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TALENTS IN CINEMA & AUDIOVISUAL
INDUSTRIES IN **AFRICA**,
THE CARIBBEAN & PACIFIC

LES TALENTS DES INDUSTRIES
DU CINEMA & DE L'AUDIOVISUEL
D'**AFRIQUE**, DES **CARAÏBES** &
DU **PACIFIQUE**

Press release

**EU-ACP ACPFILMS Programme supports 24 cinema and
audiovisual projects for 6.5 million euro**

Brussels: 24 September 2009

ACP Films Programme supports 24 cinema and audiovisual projects for 6.5 million euro

The Secretariat of the ACP Group of States is delighted to announce the results of the call for proposals of the EU-ACP Support Programme for the Cinema and Audiovisual sector, launched on 6 June 2008 and closed on 5 September 2009. Out of 130 projects received, 12 production projects, 6 professional training projects, and 6 distribution and promotion projects have been selected for funding following an evaluation made by professional assessors from the sector for a total amount of € 6.5 million from the European Union European Development Fund.

The response rate of both ACP and EU professionals to the call was very satisfactory. It brought together partners from over 40 countries covering the six geographical and linguistic regions of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) as well as several European countries.

The total amount of the grant available has been divided into three lots:

- 1: Support for the production of cinema and audiovisual (television) works in the ACP States (€3.8 million);
- 2: Support for the promotion, distribution, dissemination and networking of the cinema and audiovisual sector in the ACP States (€1.7 million);
- 3: Support for the training of ACP professionals in the cinema and audiovisual sector (€1 million).

Implemented by the ACP Secretariat and funded by the European Union European Development Fund, the ACP Films Programme's main goal is to promote the development and structuring of the cinema and audiovisual industries of the ACP States. This enables them to create and distribute their own images more effectively. The programme also aims to stimulate better promotion of cultural diversity, the networking of ACP cultural identities and intercultural dialogue. By building on the achievements of the previous ACP-EU programmes supporting cinema, the European Commission and the ACP Secretariat decided to focus, under the currently running 9th EDF, on improving the circulation of cinema and audiovisual works from the ACP States, the professional development of the artistic, technical and management techniques of the cinema and audiovisual sectors, and the promotion of access to training for young professionals. A special focus will be put on digitalization.

What can be done to foster the emergence and strengthen the ACP production capacities? What solutions can be proposed to increase dissemination in the ACP States, notably by involving the ACP television channels? These and other issues, which need to be considered, and will be focused on during the implementation of this Programme.

Meanwhile, the ACP Group and the European commission are delighted to support these quality projects, which meet the mandate that it pursues in the implementation of the Cotonou Agreement, particularly in the field of cultural development aimed at fighting poverty and contributing to the well-being of people in the ACP States.

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Summary ACP FILMS' PROJECTS

Lot 1 - Production and post-production

Applicant: Arizona Films

Project title: Queleh

Partnership: France, Netherlands, Somalia, Ethiopia, Djibouti

Setting: East Africa

Total grant awarded: €400,000

'Queleh' is the first 35mm fictional feature-length Somalian film, filmed in Somaliland. It portrays the torn-apart Somalia of the 1980s through the story of Queleh, a young man living in the rural North of the country with his parents and two young sisters. After the death of his father, Queleh has to do all the daily chores and look after his family.

Applicant: Eban Multimedia

Project title: Margarida

Partnership: Mozambique, Angola, Portugal

Setting: Southern Africa

Total grant awarded: €397,815

'Margarida' is a feature-length film portraying Mozambique's revolutionary period, addressing social and political issues during that time, in particular the situation of the women. It also aims to be a successful co-production between the Portuguese-speaking countries of Mozambique, Angola and Portugal.

Applicant: Centre National de Cinématographie du Mali

Project title: Les Concessions

Partnership: Mali, Burkina Faso

Setting: West Africa

Total grant awarded: €150,000

'Les Concessions' is a television series that deals with the daily life of a family whose scheming grandmother tries to control everyone. It has a wide range of characters, in terms of age, gender, and social and economic status. The series has 52 x 26-minute episodes offering a contemporary portrayal of Malian society.

Applicant: Dunia Productions

Project title: Bayri-La Patrie

Partnership: Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, France

Setting: West Africa

Total grant awarded: €395,207

'Bayri-La Patrie' is a feature-length film addressing the plight of migrants from Burkina Faso in a Côte d'Ivoire gripped by civil war. The film deals with the vulnerable position of migrants in various societies, the suffering of civilians in times of war and the difficult living conditions, especially for women, in refugee camps.

Applicant: Goï Goï Productions

Project title: Un Homme Qui Crie N'est Pas Un Ours Qui Danse

Partnership: Chad, Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Belgium

Setting: Central Africa

Total grant awarded: €400,000

This feature-length film deals with the social decline of a man and his pain as a father in a country weakened by war and transformed by globalisation. "Un homme qui crie n'est pas un ours qui danse" portrays an Africa at the heart of global upheavals with the arrival of new economic and financial powers such as China. The Africa that attracts investors, through its development potential, is unfortunately also an Africa full of suffering and fratricidal hostilities. With this film, Goï Goï Productions portrays an Africa torn apart by damaging and murderous contradictions.

Applicant: Blue Sky Films

Project title: The Captain of Nakara

Partnership: Kenya, Tanzania, Germany

Setting: East Africa

Total grant awarded: €266,395

Shot in Kenya, which often serves as a setting for foreign films, this feature-length film is the first to be directed by a Kenyan woman. It is an African comedy in which, not wanting to lose the woman of his dreams, Muntu, a criminal just out of prison, pretends to be a rich businessman.

Applicant: Fado Filmes

Project title: The Last Flight of Flamingo

Partnership: Mozambique, Spain, Angola, Portugal

Setting: Southern Africa

Total grant awarded: €400,000

'The Last Flight of Flamingo' is a feature-length film describing the journey of an Italian Blue Beret to Mozambique. This adaptation of the novel of the same name, by the Mozambican writer Mia Couto, marries humour with a denunciation of the ravages of civil war.

Applicant: Média 2000

Project title: Ina, Season 2

Partnership: Burkina Faso, Cameroon

Setting: West Africa

Total grant awarded: €150,000

Ina, a young woman from Burkina Faso, tries with difficulty, like all modern women, to balance her professional and family lives. Her success creates a lot of jealousy, which leads her to question what role Africa wants of the modern African woman. This second season of the famous TV series contains 40 x 26-minute episodes.

Applicant: Formosa Productions

Project title: Viva Riva

Partnership: Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, France

Setting: Central Africa

Total grant awarded: €391,662

'VIVA RIVA' is a thriller portraying criminal trafficking in Kinshasa through a generation of young people willing to do anything. In Kinshasa, 'Those that haven't' spend their time envying 'Those that have', and dreaming of the day when they will too. After ten years abroad, RIVA returns loaded and decides to lead the good life like 'Those that have'. But his wealth comes from the money he stole from his bosses, namely Angolan crooks. The latter decide to take their revenge.

Applicant: Les Films de l'Après-midi

Project title: La République des enfants

Partnership: Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, Senegal, France

Setting: Southern Africa

Total grant awarded: €400,000

'La République des enfants' tells the story of a society of children that do not age. However, troubles come from outside. This unusual society will be disturbed by the arrival of child soldiers. This feature-length film will be produced using digital technologies and aims to contribute to the promotion of the youth film genre.

Applicant: Ardèche Images Production

Film title: Lumière d'Afrique série 1 - finalisation

Partnership: Senegal, Togo, Mali, France

Setting: West Africa

Total grant awarded: €78,000

The "Lumière d'Afrique" project's objective is to guarantee the post-production of six documentaries by different young directors. Shot in Senegal, Mali and Togo, each film has a particular focus on African society, portraying rites of circumcision, the transhumance of shepherds, the filming of the casting for a programme, underground artists in Bamako, the shadow cast by illness, as well as political reality (the succession of President Eyadema in Togo).

Applicant: David & Golias

Project title: Le Grand Kilapy

Partnership: Mozambique, Angola, Portugal

Setting: Southern Africa

Total grant awarded: €367,399

"Le Grand Kilapy" is set during the last years of Portuguese colonialism (1960-1974). Through the characteristic day-to-day humour of the inhabitants of Luanda, this dramatic farce tells the story of Joãozinho, based on real events and narrated in an ironic manner. It offers a contemporary commentary on the colonial process, its values and its decadence, but also on certain actions and attitudes that still affect Angolan society today.

Lot 2 – Promotion, distribution, dissemination and networking

Applicant: Ebano Multimédia

Project title: Doc-ACP

Partnership: Mozambique, Tanzania, Ghana

Setting: All regions of Africa

Total grant awarded: €310,982

The Doc-ACP project aims to set up a network of film documentary professionals, by creating a link between three festivals in Mozambique, Ghana and Tanzania. The three festivals are going to programme and promote 12 creative documentaries, notably by creating a label, a catalogue and a repertory. The professionals will also benefit from work aimed at improving the distribution of documentaries on regional and international markets.

Applicant: BFM XCEL LTD

Project title: Exchange and Networking Project

Partnership: Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom

Setting: Caribbean

Total grant awarded: €100,904

This is a networking project. Three film festivals in the United Kingdom, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago will collaborate closely and enable these countries' directors to promote local films at national and international levels. A meeting is arranged for the next Cannes International Film Festival.

Applicant: Cinémas et Cultures d'Afrique

Project title: Mise en réseau de distributeurs et de diffuseurs dans 4 pays

Partnership: Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, France

Setting: West Africa

Total grant awarded: €302,860

The plan is to set up a network of distribution and broadcasting professionals in Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal and France. The objectives are to foster the development of film distribution professionals, and to improve the distribution and broadcasting of ACP films within these countries.

Applicant: Transtélé CFI

Project title: Animation d'un réseau de télévisions africaines

Partnership: Cameroon, Burkina Faso, France

Setting: West Africa

Total grant awarded: €70,000

The project aims to set up a network of television distribution professionals in French-speaking West Africa through the organization of a series of activities, including seminars, discussions, the combined broadcasting of African productions, the creation of a blog and a presence on the markets.

Applicant: IDIMAGE

Project title: Africafilms.tv Mobicine

Partnership: Senegal, Mali, France

Setting: West Africa

Total grant awarded: €484,663

The project aims to digitise a catalogue of African productions to enable them to be accessed on line (Africafilms.tv) and in Africa's digital mobile cinemas, and also to create a commercial website to increase the visibility of African productions with a view to increasing their revenue.

Applicant: Ardèche Images

Project title: Le Louma: des rencontres Tènk à la création d'un marché et d'un réseau du documentaire africain

Partnership: Senegal, Portugal, Mali, Niger, Cape Verde, Burkina Faso, France

Setting: West Africa

Total grant awarded: €376,294

The project extends a current initiative: 'Les Rencontres Tènk' in Senegal. Linking documentary co-production (at the heart of the Africadoc programme), Louma aims to create an international market for African documentaries, a video library for acquiring the broadcasting rights for films and a network built around various tools (website, a newsletter, the constitution of local community structures). Ardèche Images will also be a distributor, and act as an intermediary between producers and broadcasters.

Lot 3 - Training

Applicant: Transtélé CFI

Title of action: Melanesian Beat, atelier régional pour l'écriture et la réalisation

Partnership: Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, France

Setting: Pacific

Total grant awarded: €137,760

'Melanesian beat' plans to set up three training sessions, aimed at audiovisual industry professionals in the South Pacific. The four countries concerned are Fiji, the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu. This training will enable local television teams to put new knowledge into practice, and will give rise to the production of a television SITCOM, which is a genre yet to be created in Oceania. The four television networks cooperate already, thanks to regular exhibitions that CFI organize on their behalf in Oceania, such as the Pacific International Documentary Film Festival (IFOD) and the Pacific television seminar.

Applicant: Studio Malembe Maa

Project title: Formation aux métiers du cinéma d'animation

Partnership: Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Belgium

Setting: Central Africa

Total grant awarded: €400,000

The Malembe Maa studio will offer training in animated cinema techniques. The six modules will focus on the development and pre-production phases, training young professionals in screenplay writing, to role-playing with a scenario, drawing up a graphic user's guide, making a storyboard and evaluating a film project.

Applicant: The Israel Lovell Foundation

Title of action: The Caribbean Travelling Film School

Partnership: Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago

Setting: Caribbean

Total grant awarded: €132,350

In this travelling film-school project, artists and young professionals will be trained in producing commercially viable low-budget films. The objective is to make films in the Caribbean that tell stories about the Caribbean and are distributed in the Caribbean. To do this, the 'Travelling Film School' wants to train cinema and audiovisual professionals in each territory, so that high-quality films can be made. The project, which emphasises its regional character, wants to work with experienced Caribbean trainers.

Applicant: Creative Production and Training Centre Limited

Project title: Advanced technical training for Cinema and Audio Visual Professionals

Partnership: Barbados, Jamaica, United Kingdom

Setting: Caribbean

Total grant awarded: €68,550

This project is a specialisation programme for cinema and audiovisual professionals in Jamaica and the rest of the Caribbean. Four modules have been identified for these specialisations: lighting, production, post-production and production. The project's objective is to create a framework for advanced training in audiovisual technology in the Caribbean.

Applicant: Contrechamps Niger

Title of action: Appui au renforcement des contenus des enseignements en audiovisuel délivrés à l'Institut de formation aux technologies d'information et de communication (IFTIC)

Partnership: Burkina Faso, Niger, France

Setting: West Africa

Total grant awarded: €80,926

The project is devised as a continuation and extension of the programme set up at the IFTIC. It is open to 50 trainees from Niger, Chad and Gabon, enrolled in their second year at the IFTIC. The areas of activity are maintaining digital equipment, digital editing, writing of scripts and screenplays, managing production and writing feature-length scenarios.

Applicant: Play Film

Project title: Talents d'Afrique

Partnership: Congo, Gabon, France

Setting: Central Africa

Total grant awarded: €230,559

The project is the follow up from a previous one set up in partnership with the National cinematography centre of Gabon (CENACI). It is a professional training project centred on documentary production for Central African filmmakers (in Gabon and Congo-Brazzaville). The participants will be trained in making documentaries, screenplay writing, and editing. At the end of the training, the participants will have to make documentaries about the artists in these two countries.