

GOLDEN BEGGAR NEWS

16TH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF LOCAL TELEVISIONS IN KOŠICE

Vol. 2010 No. 1

Festival Moving to City's New Kulturpark

The 2010 International Festival of Local Televisions will be held in Košice's new Kulturpark complex, not far from the city centre and not far from the Hotel Centrum, where most delegates will be staying.

What is now a large space devoted to culture has an interesting past. For much of its existence, what is now Kulturpark had military functions. It was first established as a military facility during the Austro-Hungarian empire.

During Czechoslovakia's socialist period, from 1948 to 1989, it served to house the counterintelligence service of the Czechoslovak army.

The old military complex's conversion from war to culture is in part due to Košice's selection as a 2013 Capital of European Culture, a designation it shares with Marseille, France.

Both Kosice and Marseille are second cities in their respective coun-



Kulturpark will play a role when Kosice is European Culture Capital in 2013.

tries, and both will cooperate in 2013 events.

The International Festival of Local Televisions will represent one of the largest cultural activity brought to Kulturpark since its establishment.

The complex inherits from its military past many large, open spaces,

extremely useful for the presentation of the plastic arts and for the projection of films. In time for the festival's opening, a new cafeteria has been added to the complex.

Some work remains to be done on the Kulturpark complex. It will be ready for the festival's opening.

A CALL FOR GLOBAL WARMING COPRODUCTION

Dear colleagues,

This is to ask you for your piece – a short reportage – to fit in the mosaic themed “Effects of Global Warming”. We intend to search and record how specifically the climate change makes itself felt in several regions of Europe, what impact it has on life, so that we have a basis for a co-production project of several local TV broadcasters we are planning to put together.

The most compelling reports will make a part of the projection included in the workshop on co-production projects. The workshop output will apply for an award in the competition category “Global Warming” and will be provided to all local TV broadcasters at request.

Instructions for reportage:

Programme length: not to exceed 1.30 minutes

Structure:

- brief objective information on the weather behaviour in winter months as compare with the long-term average (not to exceed 20 seconds)
- narratives concerning how specifically the global warming makes itself felt in your region, for instance, lack of supply in water reservoirs due to lack of snow melt; sea level rise; snow covering places which never heard of snow before; changed occurrence of plants; soil changes; unusual animal behaviour, etc.; response of citizens to the referred-to changes.



Last year's winner: Dagmara Drzazga of TVP Katowice.

**This Year's
Festival Dates:
9 - 12
June 2010**

CALL FOR ENTRIES AND PARTICIPATION

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF LOCAL TELEVISIONS

June 9 – 12, 2010, Košice, Slovakia

We are pleased to inform you that the 16th International Festival of Local Televisions will be held from June 7 – 12 in Košice, Slovakia. The festival is organized by the City TV Foundation.

ENTRIES :

We encourage you to enter your programmes into the competition for the Golden Beggar Award in three competition sections (Local Televisions, Production Companies, Young Authors).

We expect entries that reflect the life and fates of people living in your place. We also welcome works that discover serious problems of the present society like corruption, blackmailing, minority and cross-border problems and children's fates.

The deadline for programs to reach us in Košice is April 15, 2010. A typed entry form must be filled in for each individual production submitted. Each entry must be listed on a separate entry form. The entry form can be downloaded from the official festival website www.festival.sk. It can be sent electronically to the e-mail address festival@festivals.sk, faxed to +421 55 79 79 112 or simply sent by regular mail to : City TV Foundation, Hutnícka 1, 040 01 Košice, Slovakia

A short synopsis (max. 150 words) should be attached to the cassette/DVD. Do not forget! Even if your programme is dubbed or subtitled please include also an original and English scripts! There is no entry fee for the programmes.

To select the category of your programme please use the following category descriptions:

1. News and Investigative Reports
2. Documentary
3. Animation
4. Fiction
5. Special – programs on Global warming (in any of the four first categories)
6. Special -- programs on Poverty and Social Inclusion (in any of the four first categories)

In terms of length, programmes registered for competition should generally not exceed 30 minutes and should have been produced after June 30, 2008.

The final selection of programmes will be made public on the www.festival.sk website no later than 10 days before the beginning of the festival.

Screening formats of the selected programmes are : DVD, BETA SP PAL, DV CAM or mini DV, all in good technical quality

Programmes and all required materials (for details see the website) should be sent by mail or courier to:

City TV Foundation, Hutnícka 1, 040 01 Košice, Slovakia

IMPORTANT!

Please note on the parcel: No commercial value – For cultural purposes only

Participation:

You are also welcome to take part in the festival as a delegate. The deadline for registration is May 21, 2010.

You can register your programme and yourself as a delegate electronically at www.festival.sk.

In case of any questions, feel free to contact the festival organizers:

City TV Foundation

International festival of Local Televisions

Hutnícka 1

040 01 Košice

Slovakia

Phone : 00421 55 79 79 117, Fax : 00421 55 79 79 112,

e-mail : festival@festival.sk

www.festival.sk

The original Golden Beggar statue sits atop a house on Košice's Main Street. The festival award is a copy of this.



The Golden Beggar and His History

From the Beginning . . .

The International Festival of Local Televisions was established in Košice, Slovakia, in 1995, to promote exchanges and cooperation among the then-new local independent television stations of Europe, especially those of Eastern Europe, which had just undergone profound political, economic and cultural change. Every one of the festivals since 1995 has kept the same purpose – exchanges and cooperation which benefit local stations and the citizens who are their audiences. But every one of those festivals has been different, as economic, technological and social conditions have changed. As the festival organizers plan the 16th festival for 2010, the themes are again continuity and change.

The legend of the Golden Beggar is of a man who saved his beggings to buy one of the grandest houses on Main Street.

The annual festival in Košice is now a Europe-wide gathering, counting representatives from Belarus on the east and Spain on the west, from Sweden in the north and Italy in the south. The festival has compiled Europe's largest database of programs of local origin that are available for retransmission, and facilitates shipment of these programs across the continent.

In the middle of its second decade, it remains the only festival of its kind in Europe. It has maintained an annual program competition which is now widely known in media circles, one that has recognized the excellence of programs not only from such large countries as Poland and France, but also from smaller countries like Moldova and Bosnia. Each year it has added seminars and workshops on topics of interest,

sometimes urgent interest, to media professionals working at the local level. And it has become *the* meeting place for local and independent television professionals from across the continent, from countries long established in Europe's Union (France, Italy and others), to the newly incorporated (the V4 countries, Bulgaria, Romania, Latvia and others), to those still outside (Serbia, Bosnia, Belarus and others).

From Small Screens to Big Ones

After its first decade of existence, in 2006, the festival's organizers embarked on a program to bring locally produced programs to audiences beyond Košice and the festival – and beyond the television set. Starting in Krakow, Poland, a series of theatrical projections of competition films was begun. That has continued in Belgrade, Serbia; Brussels, Belgium (at the European Union's House of Regions); Prague; and Bratislava. (Screenings in Pécs and again in Bratislava are in preparation.)

All of Europe on Screens

Beginning in 2009, the festival organizers brought local-television films and professional independent films to cinema audiences in Slovakia in cooperation with the nationwide CINEMAX network.

That effort, called "Europe on Screen," will continue in 2010. During the actual festival, one day at the cinema will be devoted to films made in the V4 countries.

These V4 films will again be projected in Pécs,

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The festival attracts delegates from many countries -- last year 26 nations were represented -- who find common ground.

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Hungary, and Bratislava later in the year.

Finding Commercial Possibilities

Given the increasing number and quality of films screened over recent years, the organizers are inviting several commercial distributors to attend the festival, in an effort to enlarge the market for films initially produced for a specific locality. While previously, films have been distributed on a noncommercial basis – and that will continue for local television stations – many of the films now screened at the festival, from independent producers for example, clearly have commercial possibilities. The idea is to both broaden the distribution of programs, and to provide some financial nourishment to local program makers.

Paying Attention to Poverty

In addition to program screening and competition, the festival has an ambitious schedule of seminars and workshops. For 2010, emphasis will be put on combating poverty and social exclusion, recognizing that local and independent media, whose programs are made in localities very close to the viewer, have an important role to play. The panel session on “Reporting on Poverty and Social Inclusion” will bring together local media and stakeholders to discuss how communicators and the media can play a crucial role in helping to tackle poverty and exclusion. The event will provide a forum for discussing how local media sees the issue and how communication can act as a catalyst for social inclusion.

This panel discussion to foster exchange and training will enable:

- A presentation of the European Commission’s strategy and tools for communicating on a social Europe;
- A practical exercise on how to tackle poverty and engage in dialogue with excluded persons;
- Reflection on Journalists and the Poor: How to Work Together?

Considering Climate Change

Last year, the Festival presented an extensive examination of climate change and the role of journalists, especially local television journalists, in the discussion and debate that surrounds the topic. Since last June, when this session was held at the 15th festival, several important things have happened:

- The UN Conference on Climate Change, held in Copenhagen in December, largely failed in its most ambitious objectives. UN-sponsored talks are continuing, however, in Bonn in early April, and in Mexico at the end of the year.
- The debate over “bad science” in predictions of global warming has grown, sowing doubt among members of the public and weakening what had been an emerging consensus on the reality of the problem.
- A series of natural disasters, from earthquakes

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which likely have little to do with global warming, to unexpectedly powerful tempests that may be related to warming, like that which struck Western Europe in late February, have heightened public anxiety about the state – the stability – of the planet.

For 2010, the festival plans to organize a round-table among the many stakeholders in the debate, including representatives of energy companies, which will be recorded and made available for distribution to local televisions. Also for 2010, there will be a new prize for the best program dealing with the climate issue, and producers will be specially solicited for films that fit this category.

Forums for Big Issues

In addition, the 16th Festival will devote two afternoons to sessions called Local-V4 Forum and Local-Foreign Forum, devoted to the most urgent problems facing local televisions – new challenges, co-productions and cultural projects of cities and towns that are European capitals of culture. (Košice will be a capital of culture in 2013).

The cultural events associated with the festival have since 2009 been combined into “The Essence of Kosice” structure, which involves many cultural organizations in Kosice, whose efforts are now coordinated through the festival. As usual, the 2010 festival will also feature artists from foreign countries. This year, in cooperation with the German Marshall Fund, the invitees will come from Serbia and Belarus.

The Role of V4 Countries*

In its early days, the festival drew strongly on the experiences of local stations in the V4 countries, whose experiences, if somewhat different, were mutually intelligible. At one festival, the chairmen of the Broadcasting Councils of all V4 countries came together for the first time ever to discuss financing of local television and digitalization. And topics of particular concern to V4 broadcasters continue to make up an important part of the festival’s content. (In many important ways, the V4 countries serve as beacons to countries still undergoing transitions or desirous of joining the European Union. This is especially true of countries in Southeastern Europe, whose local television producers pose many questions to their V4 counterparts every year in Košice.)

* The V4 countries are Poland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Hungary. They came together in 1991 to further European Integration. Its International Visegrad Fund has supported the International Festival of Local Broadcasters.



Eva Dekanovská

A Message from Eva Dekanovská

It is still winter but I know from my annual experience that two and a half months will turn into a moment and we will meet again

...

To prepare a good catalogue and good program for the festival means a good cooperation with you...

Let me remind you of The Call for Entries and Rules and Regulations on the web page (www.festival.sk) and try to follow the detailed instructions there.

I want to remind you that the program’s deadline is April 15th, participant’s registration by May 21st, fill out the registration forms, do not forget to include the synopsis and script (both in your native and English languages), a photo and an excerpt from your program . Send it electronically (www.festival.sk) or by ordinary post to : Nadacia City TV, Jesenskeho 12, 040 01 Kosice, Slovakia

Last year all we missed Ed Baumeister but this issue of the Golden Beggar News is evidence that he is here again, full of energy and ideas and helpful as usually. Thanks Ed.

Eva Dekanovská
President
City TV Foundation

What Others Say About the Festival

We endorse the festival's aims of encouraging cross-border understanding, and showcasing television programming which broadens the mind by comparing solutions to local issues across Europe. The annual International Festival of Local Televisions is an important part of the media calendar in Europe.

– Rick Thompson, director, T-Media, Britain; former producer, BBC

We recognize and applaud the remarkable work that the City TV Foundation does to promote the diversity of voices in local television programming and the sustaining local heritages.

– Erik S. Möllberg, international liaison, Alliance for Community Media, Washington, D.C., USA

Festival organizers are always trying to chart a program with themes that have resonance in Europe and in the media.

– Zdenko Trebula, president of the self-governing region of Košice, Slovakia

The festival provides an important platform for co-operation between media from both sides of the Schengen border.

– Zora Jaurová, director, director, Košice 2013

The work done by the City TV Foundation in the organization of this international festival is crucial in maintaining the heritage, culture and unique flavour of countries, regions, communities and individuals throughout Europe.

– Peter de Wit, President, Community Media Forum Europe

The festival is of great value for the unification of Europe.

– Evert Janse, director, OOG, local radio and television, Groningen, The Netherlands

When we became a national TV station, we had to resign from the competition part of the festival, but we are still actively involved in all other festival activities because we strongly believe that the festival has evolved into one of the most important festivals in Europe.

– Vanja Kranjac, head of production, B92, Belgrade, Serbia

City TV Foundation
Hutnicka 1
040 01 Košice Slovakia

festival@festival.sk www.festival.sk