



European Network of Cultural Centres

c/o Bundesvereinigung Soziokultureller Zentren

Phone: +49-(0)30-3974559-2

Fax: +49-(0)30-3974459-9

Email: cmm@soziokultur.de

Web: www.encc.eu

ENCC NEWSLETTER #1, January 07

Dear network members and network interested,

In this newsletter you will read:

- I. General news
 1. German EU Council Presidency – Cultural programme and perspectives
 2. ENCC submissions to online consultations of the European Commission and the Directorate-General for Education and Culture (DG EAC)
- II. Current ENCC activities
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I. General news:

1. German Presidency of the European Union – Cultural programme and perspectives

Germany has taken over the EU Council Presidency. Even though the top priority will be the continuation of the EU reform and constitutional process, the German presidency work programme highlights the importance of connecting culture with the Lisbon process as one of its cultural policy priorities:

„Cultural and media policy promote Europe’s cultural identity and highlight the continent’s diversity. Almost seven million people currently work in Europe’s cultural and media landscape, and the trend is increasing. The German Presidency will call for the elaboration of joint recommendations on how to tap the growth and employment potential of the cultural sector more effectively. Priority projects in the cultural sphere are to be collected in a multiannual work plan.“

Read the full Presidency Programme 1 January to 30 June 2007:

http://www.eu2007.de/includes/Downloads/Praesidentschaftsprogramm/EU_Presidency_Programme_final.pdf (20.01.2007)

As to the cultural policy priorities of the German presidency and to concrete actions in this field, EFAH lists the following: “[...] the contribution of culture to employment and growth, the Communication on culture planned for spring 2007, the elaboration of the new three-year plan for the Council, and the elaboration of joint positions for the constitutive conference of the UNESCO charter on cultural diversity signatories, which will take place in autumn 2007 in Paris.”¹

¹ See „German presidency outlook“ at: <http://www.efah.org/index.php?id=14&pagelang=en#e2> (20.01.2007).

Last but not least have a look at the official website of the German EU Council Presidency 2007 – www.eu2007.de – and especially at the section “Cultural Events” where you can find information about many special events, conferences and meetings within the next 6 months: http://www.eu2007.de/en/The_Council_Presidency/cultural_program/index.html (20.01.2007)

2. ENCC submissions to the “Call for ideas” for promoting intercultural dialogue of the European Commission and the online consultation of the Directorate General for Education and Culture (DG EAC) in preparation of the “Communication on Culture”

In the ENCC newsletter #2/06 and #3/06 you have been informed about the “Call for ideas” (http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/dialogue/call_idea_en.html) which was launched by the European Commission in order to define guidelines for future call for proposals in the framework of the Year of Intercultural Dialogue. The results of this “Call for ideas” have not been published yet, but we would like to invite you to read the contribution of ENCC written by Christiane Ziller, Executive Director of ENCC which you will find at: http://www.encc.eu/pdf/ENCCcontribution_CallForIdeas_IntercultDialogue.pdf (30.01.2007).

The European Commission Directorate-General for Education and Culture (DG EAC) has launched another very important consultation process as preparation of the so-called “Communication on Culture”, a kind of a new strategic policy and guidance document in the cultural area. EFAH, who participated in the online consultation, confirms: “The Commission approaches this communication partly as an effort to build citizens’ European identity, and partly as a way of linking culture with the EU’s economic growth and social cohesion targets.”² EFAH participated actively in the online consultation in order to “continue to seek a more visionary statement on the role of culture from DG EAC.” Please read EFAH’s submission at <http://www.efah.org/components/docs/EFAH%20submission.pdf> (20.01.2007). ENCC as member of EFAH strongly supported their contribution by submitting the same wording.

Find all results of the online consultation in preparation of the “Communication on culture” at: http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/communication/contributions/contribution_en.html (20.01.2007).

II. Current ENCC activities

1. Evaluation of the ENCC work programme 2006

The ENCC work programme 2006 has been realized in 9 countries with participants from more than 20 European countries! The ENCC activities had an encouraging impact on local, regional and European level even though the work program had to be partly postponed because of the late decision of the EAC-Executive Agency in the middle of 2006.

The **ENCC conference “How to deal with different cultures?”** taking place in Berlin, Germany in April 2006, was a very enriching and satisfying event. Around 50 participants from 11 European countries discussed and exchanged practical experiences in dealing with cultural diversity and migration processes in daily cultural practice, and differences between the different European nations and cultures, taking into account socio-cultural contents, forms and methods.

The **study on the development of cultural centres** in Middle and Eastern Europe enables not only the ENCC but all people working in the cultural sector to learn about the historical and current role and situation of cultural centres in CEE countries. The results of the study represent a scientifically sound tool to improve transnational communication and understanding of cultural centres in East and West. A short version of the study was

² See „Communication on culture“ at: <http://www.efah.org/index.php?id=147&pagelang=en> (25.01.2007).

presented at the ENCC Project Fair in Vienna, Austria. The whole document will be published soon on the ENCC website.

The **contact visits** to Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary and the three Baltic States, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have led to close contacts, new partners and serious talks about a future ENCC membership with networks of cultural centres in Estonia and Latvia. The network's enlargement is very satisfying for all old members. To get to know local situations in other countries and to deepen fresh relationships that came out from the European Project Fair in Vienna, Austria, ENCC plans to realise also contact visits to other CEE-Countries in 2007.

The most successful activity of the year – **the ENCC European Project Fair in Vienna, Austria** – took place at the beginning of November. Realized in cooperation with the ENCC-member "IG Kultur Österreich", the event brought together participants from 16 European countries. Under the topic "The role of cultural centres between European integration and cultural diversity" around 30 already realised, current or planned projects from cultural centres all over Europe were presented and discussed. The documentation of the European Project Fair 2006 will be published soon on the ENCC website.

The **new ENCC website is online now!** Please have a look at www.encc.eu! Comments, contributions and congratulations are very welcome!

2. Planned ENCC work programme 2007

The following activities are planned with the ENCC work programme 2007:

1. March/April: Workshop in Brussels, Belgium: "Towards a European strategy of cultural networks for the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008"; cooperation and division of activities between European cultural networks
2. May: ENCC Conference "European Cultural Centres between Experience Economy and Cultural Capital" in Copenhagen, Denmark in cooperation with Huse I Danmark
3. June: Active participation of ENCC in the 4th Federal Congress on Cultural Policy "Fundamentals and perspectives of European cultural politics" by Antti Manninen, representative of the Finish member network of ENCC "Suomen Kulttuuritalojen Neuvottelukunta" as well as Trans Europe Halles
4. July-September: 5 Contact visits with public activities in Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia
5. October: ENCC European Project Fair "European cultural centres for a closer intercultural Europe - Approximation through exchange" in Riga, Latvia in cooperation with Cesis Culture Centre and the Latvian Culture Centres association
6. Throughout the whole year the ENCC website and its database will be developed further; the newsletter will be sent out regularly once a month.

We will come back to you subsequently with more detailed information before the activities are going to take place. Meanwhile do not hesitate to contact us for further information!

III. Funding opportunities

SUPPORT FOR CULTURAL ACTIONS

28 Feb 2007 Deadline of the Call for proposals 09/2006 "Support for cultural actions"
Full details and application forms can be downloaded from the official website of the Education, Audiovisual & Culture Executive Agency (EACEA):
<http://eacea.cec.eu.int/static/en/culture/call092006/index.htm> (15.01.2007)

LIFELONG LEARNING

Deadlines for the submissions of applicants:

28 Feb 2007 Erasmus University Charter

15 Mar 2007 Jean Monnet programme

30 Mar 2007 Comenius, Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, Grundtvig

30 Apr 2007 Transversal Programme and Accompanying Measures

Full details and application forms can be downloaded from the official website of the Directorate-General for Education and Culture (DG EAC):

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/newprog/index_en.html (25.01.2007)

IV. Upcoming dates

30 Jan 2007 EP Committee on Culture and Education (CULT) – Presentation of the Presidency Programme by Federal Minister Schavan, Minister of State Neumann and Parliamentary State Secretary Kues, Brussels/ Belgium

21-23 Feb 2007 Conference: Europe's Cultural and Scientific Heritage in a Digital World, Berlin/ Germany. Further information:
<http://www.eudico.de/index.php?ln=en&to=home>