



## Documentary 'Agora: From Democracy to the Market' International Film Festival in Munich

By **Aggelos Skordas** - Apr 23, 2015



Internationally acclaimed Greek documentary “[Agora: From Democracy to the Market](#)” will have its German festival premiere at the 30th International Documentary Film Festival DOK.FEST in Munich from May 7 to May 15. DOK.FEST is one of the major documentary film festivals in Germany and 146 films from 37 countries have been selected with “Agora” being the only Greek production in this year’s program. The documentary on the [Greek crisis](#) has been officially selected for DOK.Money section, a film program focusing on various aspects of today’s global economy. Director Yorgos Avgeropoulos will attend the premiere on May 14 and will hold a Q&A session for the audience. Two more screenings on May 15 and 17 will follow.

German audiences’ longing for an alternative understanding of the Greek crisis has led to several “Agora” screenings in three German cities. After its first TV broadcast by German Public Television WDR, the film will be screened at the Werkstatt der Kulturen in Berlin on April 16 as part of an event dedicated to Greece and Europe. It will also have a special screening in Muenster on

organized by the Greek-German Society and Attac Muenster, and at the Ulmer Volkshochschule on May 18.

### **Screenings in Greece and abroad**

Avgeropoulos has been invited by the Greek Cinema Club of Luxembourg to present "Agora: Utopia in Luxembourg" on April 21 while a second screening will follow on April 22. On April 23 will be screened in Athens as part of the special tribute to Greek documentary films "With eyes open" organized by the Greek Documentary Association, Thessaloniki Documentary Festival, Technopolis City of Athens. More screenings will be held in various Greek cities.

The Agora was a central area in Ancient Greece city-states. It was a gathering place, an assembly for active citizens and the City center for political, economic, athletic, artistic and spiritual life. The heart of Democracy. In Modern Greece, the word Agora has lost its initial sense and has come to denote solely the place and act of commercial transactions. It is a dominant word in the reality experienced by Greeks today, as the country goes through an economical vortex that devours lives in its path.

Greece, a symbol for the European civilization due to its Ancient heritage, is experiencing a post-war history that no European thought would face again. Homeless people, soup kitchens, unemployment, poverty, an unsettled social situation, violent conflicts and the rise of the extreme right. The dream of prosperity has turned into a nightmare and the political scene of the last four years is crumbling.

Avgeropoulos witnesses the fall. After 13 years of ongoing reporting and documenting global events, he urgently turns his camera toward his homeland. He records the crisis' development from its beginning while tracing its impact on the lives of simple people from all social classes whom he observes over time. He witnesses popular protests in the streets, the development of solidarity movements, the rise of fascism, while at the same time he seeks answers from his country's most significant personalities, insiders, analysts and key decision makers from the international political scene.

"Agora" is an international co-production between Small Planet (Greece), Westdeutscher Rundfunk (Germany) and Al Jazeera Arabic (Qatar).