

**Newsletter of the Nordic Anthropological Film Association**  
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**5) Co-ordinating Anthropological Film Festivals in Europe (CAFFE)**

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Over the past decades a number of ethnographic/anthropological film festivals have emerged as regular events attended by local audiences, the filmmakers of the films shown at the festival and many other colleagues, students etc. interested in visual anthropology and documentary filmmaking.

In Europe there are now about 10 such regular festivals aiming not only at documentary film in a wider sense, but at anthropological films in a more specific meaning. All of these festivals are regularly announced and listed in this CVA/NAFA Newsletter and other such sources. And although most, if not all, of the festival organizers know each other personally and meet on various occasions, there has been no organized attempt so far at co-ordinating the festival dates, their content and the question of cooperation, e.g. in budget terms. Exceptions have happened, I remember e.g. that David MacDougall came from Australia to attend both the Göttingen festival and a NAFA meeting, and that both organizing institutions shared the air fare for him, and similarly that has been done with some Chinese student filmmakers, but these have been exceptions.

As for the scheduling of the festivals, just recently the fact that "Beeld voor Beeld" takes place more or less at the same date this year as the NAFA meeting in Bergen has been an annoying coincidence, and in 2004 the same happened with the festivals in Nuoro and Sibiu, both taking place in the very same week.

In order to improve this situation, a number of representatives of these European film festivals took the opportunity of this year's Bilan du film ethnographique in Paris and the ensuing conference on Visual Anthropology marking the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bilan, to sit together informally and have a first meeting to discuss what could be done.

The festivals represented were:

Bilan du film ethnographique, Paris (Francoise Foucault)

Beeld voor Beeld, Amsterdam (Eddy Appels)

Viscult, Joensuu/Finland (Pekka Silvennoinen)

NAFA (Peter Crawford)

SIFF (Sardinia International Film Festival), Nuoro (Paolo Piquereddu)

GIFF (Göttingen International Film Festival) (Beate Engelbecht)

and CVA as an umbrella organisation (Rolf Husmann).

The discussion concentrated on the general question in which ways the festivals could co-operate. Potential fields of co-ordination and co-operation were named as follows:

- communication of festival dates, topics etc. at the earliest possible moment to avoid parallel festivals
- finding common funding sources (EU?) for linked activities

- common presentation of festival highlights at anthropology meetings as a way of advertising visual anthropology.

As a first opportunity to present such highlights this year's EASA conference in Bristol/Britain was mentioned as a possible event and the suggestion was made to contact EASA and offer a small selection of films (e.g. a showing of one especially remarkable/anthropologically relevant film of each festival).

It was also agreed that a further meeting should include representatives of both the Tartu and Pärnu festivals in Estonia, the RAI Film Festival in Britain and the ASTRA Filmfest in Sibiu/Romania. The Göttingen festival was named as the next chance to continue the discussion. That meeting will therefore take place right after the festival, on Monday, 29 May.

The first name given to our co-ordination activities is "Co-ordination of Anthropological Film Festivals in Europe" (CAFFE) – after all, the first meeting took place in a Paris café!