



CARTOON FORUM PAU: PROMOTING THE BEST OF EUROPEAN ANIMATION

Pau Pyrénées hosts the new edition of the Cartoon Forum with 61 animation television series and a budget of 179 million Euro

The 17th edition of the **Cartoon Forum** will be hosted in the French town of Pau-Pyrénées from 20 - 23 September. This year, 61 new projects from 17 European countries have been selected, totalling more than 320 hours of programming and a total budget of 179.4 million Euro.

Organised by Cartoon (European Association of Animation Film) with the support of EU MEDIA Programme and the CNC (Centre National de la Cinématographie), this co-production forum will provide the perfect opportunity to check out the ever-expanding European animation industry.

France, the host country, will be the largest contributor with 21 projects, around 31% of the total, followed by the UK with 10 (14.9%), Germany with eight (10.3%) and Italy with five (7.3%). The other countries represent the 36.2% remaining.

In addition to these countries, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Greece, Estonia, Hungary, Portugal and Switzerland are also contributing to the 61 projects included in the Forum.

In terms of target audience, a large number of the projects are aimed at pre-school audiences, a tendency already noted in the Forum held at Kolding, Denmark, last year. Specifically, 21 of the projects presented (34.4% of the total) have been created for under-six-year-olds with 29 (47.5% of the total) directed at children in the 6-13 age range. The rest of the list comprises 10 family-viewing projects with a further one targeting teenagers.

The Cartoon Forum Pau will also stage the Cartoon d'Or 2006 awards ceremony, hosting the only prize event which rewards the best European animated shorts, as well as the **Cartoon Tributes for television**, where the 'Producer of the Year', the 'Investor of the Year' and the 'Buyer of the Year' will be named.

This will be the third time the **Cartoon Forum** is held in France after the Saint Malo (1991) and Arles (1997) editions. Located at the base of the Pyrénées, the town of Pau is certainly a choice setting for the latest edition of the Forum. With its strategic location between mountains and the sea, its rich cultural background and well-known French hospitality, it will offer over 700 participants an ideally relaxed setting in which to combine working sessions and business meetings.

The French partners of this 17th **Cartoon Forum** are the Region of Aquitaine, the City of Pau and the Conseil Général des Pyrénées Atlantiques. The event also has the support of France Télévisions Groupe, Procirep (Société des Producteurs de Cinéma et Télévision) and SACD (Société des auteurs et compositeurs dramatiques).

In its 17-year life span, over 300 projects (for a total budget of more than 1000 million Euro) presented at the **Cartoon Forum** have secured their financing and are currently in production or being broadcasted worldwide.

For further information, please visit www.cartoon-media.be where you will be able to obtain more details on the projects as well as download the event poster.

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