains* by the French Virginie Hoffman, *The Burn* by the Tunisian Leila Chaibi, *Next Step, Lampedusa* by the Italian Nicolas Angrisano, and *Algerian Cinema, a new life* by the Algerian Mounia Meddour. Two seminars discussing "documentary approaches to immigration" and "the image of the immigrant" completed the programme to this forum.



[#Morocco / Faouzi Bensaidi crowned in Tétouan](#)

The Moroccan Faouzi Bensaidi won the Best Film Award in the feature film category at the 18th Festival of Mediterranean Cinema in Tétouan last March. His film "*Death for Sale*", which traces three young misfits who try to make a go for it by robbing a big jewellery store, had previously been selected at the last Berlin Festival, and clearly appealed to this jury. "*Little Venice*" by the Italian Andrea Segre won the second prize : Best First Film and Best Actor was awarded to Rade Serbedzija. Another Moroccan film also made a name for itself, as "*Rough Hands*" by Mohamed Asli won the Audience Award and Best Actress for Houda Rihani. On the documentary side of things, "*My Land*" by the Moroccan Nabil Ayouch and "*Fire over Marmara*" by the Spaniard David Segarra made off with the main prizes.



[#Palestine / Call for human rights films for a festival in Ramallah](#)

The second Human Rights Film Festival will take place from June 23rd in Ramallah. All drama or documentaries featuring subjects linked to human rights are invited to participate. This festival organised by the Palestinian Social Cinema Arts Association (PSCAA) is mainly designed to create careers and foster links between young Palestinian film-makers and their counterparts elsewhere in the world.

Films winning awards at this second edition will be shown in a hundred Palestinian towns and villages. The deadline for inscription is 30 April.

For more information [click here](#).

To download the inscription form [click here](#).



[#Italy / Arab youth on the big screen in Lecce](#)

After Rome in 2010, the Yalla Shebab Festival set itself up in Lecce from April 10th to 15th. It presents films by young directors, mostly from Lebanon, Palestine or Egypt. Modelled on the Jana Film Festival for Children and Youth which takes place every two years in Beirut, it allows student groups to participate directly in workshops on different themes and to take part in the festival's organisation. A focus on the Arab spring, meetings with directors, photo exhibitions and concerts also feature in the programme.



[#France / Institut Lumière celebrates "Southern Cinemas" in Lyon](#)

Fenêtres sur les Cinémas du Sud has changed its name for its 12th edition. From now on, the festival organised by *Regard Sud* at the *Institut Lumière* in Lyon will call itself *Festival Cinémas du Sud*. Sponsored by the Tunisian film-maker Raja Amari (*Satin Rouge*, 2001), this 2012 edition from April 12th to 15th focussed on Syrian cinema, and featured a retrospective of the documentary film-maker Omar Amiralay, who died in 2011. Other directors are to present their films in Lyon, including Georges Hachem (*Balle Perdue*), Ibrahim El Batout (*Hawi*) or

Rida Behi (*Always Brando*).

For more information [click here](#).

You will also find a list of all the festivals in the month of April on our website :

<http://www.cmca-med.org/fr/festivals-et-marches/>

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WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

Euromed Audiovisuel (www.euromedaudiovisuel.net/2012)



The Euromed Audiovisuel website has had a facelift for 2012. This EU financed programme is intended to support promising co-operative broadcasting projects between the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean.

The website provides updates on different stages of the programme, which has entered its third phase (2011-2013), and offers a description of ongoing projects, such as ACCESS, a training programme for Mediterranean producers, which began last March in Tunisia, and which will continue into two extra sessions in July, then in Jordan in October ([see page 28](#)).

One of the main improvements concerns their news section, which is updated almost daily and which provides information on ongoing projects, festivals to come, films showing in cinemas and grants opportunities. The site also offers regular interviews with directors from the Mediterranean basin.

Euromedaudiovisuel.net also provides professionals with indispensable practical tools, with a sizeable database offering contacts for Mediterranean broadcasting professionals (directors, producers, journalists, television companies, festivals...). A complete legal database contains information about ongoing legislation concerning copyright and broadcasting rights, depending on the country.

The site is translated into English, French and Arabic, in order to reach as wide a public as possible.

WEB-DOCUMENTARIES

[#Egypt / Funding appeal for a web-documentary on the "Tahrir Generation"](#)

[#Egypt / The first Egyptian web-documentary on its way](#)

[#Algeria / A web-documentary plunges us into kasbah streets](#)

[#France / Women born in 1980 sought after for documentary project](#)



[#Egypt / Funding appeal for a web-documentary on the "Tahrir Generation"](#)

Four Cairo journalists are completing a web-documentary called "Tahrir Generation". This project brings together first-hand accounts and stories of the post-revolutionary period, giving the chance for young Egyptians to have their say. They went looking for these stories right across Egypt and have been working on them for several months.

To complete this web-documentary and the website that will host it, a funding appeal has been launched for 15,000 euros. The sum will be used to develop the site in HTML-5, which will increase the inter-activity, enabling web readers to post their own stories. The journalists also need these funds to pay for a good translation from Arab to French, and to finance the last leg of their trip, in the Sinai and Upper Egypt.

"Tahrir Generation" is produced by Pokitin (Belgium) and Capa (France). The material will be used in a television documentary on the same subject.

You can get the latest updates on this ambitious project by going to the official blog [click here](#).

To contribute to the fund raising, [click here](#).



[#Egypt / The very first Egyptian web-documentary underway](#)

12 Egyptian journalists, who had already worked together at a 4M workshop in October 2011, met up again in March for another CFI session. This new workshop, run by two French journalists, had them directing the first web-documentary to be made in Egypt: "*The Way From Tahrir...*". The twelve journalists, who work in radio, press and television, concentrated on portraits of artists and intellectuals who were chosen because of their commitment to post-revolutionary Egyptian society.

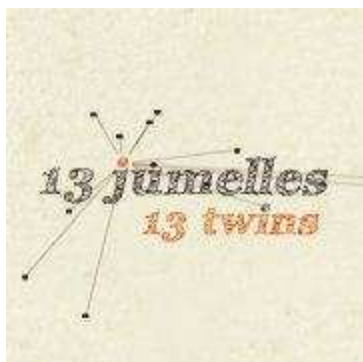
Their complete work can be seen at this address: <http://www.4m.cfi.fr/egypte2/>



[#Algeria / A web-documentary plunges us into Kasbah streets](#)

France24's French and Arab websites are currently offering a web-documentary about the Casbah in Algiers. *Inside the Casbah walls*, directed by Céline Dréan (Etoile de la SCAM 2011 for *The Watchman*), takes web readers on three interactive tours, exploring stairways in the casbah district, listening to people living there, visiting cafés and houses. This project was run in collaboration with the *Université Ouverte des Humanités* in Rennes and the *Université d'Alger II*, with support from socio-linguists specialising in cities.

For more information : <http://www.danslesmursdelacasbah.fr>



[#France / Marianne Geslin on the lookout for women born in 1980 for a documentary project](#)

The Marseille director Marianne Geslin is looking for women born – like her – in 1980 and living in one of the thirteen cities twinned with Marseille: Hamburg, Abidjan, Copenhagen, Dakar, Anvers, Genoa, Haifa, Kobe, Odessa, Piraeus, Shanghai, Marrakesh and Glasgow. Such women will help her complete her documentary project *13 Twin Sisters*, which will be presented on a website and on an interactive video installation at Marseille-Provence 2013, European Capital of Culture. The project aims to draw up alternate portraits of the cities and the women, "to try to understand what unites them and what differentiates them".

Candidates must preferably work in arts, culture, or intellectual professions, and know how to express themselves in English or French, be familiar with social networks and the internet in general, and feel a strong bond with their respective cities.

Please send your application to: marianne@13jumelles.fr

For more information on this project: <http://www.13jumelles.fr> or <http://www.13twins.com>.

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INDEPENDENT MEDITERRANEAN PRODUCERS' WAY

Apimed

Association internationale de producteurs indépendants de la méditerranée



First ACCESS training session in Tunis

Twenty-five Mediterranean producers met up in Tunis to develop their feature film or documentary projects for the

ACCESS training programme, co-financed by the EuroMed Audiovisuel III Programme, and organised by the Media Business School (MBS) in partnership with APIMED, the Red Sea Institute of Cinematic Arts (RSICA) and *Sud Écriture*. From March 20th to 25th, 25 producers, selected from 50 candidates, were able to improve their knowledge of different aspects of the profession, particularly development strategy, production financing, co-production, contracts, legal aspects, marketing, distribution and digital media.

The project brought together several experts to accompany the training. These included: Dima Al Joundi, a Lebanese producer/director and vice-president of APIMED; the producer Diane Arantingi (Fantascope Production); Laurent Bocahut a French producer and budget specialist (Les Films d'un Jour); Greek producer Dionisys Samiotis (Tanweer Alliances); Egyptian producer Hala Galal (SEMAT), Linda Beath an English producer (Faction Films); Khalil Benkiriane, head of cinema funding at the Doha Film Institute; the Algerian producer Boualem Aissaoui (Dumar Film), and Sergi Doladé, head of MEDIMED.

Participants were split into five groups, each developing their project with a tutor. There were also one-on-one meetings with the above experts. Linda Beath, a Canadian producer based in Rome, was the director of the study programme. ACCESS training programmes are made up of a series of plenary sessions, working groups, one-on-one interviews, study cases, training sessions and online advice. ACCESS participants will attend a second training session in June and a third, focussing on distribution, marketing and new media which will take place in Amman (Jordan) in October 2012.

For more information on Access 2012 or on the next training course (scheduled for 2013), please contact Laura Almellones, workshop coordinator (access@mediaschool.org) or consult www.euromed.mediaschool.org.

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS IN MEDIMED 2012 – Sitges, Spain 12-14 October

MEDIMED is the professional market of Euro-Mediterranean producers. It is made up of a promotion forum which supports independent documentary makers in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean together with their commercial partners. It helps them finance their projects in the international market. Potential buyers are shown 25 pre-selected films in either in development or production, and a choice of 400 films available in the market video library.



MEDIMED is mainly interested in factual documentary projects of a social, cultural or political nature.

Producers seeking additional partners to make films on factual subjects in history, the environment, science or other fields could be eligible to take advantage of MEDIMED's unique format, enabling them to sell their projects to a panel of international buyers.

*Each year projects are pre-selected by an **international committee** and chosen from proposals coming from the Euro-Mediterranean region.*

Regular presentation niches – one-off documentaries:

- *A single documentary film project on a subject that is social, cultural or political, or other subjects excluding fiction.*
- *Having a partner in the business (a broadcaster, distributor) who will come and present the project with the producer.*
- *Having at least 25% of the project financed on site.*

Completed documentaries must have been made recently (2011 or 2012) and in a European or Mediterranean country. All types and lengths accepted.

Registration deadline for a Project and/or a finished Programme: **SATURDAY 30 JUNE 2012. FREE**

For further information: www.medimed.org – Facebook : medimeddocsmarket

For more information, please contact the APIMED office: Tel: + 34 93 244 98 50 / Fax: + 34 93 247 01 65 / info@apimed.org

STOP PRESS

[#Algeria / Côté Courts 2012 workshop call for projects](#)

[#Italy / Call for candidatures for the Ilaria Alpi Prize 2012](#)

[#France / Applications open for the Master "Careers in Documentary Film"](#)

[#France / The Marseille Web Fest and PRIMI launch Web Pitch #2](#)



[#Algeria / Côté Courts 2012 workshop call for projects](#)

There will be another *Côté Courts* workshop during the 10th Béjaïa *Rencontres Cinématographiques* from June 9th to 15th. Organised by CFI and the association *Project'Heurts*, the workshop is designed for Algerian film-makers and directors wishing to improve their script-writing skills. It offers tutoring in writing a short drama or other short programme.

12 participants will be selected to take part in three working sessions: the first in Béjaïa during the *Rencontres*, the second in September and the third in November or December. All the training fees are paid for.

Candidates have until May 13th to apply.

For further information to request a subscription form, please send an email to: cote.courts.2012@gmail.com



[#Italy / Call for applications for the Ilaria Alpi 2012 Prize](#)

The 18th Ilaria Alpi prize for television journalism will be awarded on September 8th in Riccione, near Rimini. This award is for television journalists who specialise in social

themes such as solidarity, justice or human rights. Prizes include: Best Italian News Story, Best International News Story, Best Television News Subject, Best Web-TV News Story, Best Local or Regional News Story ...

The reports submitted must have been produced after June 2011. The deadline for subscription is 31 May 2012.

For more information: <http://www.premioilariaalpi.it/bando/inglese/>



Master professionnel "Les métiers du film documentaire"

[#France / Applications open for a Masters in "Careers in Documentary Film"](#)

Applications have opened for the Professional Masters in "Careers in Documentary Film" at Aix-en-Provence (southern France) for the year 2012-2013. All application forms must be filled in and sent before June 1st 2012. Candidates must have a degree or equivalent. After the applications have been carefully considered, every candidate will be called for an interview on June 25th or 26th. Students working on this Professional Masters often work with CMCA on the PriMed festival, filming different aspects of the festival. You can consult their work on PriMed 2011 on the PriMed website: <http://primed.tv/16eme-edition-marseille-2011/>.

To download the application forms :

1st year: [click here](#).

2nd year: [click here](#).



APPEL A PROJET WEB PITCH

[#France / Marseille Web Fest and PRIMI launch Web Pitch #2](#)

In 2012, Marseille Web Fest and PRIMI (the pole for Mediterranean Transmedia) will launch Web Pitch #2, in partnership with the CMCA. The web pitch is:

→ **A unique opportunity to pitch your project** to a panel chaired by Boris Razon, Director of New Writing and

Transmedia at *France Télévisions* and a panel of professionals at the Marseille Web Fest. More than 250 international professionals are expected for this second edition!

→ **A workshop pitch for 8 selected projects**, presented by an expert.

→ **A prize of 5,000€** for the best pitch.

→ **A follow up by the Transmedia Commission of the ACSE** (National Agency for Social Cohesion and Equal Opportunities) of projects dealing with diversity.

→ **A follow up of all the selected projects** by Marseille Web Fest and PRIMI.

Beyond the pitch itself, which aims to help those working on the selected projects to find collaborators, the Web Fest gives people the chance to discover other creative and innovative projects, helping new talents emerge and showcase the potential of their websites. This year particular attention will be paid to projects from the Mediterranean area.

Consult the appeal [by clicking here](#). Download the application form [by clicking here](#).

Contact & information : Amalia Germain / amalia@primi.pro

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**Translated from the French
by Tim King**