



## **PRESS RELEASE**

# **EUROPEAN AUDIOVISUAL OBSERVATORY**

### **19.5.08**

**The ISAN International Agency and the European Audiovisual Observatory sign a co-operation agreement: the ISAN film identification number will be entered into the LUMIERE database**

At the Cannes International Film Market, the European Audiovisual Observatory and the ISAN International Agency have signed a co-operation agreement under which the European Audiovisual Observatory will enter the International Standard Audiovisual Number (ISAN) into its LUMIERE film database.

The LUMIERE database (<http://lumiere.obs.coe.int>) was launched by the Observatory in the year 2000. It provides a compilation of national data on annual admissions to films distributed in 29 European territories since 1996, with nearly 20,000 titles to date. The titles of films are included in the different languages in which they have been distributed commercially in Europe or North America. The input comes from the national bodies that collect data on the performance of films (depending on the country concerned, these are national cinema agencies, national statistical institutions, professional organisations or professional press organs).

The ISAN (International Standard Audiovisual Number – ISO 15706) is a voluntary numbering system for the identification of audiovisual works. It provides a unique, internationally recognised and permanent reference number for each audiovisual work registered in the ISAN central database. The work or audiovisual content to which it refers is identified in the multilingual database by a set of metadata relating to the registration of works. Over half a million titles, 80,000 of them cinema films, have already been registered by producers from more than 35 countries worldwide. The ISAN is compatible with a number of standards, such as AACS (Blu-ray), DCI, MPEG, DVB, ATSC and TV Anytime, to name just a few. According to Patrick Attallah, CEO of the ISAN International Agency, “the Observatory’s LUMIERE database has a good reputation, and co-operation with the Observatory should enable us to disseminate and popularise the ISAN number among professionals and national cinema agencies. As a unique identifier that is being included more and more in the digital distribution of cinema films, the ISAN facilitates the traceability of a work and the exchanges of data between professionals”.

“We welcome this co-operation with the ISAN-IA”, said André Lange, Head of the Observatory’s Department for Information on Markets and Financing and designer of the LUMIERE database. “In the long run, it should enable us to facilitate the identification of films for subsequent input into the database. If our network of correspondents also adopts the ISAN number, the compilation of data will be made easier and speeded up, and this will benefit the entire profession.”

**The ISAN International Agency (ISAN-IA)**, which is based in Geneva, Switzerland, was established in 2003 by AGICOA (Association for the International Collective Management of Audiovisual Works), CISAC (International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers), and FIAPF (International Federation of Film Producers Associations). It is responsible for promoting the ISAN worldwide, for appointing Registration Agencies and for the operation and management of the system and of the central ISAN directory. (<http://www.isan.org>)

**For further press information please contact:**

**Alison Hindhaugh, Information and Press Officer**

**Contact in Cannes:** European Audiovisual Observatory - Stand A6 Riviera - Tel: (00 33) (0)4 92 99 88 38

**Contact after the Festival:** Tel.: (00 33) (0) 3 88 14 44 10 -- E-mail: [alison.hindhaugh@coe.int](mailto:alison.hindhaugh@coe.int)