

Dear Colleagues,

during the last three months you did not receive the EUNIC News Bulletin. We would like to apologise for that. The change of the EUNIC Presidency, the preparation and organisation of the first EUNIC Summer Academy and contemporaneously of the annual EUNIC Heads Meeting in Berlin may explain this delay. From now on you will again receive this important internal communication tool regularly each month.

First of all we would like to inform you about the symbolic handover of the EUNIC Presidency which took place at the EUNIC Heads Meeting on 20/21 June in Berlin even though Germany officially has already taken over the Presidency from Austria on April 1<sup>st</sup>. During the handover the new EUNIC President, Dr. Hans-Georg Knopp, Secretary General of the Goethe-Institut thanked Ambassador Emil Brix for his excellent work during the last year and for the trustful and pragmatic cooperation within the Presidency Team and expressed that he was looking forward to continuing our successful and challenging cooperation and to supporting actively our cluster network.

At the same time a new Vice-President, Mr. Horia-Roman Patapievici (Head of the Romanian Cultural Institutes) had concordantly been elected. Together with Mr. Finn Anderson (Head of the Danish Cultural Institute) the new Presidency Team is now complete.

29 participants including two guest from the Netherlands and a representative from the European Commission took part in the annual EUNIC Heads Meeting in the rooms of the Representation of the European Commission in Berlin. It was a very fruitful meeting offering the possibility to discuss the new vital role of culture in the international European Union's relations including the growing encouragement and support from the European Commission, in this regard to debate new chances and challenges for the cooperation and the future engagement of EUNIC inside and outside of Europe, to exchange views on the enhancement of our cooperation and to decide on concrete EUNIC project proposals.

Some of the concrete outcomes concerning the cluster level directly are:

- send out the joint letters from DG Education/Culture - DG Communication and from DG Education/Culture - DG External Relations to the EU Representations on the cooperation between EU-representations and clusters;
- produce statistics on EUNIC projects that have been presented successfully/not successfully to the EU Commission (EUNIC Europe and Cluster level);

- the policy paper of Dr. Batora is seen as an important internal discussion paper that needs to be discussed further (see attachment) ;
- create a best practice list of EUNIC projects ;
- EUNIC clusters are asked to send their list of projects for the European Language Day on September 26<sup>th</sup> 2008 to the Presidency and to EUNIC Brussels; they will be published by the Commission;
- the next EUNIC Meeting - Presidency Team + Cluster Heads - will be organised in Paris on November 20<sup>th</sup> + 21<sup>st</sup> 2008;
- establishment of a Task Force working on the strengthening of the work of and the cooperation within EUNIC and on issues as the legal status, the co-location of institutes and the internal process of project development.

The first EUNIC Summer Academy took place at the same time (June 16 - 20) and the same place. Young colleagues from the EUNIC members' headquarters met each other for one week, discussing intensively European issues with European experts and institutions working on European issues in Berlin and working commonly on specific EUNIC questions as e.g. internal communication, knowledge of each other and chances and obstacles for cooperation. During a meeting with the EUNIC Heads they proposed to continue with this new format. It was then accepted to organise a second EUNIC Summer Academy in 2009 and to do this in close cooperation - as in Berlin - with the local EUNIC Cluster.

The preparation of a European - Chinese Cultural Dialogue was put a step further in April 2008. Mr. Knopp, Mr. Andersen and Mr. Redder went to Beijing and met, together with colleagues from the Austrian Cultural Forum and the Danish Cultural Institute in Beijing, the new partner for this event, the Chinese Academy of Arts. It was decided to organise the first structured dialogue on cultural issues between Europe and China on October 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> 2008 in Beijing, to continue 2009 in Copenhagen and to enlarge this dialogue in Shanghai in 2010 - when Shanghai hosts the World Fair - to an Asian-European Cultural Dialogue.

On behalf of EUNIC Mr. Brix and Mr. Knopp took part in the International Conference "New Paradigms, New Models - Culture in the EU External Relations" in Ljubljana in May 2008 organised by the Slovenian Presidency. Based on the ["European Agenda for Culture in a Globalising World"](#) the conference created a ground for integrating culture into the EU's external relations and offered thereby interesting perspectives for the involvement of EUNIC in this field. In this context the Austrian EUNIC Presidency had commissioned a discussion paper "International Cultural Relations in and of the European Union. Perspectives of EUNIC". Please find attached a short summary of the conference including a link with more detailed information and the mentioned EUNIC Policy Paper of Jozef Batora & Monika Mokre

Contact details:

Mr. Volker Redder

EUNIC-coordinator

Phone: +49 (0) 15921-367

Fax: +49 (0) 15921-668

Email: redder@goethe.de

In a meeting of the Presidency Team and EUNIC Brussels with Commissioner Orban, Commissioner for Multilingualism, on May 21 EUNIC was asked to contribute proposals to his communication on multilingualism. Meanwhile the paper is finalised and was sent out to Commissioner Orban. If you would like to get a copy of the paper and a copy of the "Amin Maalouf recommendations on Multilingualism" (A rewarding challenge - How the multiplicity of languages could strengthen Europe - proposals from the group of Intellectuals for Intercultural Dialogue) please send an email to Mrs. Hauschild ([il@bruessel.goethe.org](mailto:il@bruessel.goethe.org)) or to Mr. Redder ([redder@goethe.de](mailto:redder@goethe.de)).

On July 3<sup>rd</sup> the Presidency Team and EUNIC Brussels had another opportunity to meet and discuss important perspectives of cooperation with the EU Commission. They met Mrs. Odile Quentin, Director General of Education and Culture at the European Commission and EU Commissioner Jan Figel responsible for Education, Training, Culture and Youth. A short report will follow in the next newsletter.

The EUNIC project "Alter Ego" one of the seven flagship projects of the European Commission for the 2008 Year of the Intercultural Dialogue has started successfully with the implication of several EUNIC clusters. The project is present in 22 countries in 18 languages. Nevertheless it needs your full support in order to become a great success and to demonstrate the capacity of EUNIC to manage and organise such big European projects. Mrs. Hauschild (President EUNIC Brussels) asks the EUNIC networks in Europe, actually in the 22 countries where the project takes place, to support Alter Ego by any means, meaning that all institutes put the Alter Ego project on their website and give out the flyers. Latest information: France will also be engaged in the project.

The network of EUNIC clusters keeps on growing and now includes also Lyon, Milan, Hamburg, Krakow, Vilnius, Bordeaux, Athens, Rome and South Africa (Pretoria) which have been established recently. In total 34 EUNIC clusters are currently operating in and outside of Europe. Our colleagues in Oslo and Sofia have announced to establish a cluster within a few weeks.

I wish you a wonderful summer  
Yours sincerely,

Volker Redder (EUNIC Coordinator)