

Single vision defined successful Killing

IN AN era of extremely tight budgets everywhere, co-production is now



**ZDF Enterprises' Susanne Mueller:
similar societies made co-pro easy**

crucial to getting many projects off the ground. That was the clear message from the first Global Production Strategies conference session.

But, panelists agreed, however many co-production or co-financing partners are involved, a single creative vision is essential. The increasing potential of co-production was illustrated by the success of *The Killing*, co-produced by the Danish Broadcasting Corporation and ZDF and its distribution arm, ZDF Enterprises, in Germany.

The 20-hour drama series has been a huge success in its original language in Denmark, in dubbed versions across Europe, and a cult hit with sub-

titles on BBC4 in the UK. It has now been remade as an English-language version in the US.

Susanne Mueller of ZDF Enterprises said that the similarity of their societies made German co-productions with Scandinavia easy. But she stressed how the quality of the people involved helped create the single creative vision necessary for success. "In a small country like Denmark, all the good directors, actors, producers and writers work together in cinema, so you really have the best people doing it." Orion Ross, of Disney Channels EMEA, summed it up: "You have to avoid the co-production 'sludge', which ends up satisfying none of the partners."