

What does the Council of Europe do in the field of cinema production?

Since 1988, the European Support Fund for the Co-production and Distribution of Creative Cinematographic and Audiovisual Works, or Eurimages has worked within the Council of Europe to promote the European film industry by encouraging the production and distribution of films and fostering co-operation between professionals.

For nearly 20 years, Eurimages has supported films which would otherwise never be made because of the problems of new technologies and increasing competition that film directors and producers are facing. In this way, Eurimages promotes "pluralism" and "diversity" in European film making. Without Eurimages, European cinema goers would have fewer films to choose from.

Eurimages aims to support works which reflect the multiple facets of a European society and invest in an industry which, while concerned with commercial success, also upholds the important role of cinema as an art form. Since it was set up, Eurimages has supported the co-production of over 1200 full-length feature films and documentaries. A number of these have received prestigious awards, including Oscars, the Cannes Palme d'Or, the Golden Bear from Berlin and other prizes from international festivals. The Council is also home to the European Audiovisual Observatory set up in December 1992, the only centre of its kind to gather and circulate information on the audiovisual industry in Europe, including cinema, television and radio. Its aim is to create transparency in a sector which is one of the fastest growing areas of the European economy and a leading global market.

For more information, please visit: www.coe.int/eurimages and www.obs.coe.int

Why the Sarajevo Film Festival?

Being very active in the Balkans, the Council of Europe considers the Sarajevo Film Festival to be a natural meeting point for its goals to educate people through films, to support artistic creation and the freedom of expression through film making and to promote its values of cultural diversity and mutual respect to the public.

The Sarajevo Film Festival is a true attempt to unite the region around this medium which is perhaps the most popular and the most powerful of all. This is perhaps the only event which represents and brings together all countries of the former Yugoslavia, while providing them with an opportunity to meet the larger region and the world at large.

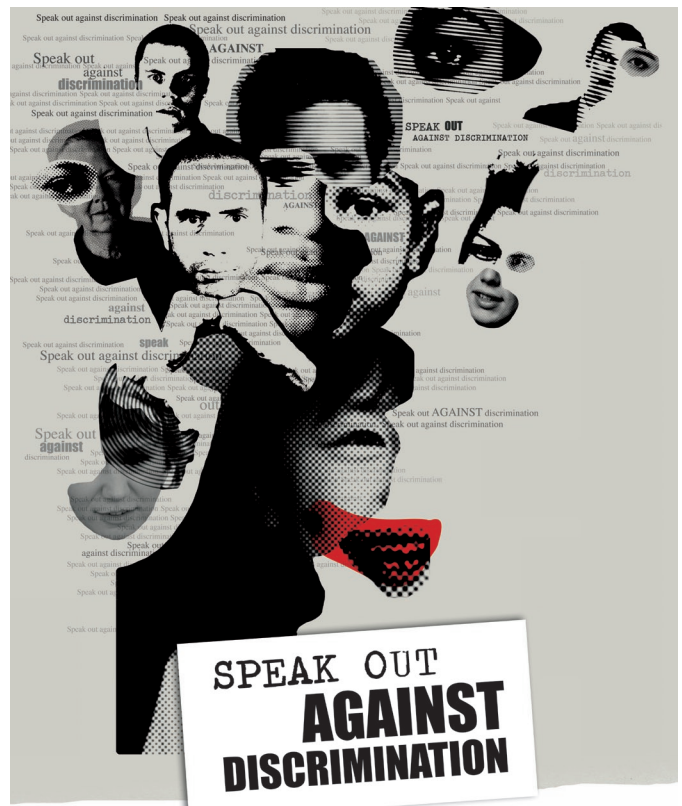
The topics of the films correspond largely to the Council of Europe's values, most dealing with social commentary and human rights. This is highlighted by the fact that many films shown at the festival are co-financed by Eurimages, a partial agreement of the Council of Europe.

Does the Council of Europe have special cinema awards?

The Council of Europe is proud to sponsor this year's Heart of Sarajevo for Best Film – a main award of the 15th Sarajevo Film Festival.

In addition, in 2007, the annual Film Award of the Council of Europe (FACE) was launched at the Istanbul International Film Festival. By presenting its FACE award, the Council of Europe seeks to encourage film as a way of conveying its message of human rights, tolerance and social inclusion to a wider audience and rewards the film that best reflects the organisation's principles and mission.

Also in 2007, Eurimages initiated an annual prize as part of the European Film Awards in order to recognise European co-production. This prize is being presented at the annual Berlinale film festival in Germany.



ALL DIFFERENT
ALL EQUAL

Council of Europe
campaign

60
2009



www.coe.int/antidiscrimination

Join our campaign to speak out against discrimination!

The Council of Europe is urging Europeans all over the continent to "speak out against discrimination".

The call is part of a campaign by the 47 nation organisation to fight back against discrimination and to create a fair Europe where different traditions and cultures are celebrated.

"Our mandate is to defend and extend values of freedom and human dignity for every individual, regardless of his or her nationality, ethnic origin, cultural background, religious beliefs or other characteristics," Council of Europe Deputy Secretary General Maud de Boer-Buquicchio explains. So far, the Campaign has been seen in cities as diverse as Paris, Ljubljana, Rome, Milan, Madrid, Barcelona and Lisbon. It has gained the backing of celebrities from the world of football, music and film, and has reached out via an informative website at <http://www.coe.int/discrimination>.

It had also mobilised the media – working alongside journalists to change the way that discrimination is reported in the press and broadcast sector. The aim is to bring more journalists with minority backgrounds into the industry and to widen the perspective of journalists so that minority points of view are included in story choices and the richness of different cultures is reflected in television, radio, magazines and new media.

This year's Sarajevo film festival will witness the next step in the campaign – the launch of a hard-hitting television spot to bring the issues to audiences Europe-wide.