



Jaan Tõnisson Institute



Watch and Change Project International Newsletter

September – November 2009

Slovak Republic

International documentary film festival One World

International festival of documentary films **One World 2009** is over. It took place on November 3 – 8, 2009 in six venues in the Bratislava city centre.

The festival was attended by 14,750 viewers in total, including 3,800 pupils of elementary and high schools. In the following months up until April, the festival will move to other Slovak towns.

On the basis of the viewers' vote, the film of a Slovak film-maker Marko Škop, *Osadné*, was chosen as the best film of the One World 2009. The film presents us an orthodox priest, Mayor and a ruthenian activist who decide to take the future of the village on the farthest eastern border of the European Union into their own hands. The film had final rating of 1.08 points (where 1 is perfect and 5 poor).

10 festival documents with the highest rating from the viewers:

1. *Osadné* - 1,08
2. *Seven Lights* - 1,11
3. *Other Worlds* - 1,15 <http://www.jedensvet.sk/index.php?ID=552>
4. *Short Long Journey* - 1,18
5. *Burma VJ* - 1,2
6. *Cooking History* - 1,27
7. *The Journey of Magdalena Robinson* - 1,29
8. *Pray the Devil Back to Hell* - 1,3
9. *The Age of Stupid* - 1,31
10. *Yodok Stories* - 1,31 <http://www.jedensvet.sk/index.php?ID=568>

Moreover, films in the section "Slovak Documentary Film 2008/09" have been evaluated by an international jury composed of four documentary filmmakers. They have awarded a honorary One World Award 2008/09 to the film of the Slovak director of Afghan origin, Sahraa Karimi, *Afghan Women Behind the Wheel*.



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Estonia

Film workshops on global issues for young people

The Watch and Change project organised between in October and November five film workshops for young people. In addition to learning how to screen and make films themselves, the young people were also confronted with global challenges such as child soldiers, poverty, education and consumerism and they were given opportunity to express themselves though films on these issues. Altogether 62 young people took part in the workshops which were organised in cooperation with schools and youth centres at different locations in Estonia: in Narva, Tartu, Pärnu and Viimsi. The last workshop in Illuka brought together 12 best participants from the previous four workshops both from Estonian- and Russian-language areas. The young people worked for two days in mixed groups at the Illuka reception centre for refugees, got acquainted with the Estonian refugee policy and made films on the asylum seekers living in the centre.

Altogether 12 short films were produced in the first four workshops workshops. The best three films will awarded a prize and the films from Illuka will be made into one longer documentary on asylum seekers in Estonia. All the films will be screened for general public in January 2008. Co-funding for the workshops was received from the Estonian Integration Foundation.

Czech Republic

School festival at Ohradní Grammar School

Once a year, students of the One World Film Clubs at the Grammar school of Eliska Krasnohorska in Prague prepared a special event, which goes beyond the regular class and after classes screenings of documentary films at their school. They organized a **school festival of documentary films**. Each year before Christmas the students take it upon themselves to organize a truly grand event in their school. For three days they screen 100 documentary films to their fellow students as well as parents and wider public. This year the topic of the festival was „**20 years of democracy**“ to commemorate the 20 years of the fall of communism in the Czech republic. Students not only screened films, but also, as with the bigger brother festival One World, they invited guests, facilitated workshops and debates about selected topics.

As one can find on the festival website, yes they also have a very full and functioning website specially build for the festival, the group of students who organize the festival is eager to lead by example. They are able to find sponsors, invite prominent guests, directors, speakers and experts such as writers or past political prisoners.



Project is funded by European Union



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Students realize that documentary films are a powerful medium to teach and inform about global and local social and cultural issues. They regularly work with film in classrooms as well as participate in One World film clubs which they lead in their school. They cooperate with One World in Schools of People in Need to advance their leadership skills and knowledge about global issues and this festival is a prime example of their keen interest.

We would like to congratulate to the students at Ohradni Grammar School and support them in their future efforts. It is a truly great effort and we hope that the next year's festival will again more successful.

For more information please see: <http://festival.gekom.cz/>

Poland

Workshops for film club leaders

Weekend workshops for film club leaders were organized in Poland in November and December this year. Three meetings were organized in Wrocław, Warszawa and Gliwice for 53 students and 18 teachers from 23 schools.

The workshops focused on how to run a film club effectively and how to organize a discussion after the screenings. Two or three participants represented each film club. The meetings started with the sharing of experiences among leaders and exchanging good practices. One module tackled the issue of motivation.

Needs analysis conducted before the training showed that running interesting and engaging discussion is critical for a film club to succeed. Therefore, we have focused on this issue in particular – several methods of discussion have been presented, participants discussed the role of moderator and characteristics of “good discussion”.

Each group was later divided in three teams that worked together and organized a try-out screenings and discussions for the other participants. This allowed to practice the skills we aimed to build during the first day. A feedback session after each try-out provided the whole group with practical insights on how to work in their own school. During the second day film clubs have also planned promotion of their upcoming screenings.

Participants organized screening of “Punam”, “China: Shifting Nature” and “Santa’s Workshop”. Moreover, the screening of “Total Denial” and a discussion afterwards was organized by the trainers.

Teachers, who are meant to support film club leaders worked simultaneously in the second room. The workshop focused on project method in education and providing feedback as a critical skill for a teacher supporting students’ activities.

We would like to wish you happy holidays and happy new year, full of new experiences!

The Watch and Change project partners!



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