

Building the European Film Gateway

Frankfurt am Main (September 19 2008) – Work on a joint European online film portal, the European Film Gateway, begins on September 21 with an inaugural meeting in Frankfurt am Main.

The 2-day event brings together 20 partners, including 15 European film archives and museums. Their aim is to set up a central point of access to the European film heritage, overcoming institutional and language barriers.

The Deutsches Filminstitut is responsible for the co-ordination of The European Film Gateway (EFG), and the project is funded by the European Commission's eContent*plus* programme.

By the end of the three-year project in 2011, more than 700,000 photographs, posters, texts, audio documents, and of course entire films and film clips, covering more than 100 years of film history, will be ready for access by professionals, students and film buffs. The platform is set to go online in 2010.

Clearing copyright

Digitising the valuable materials and providing them to the public is a great challenge to film archives and museums. An indispensable requirement for an operating European Film Gateway lies in ensuring usage rights: "To develop mechanisms for the often difficult job of rights clearance will be one of the pioneering achievements of the EFG project", says Claudia Dillmann, director of the Deutsches Filminstitut (DIF) and president of the European Cinémathèques Association (ACE). Ideally, this project will open up new options for co-operation with the copyright holders, who have an interest in having their material presented on the Internet.

A supplier to Europeana

At the same time, the European Film Gateway will serve as a supplier to Europeana, the platform for the cultural heritage of Europe. Europeana will connect information and digital materials from the film archives with other material from the cultural and scientific heritage. It will enable users quick and easy access to several million digital files from European libraries, museums, archives and audio-visual collections.

The EFG makes an important contribution to the realisation of a networked digital cultural and information landscape in Europe. For the first time it will be possible to access and research works from all fields of art and culture, regardless of media format, and thus to overcome the former limitations of the analogue age.

Project co-ordination:

Deutsches Filminstitut - DIF, Georg Eckes
phone: +49 69 961 220 631, e-mail: eckes@deutsches-filminstitut.de

Project partners:

Association des Cinémathèques Européennes (Frankfurt/Brussels)
Cinemateca Portuguesa - Museu do cinema (Lisbon)
Cineteca del Comune di Bologna, Det Danske Filminstitut (Copenhagen)
Deutsches Filminstitut – DIF (Frankfurt/Main)
EDL Foundation (The Hague)
Eremo srl (Cupramontana, Italy)
FernUniversität Hagen
Filmarchiv Austria (Vienna)
CNR-ISTI (Pisa)
Istituto Luce (Rome)
La Cinémathèque Française (Paris)
Lichtspiel - Kinemathek Bern
Lietuvos Centrinis Valstybės Archyvas / Lithuanian Central State Archive (Vilnius)
Magyar Nemzeti Filmarchivum / Hungarian Film Archive (Budapest)
Národní Filmový Archiv / Czech Film Archive (Prague)
Nasjonalbiblioteket / National Library of Norway (Oslo)
Nederlands Filmmuseum (Amsterdam)
reelport GmbH (Cologne)
Tainiothiki tis Ellados / The Greek Film Archive (Athens)

Links:

www.europeanfilmgateway.eu
www.europeana.eu
www.filmarchives-online.eu
www.filmstandards.org
www.filmportal.de