

News Bulletin July 2009

Dear Colleagues,

Together with our best wishes for your summer break and our farewell after one exciting year of EUNIC Presidency we would like to inform you on the latest news and developments of EUNIC.

The annual EUNIC Heads Meeting in Copenhagen is over. The EUNIC Presidency of Hans-Georg Knopp (Secretary General of the Goethe-Institut) has come to an end and the Presidency went to Finn Andersen of the Danish Cultural Institute (Det Danske Kultur Institut). The new Presidency Team consists of:

- President Finn Andersen,
- 1. Vice-President Horia-Roman Patapievici (Rumanian Cultural Institute) and
- 2. Vice-President Simonetta Luz (Instituto Camões) .

The report of the meeting and the overview of the main initiatives during the Presidency of H.-G. Knopp are attached to this newsletter.

One of the main outcomes of the Presidency 2008/2009 is surely the establishment of a Presidential Support Team. The new team was presented to the EUNIC members during the meeting in Copenhagen on 17 and 18 June.

Presidential Support Team (PST)

This initiative started in Paris in autumn 2008 with the first meeting of a new established EUNIC Task Force that should propose ideas and measures to enhance the cooperation within EUNIC, to increase the flow of information within the network and to communicate EUNIC activities to all EUNIC members worldwide. EUNIC has grown dynamically in a very short time, and the latest developments in European external and cultural relations showed that EUNIC is indispensable. The Task Force identified the need for practical support for the EUNIC Presidency Team and proposed to establish a EUNIC Presidency Support team as a pilot project for an initial period of two years, especially with a view on the support of the smaller EUNIC member institutions taking over the EUNIC Presidency.

To avoid bureaucracy it was decided to set up a mobile and flexible Presidential Support Team. Its members come from EUNIC partner institutes and the colleagues will remain based within their own institutes. The Goethe-Institut and the British Council have pledged funding for the new team over an initial period of two years. Wallonie-Bruxelles International also has announced to support this initiative financially.

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After an open recruitment process in April and June 2009 with a high number of excellent applications and a high level of enthusiasm for the idea of EUNIC, the Presidential Support Team is now ready to start. It consists of three full-time post members (e-mail addresses are provisional):

- Steve Green (British Council, Steve.Green@britishcouncil.org) as Team Leader,
- Robert Adam (Rumanian Cultural Institute, robertadam@institut-roumain.org) as Communications Manager and
- Christine Kloesch (Goethe-Institut, kloesch@goethe.de) as Co-ordinator

We are convinced that the Team will fulfil their mission and help EUNIC, the clusters and the Presidential Team to take a step forward to strategic cooperation. We wish them all the best and good luck for their interesting and important new task. The team will contact you immediately after the summer break.

[A legal status for EUNIC Europe](#)

The Task Force also raised the question of a legal status for EUNIC. Up till now only EUNIC Brussels is a legal entity. The EUNIC cluster in Belgium has therefore explored the advantages such a status will provide and what EUNIC has to do in order to gain a legal status. On this basis the EUNIC Heads meeting in Copenhagen decided to start the process to become a legal entity.

[EUNIC – vision and strategy](#)

The process to work on common visions, goals, strategies and themes is still on the way. While in Copenhagen the main discussion was focussed on common themes and how to deepen our common understanding of them (special working groups will be established), some clusters started already on their own to work on common goals, issues and methods. A best-practice example is attached to this newsletter: the EUNIC cluster in Zagreb organised a workshop to create a common and concrete basis for cooperation. Another cluster (Pretoria) announced to work on strategic questions within the next weeks.

[New EUNIC members and clusters](#)

The Heads meeting in Copenhagen accepted two organisations as new EUNIC members:

- ifa (Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations) from Germany,
- CCRN (Centre Culturel de Rencontre Abbaye de Neumünster); Luxembourg is now represented as full member.

The question of ministries as new members was lively discussed and not yet decided. The PST Team was asked to prepare a basic paper on EUNIC membership.

The current number of EUNIC clusters amounts to 47 local clusters worldwide. The recently established ones are Buenos-Aires, Cordoba, Santiago de Chile and Stuttgart – see the attached list. New clusters will soon be established in Hongkong, Istanbul and Lagos. In view of the still growing number of clusters the coordination and communication on projects between the clusters and generally the relationship between EUNIC Heads and local networks becomes a crucial element. This topic will surely be on top of the agenda of the PST. In Copenhagen it was furthermore emphasised that all Cluster activities need to be documented. The EUNIC Presidential Support Team will collect all Cluster projects, document and make them accessible to all EUNIC members, e.g. via the website. A more regular newsletter and flow of information and an up-to-date website is also on the agenda. The **next EUNIC Presidency – Cluster Heads Meeting** will take place in Stockholm, probably during the first week of December 2009. The PST will work on this and inform the clusters.

EUNIC Summer Academy

The 2nd EUNIC Summer Academy took place in Budapest from 15 to 19 June 2009, organised by the Balassi Institute (Hungary) and the Institutul Cultural Roman (Romania) with the contribution of the EUNIC Cluster Budapest. It took place at the same time as the Heads Meeting in Copenhagen. Thirteen participants from thirteen countries worked mainly on possible ways of strengthening the cooperation within EUNIC and on practical approaches to create common cultural projects. A videoconference between the Heads and the participants of the Summer Academy was successfully organised. In the video discussion the Academy participants proposed to create practical guidelines for EUNIC project implementation and cooperation within EUNIC, with best practice examples and tips about access to EU funding. They furthermore asked the heads to continue with the Summer Academy in 2010 as it was considered a very useful tool for young employees of EUNIC member institutions to enhance the internal communication by getting personally acquainted as well as a good method to create and implement EUNIC projects. A summary of the Summer Academy 2009 will be send out after the summer break. The heads in Copenhagen agreed to organise another Summer Academy in Bucharest in 2010 at the same time as the Heads Meeting.

We would like to present some extracts from two articles on the Summer Academy 2009, one of Arevik Saribekyan (BC Armenia) and one of Wojciech Cichon (BC Warszawa):

- “During the first two days, we shared our experiences and went through the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats inherent in EUNIC. We came up with recommendations on how EUNIC operation can be improved.....summarised in the Practical Guide.”
- “The energy and creativity was so high in the group that we came up with five great project ideas which were quickly turned into draft proposals. We will finalise these project ideas online and present them to the Heads of our organisations for further discussion and potential funding.”
- “.....firm decision by the participants to keep working to making EUNIC a reality - a common space where we can all meet and bring our cultural differences and experiences to cooperate for greater impact and harmony.”
- “It was great to feel that in spite of its early stage EUNIC has become a growing organisation arousing so much enthusiasm. The idea of pan-European cooperation and the vast number of opportunities it creates, already stimulates the minds of people involved.”

Status Quo: European-Chinese Cultural Dialogue 2009 in Copenhagen and 2010 in Shanghai

After a successful first Chinese-European Cultural Dialogue in Beijing in October last year, the second Dialogue will take place in Copenhagen from October 19 to 21 in 2009. The main partner is again the Chinese Academy of Arts. The objective of the second conference is to deepen the dialogue by allowing more time for discussion and to include more practitioners and artists from Europe and China. The dialogue in Copenhagen is therefore mainly organised in working groups with moderators from China and Europe. The following four topics will be discussed: creative industries, cultural diversity, state of the arts and cultural memory. A handbook on cultural cooperation between China and Europe as well a Chinese-European glossary on 100 keywords in the field of cultural cooperation will be presented at the conference.

Expert and participants in the dialogue have already been nominated by most EUNIC member institutions. The conference will be opened by the Danish Prime Minister. The European Commission is invited and members of the EUNIC Beijing Cluster will be present as well as a great number of EUNIC Heads. The final program is finished in August.

The preparations for the enlarged Asian-European Cultural Dialogue in Shanghai in 2010 at the World Expo have already started. Partners will be the Chinese Academy of Arts and the Asian-European Foundation. The EU-Commission and Belgium who has the EU-Presidency in the second half of 2010 asked EUNIC to cooperate on a common cultural programme.

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Generally, the European-Chinese Cultural Dialogue unveiled new aspects of EUNIC's possibilities, namely to organise a sustainable platform for a vital cultural dialogue with partners outside of Europe. It could be a model for further dialogue platforms with other regions, e.g. Russia or Brasil.

[www.linkslinkslinks](http://www.linkslinkslinks.com) – have a look!

http://ec.europa.eu/education/languages/news/news3134_en.htm

Find e.g. the speech of H.-G. Knopp at the Conference "Multilingualism, Intercultural Dialogue and Globalisation" in New Delhi, India (December 2008) organised jointly by the European Commission, the French Embassy, in the context of its Presidency of the European Union, the Indian National Knowledge Commission and the European Union of National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC India Cluster).

<http://www.europeanfilmacademy.org/2009/06/09/a-plea-for-the-emotional-side-of-europe/>
A Plea for the Emotional Side of Europe!

We wish the new Presidency Team, the newly created Presidential Support Team and our colleagues in the clusters good luck, good projects and a successful cooperation! We apologize for sporadic newsletters and thank you for your enthusiasm and constructive support.

Bye, bye!

Yours sincerely,

Volker Redder (Coordinator EUNIC Presidency Goethe-Institut)