



N°133
March 2015

It's possible that ERT, the Greek radio and television station, will be back on the air, according to the head of the newly elected government. Any sacked employee who wants will be able to return.

We all remember the shock when ERT was closed down – the despair of its employees. This latest news touches us particularly at the CMCA, since ERT was one of our most loyal members. The development will be followed most closely in *Méditerranée Audiovisuelle*.

You have just a month to register your films for PriMed: the deadline is April 10th and we are really looking forward to seeing your work.

Also in this issue: CoPeAm's AGM; the Arab Festival of Radio and Television organised by ASBU (Arab States Broadcasting Union), which for the first time is open to foreign broadcasters who transmit in Arabic; and other news about broadcasting life around the Mediterranean.

We wish you all a good read

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LIFE IN THE CMCA

[REMINDER: Call for entries for the 19th PriMed](#)

Deadline: Friday April 10th 2015
to register your documentaries, reportages and multimedia works
for the 2015 PriMed



PriMed – the International Mediterranean Documentary and Reportage Awards is open to all film-makers, directors, producers and broadcasters who, through their programmes or films, contribute to a better knowledge of Mediterranean countries – taking that region in its broadest sense, from the Atlantic coast to the Black Sea. The audiovisual works presented must deal with subjects related to the culture, heritage, history, to the different societies and lives of the men and women living in Mediterranean countries.

The films must not contain any form of advertising or propaganda.

Each film may compete in only one category, and that choice must be clearly stated on the registration form.

Registration for PriMed is free. The films presented:

- Must have been produced after January 1st 2013;
- Must never have competed at PriMed in previous years;
- If it is a documentary in several episodes, only one may be submitted;
- If a film or programme is a co-production, it must be presented by only one co-producer; he or she must ensure the prior agreement of their partner(s).

The names of all the co-producers must appear on the registration form.

Seven awards will be presented from among the films in competition. Broadcasting awards will also be given by the representatives of television channels.

[Click here to consult the rules for PriMed 2015](#)
[and download the registration form.](#)

[Ecrans de Babel in collaboration with the CMCA and PriMed](#)

Babel Med Music will be extended with a selection of films and documentaries about world music to be screened on March 26th and 27th. The rendez-vous is at the heart of Babel, on the mezzanine of *Dock des Suds*

Free entry



This is the programme, worked out in collaboration with the CMCA (*Centre Méditerranéen de la Communication Audiovisuelle*) as part of the advance publicity for PriMed:

THURSDAY MARCH 26th

11h10: Tarek Tiba's TUNIZIK, Tunisia, 2013 (54')

This documentary takes a fresh look at how Tunisian music is created and how, in the present context, the energy of its identity helps it spread across the country.

12h00: Mahmoud Ben Mahmoud & Moustapha Hasnaoui's MÉLODIES DE L'EXIL, France, 2013 (52')

An anthology of North African music in France since the end of the 1940's, the film traces the musical themes and particularities of this culture handed down by those in exile.

FRIDAY MARCH 27th

10h:00 Andrea Segre's INDEBITO, Italy, 2013 (84')

A journey with Italian singer Vinicio Capossela across debt-ridden Greece, emblematic centre of the current crisis, through the words, thoughts and music of rebetiko, the indescribable Greek blues.

12h20: Jacqueline Caux' SI JE TE GARDE DANS MES CHEVEUX, France, 2012 (37')

Manifesto on film about women in Arab countries, who have to fight doggedly to impose their talent, art, and social commitment and their femininity without a veil.

Find the rest of the programme by clicking here:

<http://dock-des-suds.org/babelmedmusic2015/telechargements/>

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HEADLINES



[COPEAM's 22nd Annual Conference "The Mediterranean, Migrants and the Media"](#)

The 22nd annual conference, whose theme is "The Mediterranean, Migrants and the Media", and CoPeAm's 21st AGM (*Conférence Permanente de l'Audiovisuel Méditerranéen*), will both be held in Malta from March 26th to 28th, hosted by Maltese public radio and television, PBS.

ROUND TABLES ON FRIDAY MARCH 27th

Official opening by

- Tonio Portuguese, chairman of PBS - Malta
- Talal El Makdessi, chairman of CoPeAm – Lebanon
- Anna Maria Tarantola, vice-chairman, EBU
- Owen Bonnici, Minister of Culture - Malta

Panel 1 The Mediterranean confronted with migrants: a shared issue

Introduction: Gilles PECOUT, Full professor at ENS and EPHE; Rector of the Nancy Academy - Metz (France)

- The EU High Representative for foreign affairs and security (to be confirmed)
- Hatem ATALLAH, executive director, Anna Lindh Foundation (to be confirmed)
- Adrian EDWARDS, head of news and media, UNHCR

Panel 2 The role of the media: giving the floor to radio broadcasters

Introduction : Paola BARRETTA , Osservatorio di Pavia - Italy

- Robert OLSSON, head of news, Sveriges Television - Sweden
- Nidaa RAWABDEH , senior editor, JRTV - Jordan
- Boris MITAR, journalist, RTVSLO - Slovenia
- Xavier MARQUET, senior editor North Africa - Orient Express, TV5 Monde - France

Friday afternoon and Saturday morning will be given over to meetings of CoPeAm's various committees.

The AGM will be held on **Saturday March 28th from 3:00 pm**. It will open with a speech by Ingrid Deltenre, head of the EBU (to be confirmed)

Source: copeam.org

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LIFE IN THE CHANNELS

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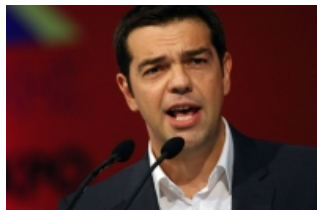
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[Greece / The return of ERT](#)

The sudden closure in 2013 of the Greek public broadcaster ERT for economic reasons shocked many. On February 8th, during his policy speech to the new Greek parliament, Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras announced legislation would be passed to reopen ERT, calling the closure “a crime against the Greeks and against democracy.” On the 27th the government announced that a bill to reopen ERT would be presented to Parliament in early March. It specifies “those laid off on June 11th 2013 may return to work if they want.”

Sources: *telesatellite.com, rfi.fr, franceinfo.fr et paris-normadie.fr*

[Greece / Arrival of i24news](#)



i24news, the international news channel broadcast in French, English and Arabic continues to expand across Europe. Launched in July 2013 by Patrick Drahi, and already available with major operators in Germany, Belgium, Spain, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Switzerland, Turkey, and Africa, the channel has just signed a broadcasting agreement with Forthnet, owner of the Nova TV platform. Through this partnership, i24news is now broadcast in Greece and Cyprus in English and Arabic. *“We are proud of this new agreement with Nova TV which allows Greek and Cypriot viewers to access a new type of news programme with an Israeli perspective,” said Frank Melloul, CEO i24news.*

Sources: *cbnews.fr et lettreaudiovisuel.com*



Bahrain / Al-Arab, one little spin and we all go home...

The launch of the rolling news channel, *Al-Arab*, by Saudi Prince Al Walid Bin Talal, was postponed many times. Finally it happened on February 1st, at the company's headquarters in Bahrain. Less than 24 hours later, though, the channel went black. Originally it was for “*technical and administrative reasons*”. Then on February 9th the Manama government announced the channel would close. The official reason: *Al-Arab* broadcast without the “*necessary permissions*”. In reality the problem is editorial. The channel apparently “*did not respect the traditions of the Gulf countries: impartiality of news items and rejection of anything likely to affect the spirit of regional unity*”. The news programme's first guest was the Bahraini opposition leader Khalil al-Marzouq, who had criticized the kingdom's decision to strip seventy-two people of their nationality.

Sources: lorientlejour.com, lemonde.fr



Tunisia / Three broadcasters threatened with having equipment confiscated

HAICA (*Haute Autorité Indépendante de la Communication Audiovisuelle*) issued several formal notices against Tunisian channels accused of broadcasting illegally, though without much success. The radio stations concerned are: “*Nour FM*”, “*Al-Qoraan Al-Karim*” and “*MFM*”, the television stations: “*Al-Janoubia*”, “*Tounesna*” and “*Zitouna*”. Since all these channels refused to comply with the regulations and failed to respect the deadlines for ceasing transmission, the HAICA announced on January 29th that it will “*confiscate equipment from any broadcasting company transmitting without a license*”. The National Union of Tunisian Journalists (SNJT) responded the next day in a statement affirming “*its adherence to the application of the law to regulate the media sector and to ensure companies' equality before the law. Moreover the union insists on the right of companies which have not received a license, to have explanations and reasons for the refusal*” from HAICA. On Monday February 3rd “*Al Janoubia*”, “*Radio Nour*” and “*MFM*” spontaneously suspended transmission pending HAICA's consideration of their cases.

Sources: directinfo.webmanagercenter.com, africanmanager.com



France / A TV channel for Europe 1

According to *L'Opinion*, executives at *Europe 1 radio* are about to launch a TV channel – *Europe 1 TV*. It would be broadcast on a web-site, an application, and perhaps ultimately the box of ISPs. There will probably be a press conference to present and explain the project.

Sources: *cbnews*, *l'opinion*



[France / Short films available on France Télévisions digital platforms](#)

In the context of rapidly changing technologies and new applications, both of which mean wider distribution of films, **France Télévisions** and the **Syndicat des producteurs indépendants (SPI)** have agreed on the need to adapt contractual and exhibition conditions for short films pre-financed by **France Télévisions**.

The short films will be available free on the internet – particularly **francetv pluzz** – four hours after they've been broadcast and for 7 days. As from the 8th day, they can be rented or downloaded from **francetv pluzzVàD**.

The agreement also means the pre-purchase contract will become more widely used and adapted to the specificity of short films. Its clauses – updated – will be similar for all channels.

As leading broadcast partner and funder of short films, **France Télévisions** wants to introduce viewers to tomorrow's young film talents, showing them the diversity of contemporary short films and allowing film-makers to express themselves in a variety of ways.

Each year, the group pre-finances and buys nearly 100 short dramas, animations and documentaries broadcast on France 2 and France 3 and, during event programming, on France 4 and France O.

Source: communiqué France Télévisions du 5 février 2015



[Jordan / Jordanian television prepares to launch a third channel](#)

JRTV, Jordan's national broadcasting company created in 1985 by merging Jordanian Radio and Jordan Television, is about to launch its third TV channel, subject to funding approval by Parliament. *"The new channel will broadcast drama and programmes for young people and families,"* Ramadan

Rawashdeh, JRTV's Director General, told *The Jordan Times*. It is aimed primarily at Arab regional viewers, supplementing the two existing satellite TV channels, and will employ about 170 people.

Sources: *rapidtvnews.com* et *advanced-television.com*



[Turkey / RTÜK warns channel TV2 about using the word "God" instead of "Allah"](#)

The Turkish Broadcasting Council (RTÜK) issued a formal warning to a television channel which used the word "God" instead of "Allah" in its translation of the French series *"Vous les femmes"*, reports the *Hürriyet Daily News*.

According to the newspaper, RTÜK, criticized the dubbing of the episode shown on TV2 on January 28th, saying it *"insulted Turkish society's national and sentimental values"* and that *"using the word "God" could have an adverse impact on children's perception of Allah."*

This is the second time RTÜK has warned TV2 about this series. An earlier episode in which two female characters talk about a strawberry-flavoured condom has also been sanctioned.

Sources: *hurriyetdailynews.com* et *lorientlejour.com*



[Spain / Andalucía TV once again available by satellite](#)

The Spanish channel *Andalucía TV* on Canal Sur returned on February 12th following a one-year agreement signed between Canal + and Canal Sur. *Andalucía TV*, whose satellite transmission ceased on December 31st 2014, was only available in Spain on Movistar, Ono and Telecable. Now it is broadcast across Europe and North Africa on Astra and Hispasat. It was mainly the complaints of residents in France, Germany and Catalonia which pushed Canal Sur to restore the channel.

Sources: telesatellite.com, satexpat.com et communiqué de canalsur.es

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PROGRAMMES

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[Egypt / May schedule for second season of “Saraya Abidine”](#)



Season 2 of the TV series “Saraya Abidine”: the final exterior scene is in the can. The first season, broadcast during Ramadan 2014, was about the life of Ismail Pasha, Viceroy and then Khedive of Egypt. The costumes and filming locations are meticulously prepared, the first episode was shot in the Abdeen Palace. The second series of 60 episodes covers the period 1866 to 1890 and has been directed by Shady Abouel Oyouun Al-Soud. In the principal roles: Kosai Khouli, the Lebanese actress Nour, Yousra, Ghada Adel, Mai Kassab, Nelly Karim, Salah Abdallah, Nahed al-Sibaei and Anoshka. The second season should start in May 2015.

Source: egyptindependant.com

[Italy / Rai News stops broadcasting IS videos](#)



The Italian newspaper “*Il Tempo*” reports Rai News group will stop showing Islamic State videos on its channel (Rai News 24) and on its website (Rainews.it). A decision taken to avoid spreading the terrorist organization's propaganda. Monica Maggioni, the channel director, explains: “*We have taken this decision after months of discussion with all of the editors. The Islamic State has become a kind of Hollywood of terror. Their videos are studied, each communication is carefully analysed. And we do not want to be part of their propaganda. One reason being we don't know how far they will go.*” She added the channel will continue to inform the public about the Islamic State through screen captures and analysis, “*to act as a buffer between the Islamic State, its propaganda and you.*”

Sources: iltempo.it, courrierinternational.com



[The Contents of *Mediterraneo* in March](#)

Greece A long way from the discussions between the new government and the Eurogroup countries, people on the island of Aegina, an hour and a half from Athens by boat, have had enough of the consequences of the crisis and the politics of austerity, particularly in schools, where today everyone wants to regain a sense of dignity.

Portugal Unemployment falling, a return to growth, but Portugal's positive economic indicators should not mask the fact the country is in convalescence and therefore fragile. Austerity still makes life hard, the amount of debt in firms and households puts a brake on recovery. Civil servants have been particularly affected by the crisis.

Syria In Kobane, late January, Kurdish fighters supported by coalition air strikes managed to break four months of siege and liberate the city. Meanwhile the Turkish government has been criticized for doing nothing, Ankara refusing to help the Kurds, an issue which remains a central issue in the country. Reportage from the town of Diyarbakir

France After the attacks in Paris and Copenhagen, questions about Jewish identity take on special meaning. A film, "*Pitchipoï*" is about just that. Charles Najman's drama praises the Jewish diaspora just as some are leaving Europe for Israel.

Morocco In Morocco's Martil Valley, the Trankat residence welcomes local and foreign artists, a place to work, meet people, exchange ideas. An opportunity for everyone to share their experiences and creativity, something unique for Moroccans, who have little opportunity to show their creative work outside their borders.

France The first International Biennale of Circus Arts in Marseille lived up to expectations.. Of the 40 circus troupes taking part, we look at two in particular: Orit Nevo, created in 2008 in Israel, and Sylvie Guillermin's troupe, working closely with the Shems International circus school in Morocco.

France In Corsica there are many artistic expressions, each reflecting the rich oral tradition. In Balagne, the actor Robin Renucci has created theatrical encounters which are becoming well-known though their quality and diversity. An initiative which is now a fixture since there's a permanent building for creating and learning

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ECONOMY

Italy / Fininvest: Transfer of 7,8% of Mediaset

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France/ Euronews: Naguib Sawiris next majority shareholder



Italy / Fininvest: Transfer of 7,8% of Mediaset

On February 12th the Berlusconi family holding company, Fininvest, announced it had sold 7.8% of Mediaset's capital for €377.2 million, reducing its share from 41.28% to 33.4%. *"The operation took place through an accelerated bookbuild to institutional investors at a price of €4.1 a share,"* according to the statement.

Sources: boursier.com et ansa.it

Spain / Transfer of FC Barcelona's TV rights to Telefonica

Telefonica



FC Barcelona, a soccer club, announced on its website it had sold its TV rights to Telefonica on February 18th, thus terminating its contract with Mediapro. *"The financial offers of Telefonica and Mediapro were identical. Our decision was strategic: Telefonica is a company that wants to expand globally, taking a bet on innovation"* announced vice-chairman Faus. The agreement covers *"the media rights for the 2015-16 season, estimated at €140 million by the Spanish press, and a three-year partnership on Latin American markets"*, with two years' option.

FC Barcelona has not confirmed the amount, but it has said it received €13.3 million per season. One of the clauses of the agreement provides a friendly match in South America during the first three years.

Sources: fcbarcelona.com, cbnews.fr



France/ Euronews: Naguib Sawiris new majority shareholder

The European 24-hour news channel, Euronews, created in 1993 by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), should see its capital increase with the arrival of a private shareholder. On February 24th the decision was approved by the Supervisory Board. Exclusive negotiations about an injection of capital from one of Naguib Sawiris' companies had been entrusted to Euronews chairman Michael Peters. Sawiris, an Egyptian billionaire, is expected to invest €35 million and would thus become the channel's majority shareholder with 53% of the capital. The negotiations will also focus on new governance. It is expected that the public shareholders, especially the 21 public channels and the three local authorities (Greater Lyon, the Rhone *département* and the *Région* Rhone-Alpes), would have the right of veto to prevent any disruption of the editorial line. During an interview with several European media, Naguib Sawiris promised that Euronews would *"remain neutral"* the channel *"is seen everywhere as neutral – nothing will change. Protection of content will remain strong and there will be no interference from shareholders."* Naguib Sawiris is the CEO of Orascom TMT (Telecom Media and Technology), present in mobile telephony, cable, media and technology in Egypt, Lebanon, North Korea, and other countries in the Middle East and North Africa. He is notably the owner of two Egyptian news channels and majority shareholder in an Egyptian newspaper.

Sources: cbnews.fr, rfi.fr, lesechos.fr, huffpostmaghreb.com et lexpressiondz.com

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[Tunisia / Theatre release in Tunisia of “El Gort”](#)

“El Gort”, the first feature-length documentary from Tunisian director Hamza Uni, has won several awards, including the Bronze *Tanit* in the documentary category at the 25th Carthage Film Festival last December. In February it was released in Tunisian cinemas. The story: *“Two young Tunisians try to survive by selling hay. Their workday starts early and never seems to end. Without any alternative between unemployment and exploitation, the dreams of a carefree youth are quickly transformed into despair. A film with wild energy and a bitter taste which says everything that can be said about today's Tunisia.”*

The documentary was also in the official selection of the 6th International Festival of “Filming the workplace” in Poitiers from February 6th to 15th and won the “*Valorisation de la recherche*” award.

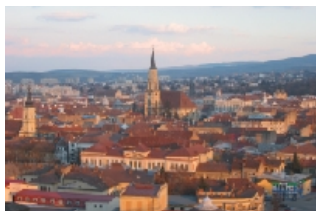
Source: cinematusien.com



[Tunisia / Release of “El Ziara”](#)

Naoufel Saheb-Ettaba's film “El Ziara” (Black Moon) is a North African co-production which opened in cinemas in February. Made with the financial support of film institutions in Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria and with the assistance of the *Fonds francophone de production audiovisuelle du Sud*, it is a psychological drama about *“the search for identity of a man struggling with his past. Youssef leads a solitary, well-organised life. But a chance encounter with a young girl in front of an intriguingly mysterious house awakens confused images of a past drama in his family...with only a few old photographs and fragments of memories, he begins a search, unaware of where it may lead.”*

Sources: africulture.com, libe.ma



Romania / Grants for film-making in Transylvania

Cluj, the town which hosts the Transylvania International Film Festival, taking place this year from May 29th to June 7th, will officially launch Romania's first regional film support fund "Funding for Transylvanian film" in April 2015. Setting up a fund was the brain-child of the festival chairman, Tudor Giurgiu. The aim is to attract film-makers and foreign and Romanian producers to the region while in the long run encouraging other towns in the region to be future financial partners. The fund will support local films and international co-productions which use local facilities and local technicians. With an initial budget of €110,000, the Transylvanian Film Fund plans to become a full member of Cine-Regio, an organization of 43 European funds for regional films.

Sources: *cineuropa.org, romania-insider.com et filmneweurope.com*



France / Release of Eran Riklis's "Dancing Arabs"

After "The Syrian Bride" and "The Lemon Tree", Israeli director Eran Riklis' latest film, "Dancing Arabs", opened in France on February 11th. The film (released in France as "Mon Fils") is based on a semi-autobiographical novel by Sayed Kashua, an Arab Israeli writer/journalist. It's about identity and the complex relationship between Israeli's and Arabs.

"Iyad (Tawfeek Barhom) grows up in an Arab town in Israel. At 16, he goes to a prestigious Jewish boarding school in Jerusalem. He is the first and only Arab to be admitted. Gradually he is accepted by his peers but has only one true friend, Yonatan (Michael Moshonov), a boy with muscular dystrophy. Iyad becomes close to Yonatan's family, bringing courage and strength to his mother Edna (Yael Abecassis). He soon becomes the family's second son."

Sources: *parismatch.com et allocine.fr*



Tunisia / Opening of new film club "Cinéma du Sud" in Ben Arous

The association Open Art Tunisia has opened a film club "Cinéma du Sud" – a continuation of the tradition of the Ben Arous region in the seventies and the 2000's. Once a week the club offers locals a chance to see good films with an ambitious programme of screenings.

OPEN ART is contributing to the new dynamics of the Ben Arous' *Maison de Culture*. The first screening at the *Cinéma du Sud* was on Saturday, February 21st at 3:00 pm, showing Tunisian director Nejib Belkhadi's "Bastardo". Afterwards there was a debate in the presence of one of the film's actors, a photographic exhibition and a screening about the cinema club's history and the events which have marked it in the past.

Source: *communiqué Open Art Tunisia*



[Morocco / Closure of Tétouan's Teatro Español](#)

At the moment Tetouan has two cinemas, the *Avenida* and the *Teatro Español*. However very soon the town which is hosting the International Festival of Mediterranean Cinema will only have one. Indeed, the Spanish news agency EFE announced that *Teatro Español*, built in 1930 and converted into a cinema in the 1950's, would be closing its doors at the end of February. There are many reasons for this: declining audiences, increasing maintenance costs, competition from satellite channels and film piracy all undermine its viability. Despite mobilizing people against the closure with a facebook page and an online petition, no solution has yet been found. The closure is one more in a list of recent closures in a country which now has only 26 cinemas left.

Sources: *telquel.ma* et *leconomiste.com*

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FESTIVALS

Festival of the month: **Arab Festival for Radio and Television**

Hammamet, Tunisia – May 11th to 16th 2015



The only one of its kind in the Middle East, the Gulf countries and North Africa, the Arab Festival of Radio and Television is celebrating its 16th year between May 11th and 16th in the seaside resort of Hammamet, 65 kilometres south of Tunis.

The Festival is organized by the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU), in collaboration with Tunisian radio and television institutions and in partnership with ARABSAT, the Arab world's leader in satellite transmission.

The festival has several professional objectives to improve Arab broadcasting, including developing radio and television production, promoting a competitive environment to find the best Arab product and encouraging creative energy and youth talent in broadcasting.

Participation in the Festival is not only for Arab public radio and television companies, it's also open to private channels, production companies and all creative professionals in the media, producers, directors, distributors and technicians. Foreign radio and television companies which broadcast in Arabic will also be welcome to the feast.

Besides the two major artistic and musical performances which will open and close the Festival, there will be several competitions in different categories of radio and television production, a market to bring radio and TV channels closer to production companies working on such productions, an exhibition of the latest developments in professional equipment, as well as several forums and discussion workshops covering major issues related to the industry.

Several new elements characterize this year's festival:

- for the first time all the components will take place outside the city of Tunis
- as of this year the Festival will be an annual event, instead of once every two years
- to further encourage competition, the best productions will receive not only the prestigious trophy, there will be significant cash prizes as well
- finally, to open the festival to the outside world, foreign radio and television companies broadcasting in Arabic have been invited to participate in the various competitions.

For more information, visit the ASBU web-site: www.asbu.net

Contact:

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[Morocco / 16th Tangier National Film Festival](#)

15 feature films (drama and documentary) and 15 short films were in competition at the 16th Tangier National Film Festival (FNF), held from last February 20th to 28th. Given the volume of films produced in Morocco, the Organizing Committee decided to limit the number of feature films in competition to fifteen. Sarim Fassi Fihri, head of the *Centre Cinématographique Marocain* and chairman of the festival's organizing committee, created a pre-selection committee to choose the 15 feature films. Both the Grand Prix and the Critics' Award went to Moroccan-Iraqi director Tala Hadid, for his first feature film "*La Nuit entr'ouverte*". The 15 short films were selected from 54 sent in to the committee chaired by film-maker Azelarabe Alaoui. Alaa Eddin Aljem's "*Les poissons du désert*" won both the Grand Prix and the Critics Award for Best Short Film. The winners can be found [here](#).

The screenings were interspersed with three round tables, all on subjects important to Morocco's film industry: "Making good use of advance on earnings", "Tax incentives for film and broad-cast production in the world" and "Spanish-Moroccan co-productions: Progress and Prospects" in which the need to encourage co-productions was discussed by people working in the Moroccan and Spanish film industry. There were also forums and parallel activities, and a review of the films made in Morocco last year. Sarim Fassi Fihri announced record investment in film and television productions made in Morocco in 2014: about 1.17 billion dirhams was generated by foreign productions, compared with 220.90 million dirhams in 2013. He made it clear this increase is due to Morocco's political stability compared with other countries in the region, plus the existence of a real film industry.

Finally, a tribute was paid to two veterans of Moroccan cinema: actress Malika El Omari and film critic Mohamed Gallaoui.

Sources: *libe.ma*, *lejournaldetanger.com*, *lematin.ma* et les communiqués du CCM



[Morocco / Call for films for the 7th FIDADOC](#)

The 7th International Documentary Film Festival in Agadir will take place from May 4th to 9th 2015. The festival is exclusively for documentaries. This year there are three categories: one is the “*International Competition*”, open to 52-minute films from around the world, completed in 2014 (and not seen in Morocco); a second is “*Panorama*”, covering Moroccan, Arab and African films produced in 2013-2014, with no length requirement; the third is for “*Thematic programmes*”: films about social issues (rights of children, women), the environment (water management, waste), economic concerns (fair trade, globalization), music and sports. Any length and production year is accepted.

The deadline for registration and sending a copy is **March 15th 2015**. For more information and registration click [here](#).

Source: fidadoc.org



[Spain / Call for entries for DocsBarcelona 2015](#)

DocsBarcelona, a documentary film festival, will take place from May 25th to 31st 2015.

This 18th edition will consist of several sections.

An “*Official Section*” offering some of the most important and interesting recent documentaries produced world-wide.

A “*Special Session*” – out of competition.

“*DOC-U*” dedicated to documentary production in the various Catalan universities and a shop-window for their film students.

And finally “*Docs & Teens*” for the young adult audience. A new way to travel and discover realities near and far.

During the festival there will be meetings with people working in broadcasting.

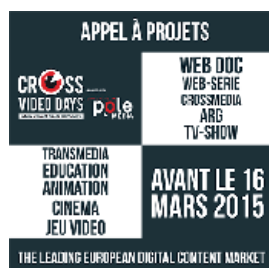
For the festival is also a market-place to find backing and promote films in the documentary industry, allowing producers, directors and writers to present their projects to international financiers. This year there will be two pitching sessions (Interactive Pitch and Latin Pitch) and a Speed Meeting.

Forty projects will be selected for the Speed Meetings: selected participants will have a personal, 15-minute opportunity to present and sell their project to backers. For the Interactive Pitch, four interactive documentaries will be selected, and four Latin American documentaries for the Latin Pitch. They will be presented to a selection of finance people interested in these specific types of projects and to accredited DocsBarcelona professionals.

Each project can participate in both the Speed Meetings and the Latin Pitch, though it can only be selected for one.

The deadline to receive the projects is **March 11th 2015**. More information and for registration click [here](#).

Source: docsbarcelona.com



France / Call for entries for Cross Video Days

The Call for entries for the 6th Cross Video Days has been open since February 2nd. Cross Video Days is an opportunity for producers and creators of digital and interactive programmes to present their projects in late-stage development to international backers. This year it will take place on June 11th and 12th with eight categories: “Cinema & Transmedia” (in association with the Cannes Film Market), “Interactive Documentary”, “Web series and Web-fiction”, “Education and Youth”, “Interactive Animation”, “Video Games”, “Crossmedia TV shows” (Crossmedia programme flow) and “Others” –

covering the great diversity of projects received by Cross Video Days every year.

Participating in the call for projects is free. The selected project developers will each have individual 30-minute appointments with international financiers plus free access to the whole 2-day event: conferences, presentation sessions, workshops, content market, exhibition stands. In addition, the 20 best projects will be presented to the public and on the internet, thanks to a live broadcast. The call for entries will close on **March 16th**. Registration and information [here](http://crossvideodays.com).

Source: crossvideodays.com



France / Call for films for the 37th Cinemed

The 37th Montpellier International Festival of Mediterranean Film will take place from October 24th to 31st. It was founded in 1979 by the people behind Montpellier's *Ciné-club Jean-Vigo*. First known as *Rencontres avec le cinéma méditerranéen*, in 1989 the event became the “Montpellier International Festival of Mediterranean

Film” and introduced a competitive section. “*The Montpellier International Festival of Mediterranean Film pursues a cultural purpose of making the film cultures of the Mediterranean basin, the Black Sea, Portugal and Armenia known to a wider audience. In a spirit of tolerance, it facilitates exchanges, seminars and studies on the shared elements linking these cinemas.*”

Registering films online for selection into the different competitions, panoramas and for development grants is open at www.cinemed.tm.fr.

Films made since July 1st 2014 can participate, if their subject and treatment help enrich the way the Mediterranean is shown on film and the director comes from a Mediterranean country, the Black Sea, Portugal or Armenia.

This year, more than €60,000 will be awarded to the winners, as well as different prizes in the form either of services or grants offered by Cinemed's partners, with a value of €40,000.

Deadline for registration:

- Feature films: **August 21st 2015**

- Short drama films, documentaries and applications for development grants: **July 15th 2015**

Registration and conditions for taking part [here](http://www.cinemed.tm.fr). The list of awards for the different categories will be available in September 2015.

Source: cinemed.tm.fr

ASTRA FILM FESTIVAL

Romania / Call for films for the 22nd Astra Film Festival

Established in 1993, the Astra Film Festival (AFF) is Romania's oldest international film festival and it takes place in the city of Sibiu. This year's event will be held from October 5th to 11th and is

organized by Astra Film – the Centre for Documentary Film and Visual Education, the ASTRA National Museum Complex in Sibiu, and by the Astra Film Foundation. It strives to promote cultural and intercultural understanding as well as to offer the public an intimate and detailed portrait of the human condition, while educating people towards a broader understanding of contemporary society

AFF focuses on documentary film, it is a window on the latest international productions, new Romanian films and the place to feel the pulse of Eastern European documentary production.

The ideal place to meet film-makers from around the world, and to discuss the major issues faced by documentary film-makers.

In addition to the four competitive sections (International, Central and Eastern Europe, Romania and Student), the festival offers non-competitive sections (Panorama, Made in Romania) and thematic programmes, special screenings and a variety of side events. In 2009, the festival created Junior Astra Film, a programme of education through documentaries, tailor-made for school children and unique in Romania.

The call for entries is open. Rules and registration [here](#). The deadline for receiving applications is **April 20th 2015**.

Source: astrafilm.ro



Tunisia / 4th Film-makers' meeting

At the 4th *Rencontre des réalisateurs de films* (get-together of film-makers) which was held from February 18th to 22nd, about sixty Tunisian films were shown to the public (short, long, documentary) in 5 cinemas. This event, created by the *Association des réalisateurs de films tunisiens* (ARFT) “aims to present and to publicize Tunisian films produced the previous year, while also encouraging film-makers of every generation to exchange their experiences” according to Khaled Barsaoui, film-maker and event coordinator.

During the *Rencontre*, shorts, feature films and documentaries were screened.

Six awards were presented: Best Feature, Best First Feature, Best Short Drama, Best First Short Drama, Best Documentary, Best First Documentary.

The opening night of this 4th *Rencontre* saw the screening of two films: Khaled Barsaoui's “*Ahmed Baha Eddine Ataya, trapeze artist without a net*” and Mohamed Challouf's “*Tahar cheria à l'ombre du Baobab*”.

An evening of tributes was dedicated to directors Ahmed Lekhechine, René Vautier, Nacer Kasraoui and a young film-maker who died recently, Omar Jaziri.

There was a round table on “Cinema / Television: no hard feelings” and a training workshop about “Directing actors” for film and theatre students, young film-makers and student actors.

Sources: directinfo.webmanagercenter.com, tekiano.com et arf-tunisie.com

Calls for applications

France / Call for films for ACID (*Association du Cinéma Indépendant pour sa Diffusion*) Cannes 2015. The deadline for registration and receiving the viewing DVD is **March 26th 2015**. Rules, registration form and information [here](#).

France / Call for films for the 13th International Festival of Iranian Film in Exile from June 11th to 14th 2015. Deadline for registration and sending DVD is **March 15th 2015**. Information and registration [here](#).

Italy / Abruzzo Documentary Festival - International Emilio Lopez Award will take place in June 2015. Rules and registration forms downloadable [here](#). Deadline for registration and sending is **April 10th 2015**.

At the end of May **SUD ECRITURE** is organising a workshop "SUD ECRITURE 2015" open for 5 original feature-length drama projects coming from the following geographic zones: sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa, the Middle East (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria). Deadline for sending dossiers: **April 5th 2015** to the email address: sudecriture.nomadis@planet.tn. More information [here](#).

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THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN POINT OF VIEW

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[Bosnia-Herzegovina / Co-production grants from Sarajevo City of Film Fund](#)

The Sarajevo City of Film Fund, run by the Sarajevo Film Festival, has just launched a call for entries. The Fund helps feature film co-productions between south eastern Europe and the Middle East, North Africa, North and South America, India and East Asia. That is, markets outside the region covered by Eurimages and Creative Europe. The Fund also helps productions originating in those markets seeking a partnership with south eastern Europe. With a budget of over €400,000, the Sarajevo City of Film Fund can support 8 feature films. There are two programmes: Co-productions and Prints & Advertising. Both will provide up to €60,000 per project as a soft loan. The main partners and backers are the co-production section of the Creative Europe MEDIA programme and the Croatian company, ATLANTIC Grupa.

Source: cineuropa.org



[Holland / New Hubert Bals Fund + Europe](#)

The Hubert Bals Fund (Rotterdam International Film Festival) has extended its support offering with the creation of a new international co-production fund called *HBF + Europe*. This new fund will support European producers coming in as minority co-producers on feature films being made by young directors from Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and parts of Eastern Europe.

Projects must have at least one European co-producer and one non-European co-producer.

This year 4 projects will be eligible for funding. The maximum support per project is €55,000. Deadline: **April 1st 2015**.

Additional support will be available for these films in the form of distribution grants (prints, advertising and marketing) with a special interest in innovative distribution strategies which explore the potential of online distribution.

The maximum amount available per project will be €20,000 (4 projects in 2015).

The closing date is **September 1st 2015**.

Additional information: https://www.iffrr.com/professionals/hubert_bals_fund/hbf-plus-europe/

Source: mediafrance.eu (e-MEDIA n°410)

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[Italy / Partnerships needed for Alessandro Di Rienzo and Luca Manunza's new documentary: "Il sindaco"](#)

Alessandro Di Rienzo (director of "*Ist'imariyah*", prize-winner at the 2006 PriMed) and Luca Manunza (media activist who has worked on environmental issues in Campania, and social movements in Turkey) are wrapped up in a documentary subject set in the luminous, yet darkly threatening south of Italy. The focus is an elderly former mayor, Mario Luise.

Having read Luise's biographical book "*Dal fiume al mare*" (*Edizioni Scientifiche Italiane*, 2001), Alessandro and Luca felt they had to meet and get to know the author. Luise had been mayor of Castel Volturno (Caserta) for two terms during the seventies and eighties, a very difficult period in the town's history, with the region in the grip of a fever to build vast blocks of hotels and blanket the coast in concrete. As mayor he had spent his political life fighting property speculators, the Neapolitan mafia (Camorra) and the pervading political and moral hopelessness.

The idea germinated and became an urgent need to make Luise's story more widely known. He was a role model for all those unsung heroes trying to preserve the Mediterranean's natural resources. With the artistic team gathered round a table developing the idea into a film – "*Il Sindaco*" (The Mayor) – there remains the major problem facing every producer: where to find the finance to bring the documentary to life. Finance, sponsorships, co-productions – just some of the ways Alessandro and his team are looking at to get the film made.

If you would like to support this project, or if you are interested in helping, do not hesitate to send an email to Valentina Turri: valentina.turri@gmail.com



[Morocco / Kamal Hachkar's new documentary "Jérusalem Tinghir, retour au pays natal" in production and looking for funding](#)

After the success of his documentary "*Tinghir Jérusalem : les échos du Mellah*", winner of several awards, including Best First Film at the 2013 Tangier National Film Festival, Kamal Hachkar returns to Israel to meet a new generation, born of Jewish-Moroccan parents. Some of these young people are passionately re-discovering their roots.

While making his first feature, Kamal Hachkar met a singer who was using the traditional Jewish-Moroccan repertory, and the chemistry between them is obvious to see. This new film follows Neta Elkayam as she tours, proudly claiming her Judeo-Berber identity.

You can help Kamal complete his new documentary "*Jérusalem Tinghir, retour au pays natal*": http://www.parlerenpaix.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=219&Itemid=

and watch an extract [here](#).



[France / Two calls for entries for the 4th International Screenwriters Pavilion at the 2015 Cannes Film Festival](#)

La Maison Des Scénaristes is launching two calls for entries for the 4th International Screenwriters Pavilion at this year's Cannes Festival.

The first call is for "Feature films". During the festival the selected authors will be invited to the International Screenwriters Pavilion to present their

feature film projects to producers and/or distributors and discuss setting up a production. Registration and more information here.

The second call is for a "*Nuit Blanche du Scénario*" – a sleepless night writing! A night-time workshop during the Cannes Film Festival spent re-writing a feature-film scenario. The aim is to help the five chosen script-writers overcome a "writer's block" on a feature film project they are writing. Registration and more information here.

Deadline for registration for both is **March 20th 2015**.

Source: maisondesscénaristes.org

STOP PRESS

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[France - Algeria / Death of Assia Djebar – writer, film-maker and academician](#)

The Algerian writer Assia Djebar, one of the most famous and influential North African authors, died on February 6th at the age of 78. She began her writing career in 1957 with "*La Soif*" (Thirst), followed in 1958 by "*Les Impatients*". She wrote novels, essays and poems while teaching history and literature in Algiers and abroad. Her works have been translated into over twenty languages and won several awards. She also made two films about the fight for women's rights: "*La Nouba des femmes du mont Chenoua*", which won the International Critics Award at Venice in 1979 and

"*La Zerda ou les chants de l'oubli*" which won the award for Best Historical Film at the 1983 Berlin Festival. She was the first North African writer elected to the *Académie française*, in June 2005, inheriting chair number 5.

Sources: lemonde.fr, aps.dz et elwetan.com



[France / The Albert Londres Award: 2015 edition in Morocco cancelled](#)

In a February press release, the *Association Albert Londres* announced the cancellation of its 2015 project in Morocco. The jury of the 77th Albert Londres Award decided not to travel to Morocco for this year's award ceremony, following the expulsion of French reporters who had gone there to cover the event.

The award was created in 1933 in honour of the French journalist (1884-1932). Originally it was for the best newspaper reporter under the age of 40, with a second award added in 1985 for the best broadcast reporter.

The application dossiers must be sent before **March 24 2015** to Prix Albert Londres / Scam - 5, avenue Vélasquez - 75008 Paris. More information [here](#).

Source : *Communiqué Prix Albert Londres*

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