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Dear Colleagues,

as you know, the preparations for the EUNIC project in the framework of the “European Year of Intercultural Dialogue” have been intensified during the last weeks as the deadline for submissions to the European Commission is set for end of July 2007.

The - recently modified and renamed - project “Alter Ego” is based on mutual portraits of youngsters from different backgrounds (also see attachment) and consists of 3 stages:

1) National competitions will take place, where youngsters (age 13 -18) from as different backgrounds as possible create double portraits of each other in whatever medium they choose.

A jury, consisting of immigrant artists / representatives of minorities, elects the best art work of each country.

2) A summer camp / arts camp will be organised, where the winners will work on their theme with the abovementioned artists as coaches. The youngsters are supposed to produce pedagogical material on Intercultural dialogue to be used European wide in schools.

3) The youngsters being ambassadors of Intercultural dialogue will open the exhibition with the results of the competition and of the arts camp. They will as well present the pedagogical material.

The project is being submitted these days and we strongly hope that it will be approved.

The first preparatory meeting for the Ljubljana conference, scheduled for May 2008 under Slovenian Presidency, took place on 13 July in Amsterdam. It is seen as a follow up of the “The Hague Conference”, but with closer involvement of the third sector and with representatives of non-European countries. The Ljubljana conference is also envisaged as a follow-up to the Communication of the European Commission on the European agenda for culture in a globalizing world, especially its third part (culture as an element of European external relations).

The preparations for the “EU – China Culture Forum”, supposed to take place in the context of the EU-China Summit on 28 November 2007 are underway. The agenda will be circulated as soon as possible. It would be helpful, if the relevant embassies and cultural institutes in Beijing could get green light and instructions from their headquarters in order to be able to cooperate in the preparation of the programme.

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Concerning our growing EUNIC family, I am delighted to announce that the Romanian Cultural Institute has officially confirmed its EUNIC membership. Thus, cultural organisations from 24 EU member states are currently represented in EUNIC. In this context, it is encouraging that a EUNIC Cluster in Ljubljana is being started.

Wishing you a pleasant summer,

Yours sincerely,



Ambassador Emil Brix
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