

# ERNO Newsletter

ERNO-Eurovision News Exchange for South-east Europe Mese Selimovica 12, 71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina  
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## 1. ERNO's 7th birthday!

ERNO - Eurovision Regional News Exchange in South-East Europe, a network of 11 regional Public Services from Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia with the main Coordination Office in Sarajevo was established exactly seven years ago, in November 2000. The project is managed and supported by a strategic partnership of the ERNO network coordination office, UNESCO, EBU and YLE (Finish Broadcasting company).

In the past years of existence, ERNO network has developed and the scope of activities has been constantly expended to result today with:

- successful news exchange with over 1000 items per year (1260 items in 2006)
- trained and fully functioning network of regional media professionals
- technically equipped EVN desks—new PC's, editing software, DVcam/cameras
- standardized technical level and improved quality of the news exchange
- ERNO server, storage capacities and internet based video file transfer
- increased capacity for feature production and documentaries co-production
- daily use of ERNO items in news bulletins and other programmes
- more visibility for the regional issues in Europe and wider

## 2. Regional cooperation in action

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“From 517 items in ERNO news exchange during 2003, the number increased to 1260 items exchanged in 2006, and 859 items by October 2007..”

Beyond the news exchange as our main activity, ERNO promotes co-productions and professionalism in all fields of TV production, and after the “Women Trafficking” documentary co-production and great reviews it received in 2006., during 2007. we continued with the co-production activities and joint efforts in an investigative documentary about environmental issues:

- “Green Paradise - Already Lost or Still Possible to be Regained?” supported by UNESCO and implemented by RTS Serbia, HRT Croatia, TVR Romania and ERNO production crew.
- [http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=25485&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=25485&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

The DVD with the documentary is sent to all participating TV stations for broadcasting in their programmes.

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"The percentage of using ERNO news items is reaching 90 %."

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- Education, employment and mobility of youth in the region are only some of the topics of a second co-production project initiated and implemented by ERNO on "Youth Issues". It is currently in the post-production phase and should be completed by December.
- Training of journalists and EVN editors on HIV/AIDS aimed at raising awareness and improving the knowledge on its' medical, social and cultural aspects was held in Dubrovnik, 13-16 September, 2007. The training explored specific features of the region in a preparation for the production of short stories about HIV and AIDS by December 1, World AIDS Day.
- [http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=25399&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=25399&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)
- Members of the ERNO Editorial Board were elected by EVN desks votes at member public broadcasters and appointed for a one year mandate in September 2007 to present ERNO activities to the management of their respective broadcaster, participate in the decision-making process on ERNO network operations and future plans, on human resource development, additional areas for continued collaboration and the mission and future of the ERNO network (self-sustainability of the ERNO project after cessation of the international donations)
- Members of the ERNO Editorial Board:
  - Lorik Arifaj, News Planning Editor, Radio – Television of Kosovo
  - Morana Kasapovic, Head of Foreign News, Croatian Radio-Television
  - Predrag Kovacevic, EVN Editor, Radio – Television of Serbia
  - Nurila Biro, EVN Editor, Radio -Television of Hungary
  - Andrej Gustincic, EVN Editor, Radio-Television of Slovenia

### 3. Plans and future challenges

We have applied for funds at UNESCO for two more projects to be implemented during 2008:

- first aims to strengthen reporting on Human Rights Issues in the region of SEE through co-production, and
- the second is for the meeting of TV producers and establishing the network of professionals from the documentary /current affairs departments at PSBs

Successful regional network of the TV Producers should ensure the future creation of the feature stories addressing important crosscutting issues for the region and beyond that could be transmitted through the regular ERNO news-exchange and edited into documentaries and in that way providing low cost or free quality programs for member TV stations. The project may also attract other donors that are interested in financing the media projects relevant to the region and beyond.

Despite all ERNO achievements, start-up projects funded by Finland and the European Commission have come to an end. Over the past three years, ERNO is becoming more and more project oriented and with the support of UNESCO implements activities

which encourage better and more responsible reporting to issues important to the region.

- Nurila Biro, EVN Editor, Radio -Television of Hungary
- Andrej Gustincic, EVN Editor, Radio-Television of Slovenia

