

News Bulletin February 2008

Dear Colleagues,

The recent developments related to the closure of the British Council in Yekaterinburg and St Petersburg have been observed carefully by the EUNIC presidency team. In this respect, also the European Union has taken a uniform position to show solidarity with the British Council by adopting a declaration, urging the Russian Federation to allow the British Council to operate freely and effectively in Russia and to take no further actions that might hinder its activities (see attachment). EUNIC too will continue to request a rapid solution of this situation and its negative impact on cultural exchange with EU member states.

The Chinese Ministry of Culture has now finally responded to our offer to organise a "EUNIC-China Culture Dialogue" by proposing to postpone the meeting to autumn 2008. Under the given circumstances, we intend to accept this proposal. In the meantime, preparatory meetings with representatives of the EUNIC presidency team and representatives of the Chinese Ministry of Culture are planned and supposed to take place in April.

On 23 January, the EUNIC Brussels conference "Cultural consequences of migration and mobility" raised the question of the cultural consequences of mobility and migration and discussed the role of culture in the process of migration. The seminar gave floor to highly interesting debates and provided the opportunity for valuable exchange of views.

Plans for future projects by clusters include a EUNIC concert organised by EUNIC Vienna in the framework of the UEFA EURO 2008 and a "EUNIC week" organised by EUNIC Hrvatska which should take place from 14 until 19 April in Zagreb.

Concerning the growing network of EUNIC clusters, preparatory meetings to form a EUNIC cluster in Pretoria have been started. I am delighted to report that a EUNIC cluster in Japan has been established officially.

Finally, we are happy to announce that the next EUNIC heads meeting will take place on 20 until 21 June in Berlin under German EUNIC Presidency in parallel to the first EUNIC summer academy on 16 until 21 June 2008. Invitation to both events will be sent out in due time.

Yours sincerely,



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