

News Bulletin April 2007

Dear Colleagues,

I feel honoured to assume the EUNIC presidency from the beginning of April onwards and would first and foremost like to thank Sir David Green and his team for their outstanding achievements and their remarkable work in regard to establishing EUNIC as a highly promising network and partnership between European national institutes for culture. The official launch of the EUNIC website in Brussels was one recent highlight of the success story of EUNIC which has started with CICEB and was first put on an official basis at the Prague meeting in Mai 2006. It should not be forgotten that it is for the first time that European National Institutes for Culture have launched a partnership initiative at a strategic European level. Retaining our individual identities but combining our forces is the underlying thought of this unique project.

At our meeting in Leuven last February we have already discussed some of the challenges that have to be addressed: Our priority is to invite all remaining European cultural institutes to join EUNIC. In equal measure, we should continue to initiate Clusters not only within the European Union but also outside Europe. The main focus in this respect lies on China, India and Russia. Establishing and fostering contacts with relevant actors in the cultural and political field such as the DG for Culture, the DG Relex and the Council of Europe is another important objective.

In regard to the project level, the Austrian EUNIC Presidency will particularly concentrate on the theme "Migration and the Balkans". In this regard I would once again like to thank those who participated in the "Culture Matters" Workshop this February in Vienna and who have shown their commitment and their dedication to the ideas and goals of this priority area. I kindly ask the colleagues who proposed to coordinate the other priority themes (Intercultural dialogue, Multilingualism, European House of Culture, Venice) to provide draft papers for discussion among EUNIC Heads.

Already now, I would like to announce the next EUNIC Heads meeting on 14 (evening) and 15 June in Vienna. Official invitations will be sent out in due time.

To keep you updated on EUNIC matters and related topics we will circulate monthly news bulletins (informal like this first bulletin) about recent developments. If you need further information concerning any EUNIC matter or wish to discuss ideas, please do not hesitate to contact me or my colleagues at any time.

I am looking forward to our cooperation and hope to meet all of you soon - at the latest at our EUNIC heads meeting in June.

Yours sincerely,



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