



Finn's corner

This month I highlight several important activities which will have a significant impact on EUNIC's future work. The European Chinese Cultural Dialogue meeting, which I was privileged to host here in Copenhagen, was an opportunity for EUNIC members to sit back from our daily work and reflect, with European and Chinese experts, on the nature of culture relations and cultural understanding. This lies at the heart of what we do yet it is rare that we have this opportunity to pause. This meeting focused on China but I feel we need similar reflections on our mutual relationships with other parts of the world.

In a similar vein I enjoyed the recent speech of Gijs de Vries on the nature of cultural diplomacy and relations today. The occasion was one of the British Council's 75th anniversary lectures and I shared the platform on behalf of EUNIC. I urge everyone interested in the role of cultural relations in today's world to read, or listen to, the speech at

www.britishcouncil.org/new/about-us/75th-Anniversary/lecture-series/gijs-de-vries/

We can sometimes underestimate the size and influence of the EUNIC network of 31 organisations. The European Commission, and other language networks, recognised our experience and expertise at their multilingualism platform. Our election to lead of this platform is a genuine recognition of our collective reputation and demonstrates how we can play a leading role in policy formulation and implementation on a European scale.

In December three meetings of major impact shaped our action. Firstly, we have just finished the cluster meeting in Stockholm which was very successful. Then the Culture|Futures conference here in Copenhagen alongside the COP-15 summit. I believe the inter-action of culture and ecology will be a major theme for EUNIC in the coming years.

I travelled to Moscow to take part in the EU-Russia Cultural Forum alongside several cluster members on the 8th of December.

Finn Andersen
President



Words into action: increasing cultural relations with China

Over 100 experts and cultural managers from China and 13 European countries gathered in Copenhagen for the Second European-Chinese Cultural Dialogue. The meeting followed on from the first meeting in Beijing in 2008. Through a mix of plenary lectures and workshops the participants covered topics such as the state of the arts, cultural memory and the creative industries.

EUNIC, led by the Danish Cultural Institute and the Goethe Institute, organised the European participation and the Chinese National Academy of the Arts led for the Chinese. The cluster in China took an active part and four members attended the conference. The Danish Foreign Minister opened the meeting, alongside the Chinese Ambassador to Denmark.

"We have seen how the cultural world, from the arts in all its diversity, can provide a force for good, to bring people together, face to face, as audiences and online, as a means for joy, for reflection, for prosperity and above all for enabling trust to emerge", said Finn Andersen.

The debates, held under Chatham House rules, were open, frank and constructive. The need to increase cultural relations and understanding between Chinese and European citizens was emphasised by both Chinese and European participants.

"I find it quite hard to communicate some Chinese cultural concepts to Westerners, even those who know a lot about China," says Zhang Zikang, director of the Today Art Museum, a non-governmental art organization based in Beijing.

One recognised difficulty which was mutually agreed is the lack of clear information to guide cultural managers to develop contacts and projects. Chinese cultural managers find it difficult to understand the cultural scenes in Europe and Europeans face the same problem in China. To close this gap the Goethe Institute announced a project to develop a "China-Europe Compass" guide.

The experts also called for more co-productions and a greater attention to 20th century history to complement the better known heritage aspects of both China and Europe.

The experts came up with a range of recommendations which will go to EUNIC heads for their own organisations' activity and a wide range of external sources.

The Cultural Dialogue will have its third meeting in Shanghai in 2010 during Expo 2010.

One of the graphic highlights of the conference was pictograms by Liu Yang illustrating the Chinese and European ways of thinking. You can find them at the end of the report in the China Daily at:





EUNIC selected to chair European Commission's Civil Society Platform on multilingualism

The European Commission agreed a formal policy on multilingualism in 2008 : http://ec.europa.eu/education/languages/news/news2853_en.htm

It has set up two “platforms” to bring together the most important non-governmental stakeholders to develop proposals and recommendations to implement the policy. (Government departments have a separate process).

For both platforms the Commission was clear that only pan-European, rather than bilateral, organisations could apply. EUNIC applied on the basis of our global experience and expertise in languages (over 2 million people will learn European languages with EUNIC this year; we are one of the most important employers of language teachers and have extensive teacher training engagement).

We were accepted as a member of the business platform and elected to chair the Civil Society platform. The platform consists of around 30 European networks linked to languages. A full list is on the EC press release at

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressreleasesaction.do?reference=ip/09/1574&format=html&aged=0&language=en&guilanguage=en>

The platform agreed to set up four working groups: translation and terminology; linguistic diversity and social cohesion; education and language planning. The preliminary discussions will take place in March and October 2010; a final report in October 2010 and a major conference in early 2011.

Uwe Mohr of the Goethe Institute in Brussels leads at the platforms and will be supported by the EUNIC languages strategy group. This includes the senior managers for languages at the Camoes, Goethe, British Council, Cervantes and other members. They will meet in Lisbon in January to help shape our role on the platform.

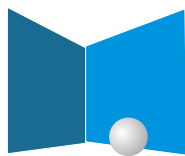


Eunic in the news

EUNIC activity in October made the online media:

In Belgrade at the book fair with a visit by the Serbian minister of culture
www.beogradskisajamknjiga.com/active/en/home/galerija/galerija_2009/galerija_ministar_kulture_na_eunicu_2009.html

In Chennai at the Film Festival
www.thehindu.com/mp/2009/11/04/stories/2009110450400500.htm



This month we look outside the EUNIC family and bring you, in recognition of the European-Chinese Cultural Dialogue, the online site of the Confucius Institutes. There are now over 300 institutes worldwide.

<http://english.hanban.edu.cn/index.php?language=en> and www.chinese.cn/en

EUNIC in October



Full speed down the Danube



EUNIC in Bratislava faces a very busy period over November and December with four events.

They focused, in November, on music and photography at two festivals: the Melos Ethos festival www.hc.sk/melos-ethos/fest_melos.php?lg=en featured contemporary composers all around Europe and the International Month of Photography www.onculture.eu/story.aspx?s_id=1097&z_id=23

December sees the focus move to film with an international film festival and a language café project.

Green culture: looking forward to an Ecological Age

culture | futures

COP-15 was one of the most important international gatherings of the year and clearly not one EUNIC can miss. The Culture|Futures project, led by the Danish Cultural Institute, is a major international initiative.

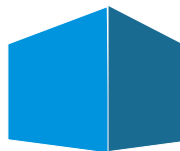
The Culture|Futures expanding spiral of engagement began its journey at the launch symposium on 7th December. Participants were invited to explore the Culture|Futures proposition and to grow the spiral of engagement supporting the COP climate change negotiations.

At the working seminar on the following two days, 8th/9th December, cultural actors from many backgrounds and from around the world, addressed the strategic role of culture in delivering an Ecological Age. Participants agreed to further collaborate to develop and crystallise the cultural messages about how the spiral of engagement will expand and involve ever more people.

EUNIC is a major partner of this international consortium of organizations and individuals aiming to shape the cultural agenda in support of the transition towards an Ecological Age by 2050.

More details at www.culturefutures.org

Outside EUNIC: some background reading



Budapest Observatory presents EUNIC in monthly bulletin

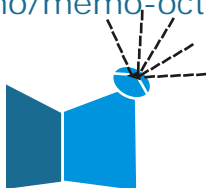
It is always useful to learn how others see us. Peter Inkei of the Budapest Observatory was one of the speakers at the Focus89 Breaking down barriers conference in Brussels. He took the opportunity in his next newsletter to write this about EUNIC:

EUNIC is a new player on the European scene. The letters stand for European Union National Institutes for Culture. Outsiders only suppose that it comprises national theatres or libraries. No, this is a partnership of cultural diplomacy outposts. It operates in national networks. Again, uninitiated only believe that national implies activities in their home countries. National networks are the clusters of foreign cultural institutes (of EU-members) in various parts of the world: Eunic-Hrvatska, -Japan, -Netherlands, -Prague, -Seoul, -Warszawa etc.

The Observatory's newsletter is always an informative source of central and eastern European cultural viewpoints and is at

www.budobs.org/news/memo/memo-october-2009.html

News from inside EUNIC



12 members now take on responsibilities as cluster heads

We currently have 48 clusters. After this autumn's round of changes it is encouraging to see 12 member organisations now taking on the role, and responsibility, of heads of clusters: Goethe Institute (15 cluster heads); French Institutes (6); British Council (6); Danish Cultural Institute (4); Italian Institutes (4); Polish Institutes (3); Alliance Française (2); Austrian Cultural Forum (2); Instituto Camoes (2); Cervantes (1); Romanian Cultural Institute (2); Czech Centres (1).

A note to clusters: please keep Christine Klösch up-to-date with any changes: Christine.Kloesch@eunic-europe.eu.

Welcome to the new Cyprus head!

Pavlos Paraskevas was appointed the EUNIC head for Cyprus by the Ministry of Education and Culture, where he is Acting Director of the Department of Culture. Pavlos attended the heads meeting in Copenhagen.

Our network is extending

The cluster component of EUNIC continues to grow as a new cluster was born in Venezuela. It has four full members and six associate members. Discussions on new clusters are taking place in Peru and Egypt.

Annual cluster meeting Stockholm



Stockholm was the destination for EUNIC colleagues from all over the world for the annual EUNIC Cluster Heads Meeting. We met in the Goethe/Cervantes shared premises.

The meeting enabled participants from 25 clusters to get to know each other personally, to learn about and contribute to EUNIC's new direction "from the accidental to the strategic", to present and develop projects; exchange best practice and to plan activity in 2010 and 2011. A special session enables clusters' representatives to contribute to the emerging EUNIC strategy (for example, in multilingualism).

We asked clusters to present their best projects and plans on a poster which led to some very imaginative designs but most of all they illustrated the increasing range of EUNIC projects.

Guest speakers included Alison Crabb of the European Commission; Nadine Ott presenting Language Rich and Olaf Gerlach-Hansen discussing Culture|Futures.

We would like to congratulate the EUNIC cluster in Stockholm and its president Lucie Svobodová and Hans Lepp of the Swedish Institute for their support in getting this meeting organised. Thank you so much!

Read more in our next issue in January 2010 .

EUNIC President Finn Andersen, vice-presidents Horia-Roman Patapievici and Cristina Faustino and the Presidency team - Steve Green, Robert Adam and Christine Klösch are happy to wish you the warmest:

