



European Network of Cultural Centres

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ENCC NEWSLETTER 3/06

Dear network members and network interested,

We are pleased to be able to send you our next newsletter and we hope that all of you are in a good state of health and full of energy.

Thank you for your attention,
Christina

In this newsletter you will read:

- I. General news
 1. Latest news from Bent Blindbaek and the cultural centre "HUSET"
 2. EC's "Call for ideas" means also "Call for experiences"
 3. Short report about the "Europe for citizens" Forum in Brussels
- II. Current ENCC activities
 1. News from the ENCC Website
 2. About the ENCC Board Meeting in Helsinki
 3. ENCC Project Fair in Vienna, 3rd/4th Nov. 2006
- III. Upcoming dates
- IV. To do's

I. General news:

1. Latest news from Bent Blindbaek and the cultural centre "HUSET" in Aarhus/Denmark

Below you will find an abbreviated version of an email from Bent Blindbaek sent out the 17th of October 2006:

"Thanks a lot for your support during the last weeks.

With this email I had hoped that I could have said that our survival was secured, but we still need to fight.

During our three weeks of intensive campaign from 15th of September to 5th of October we collected around 42.000 signatures under the protest against the proposition in the city council of removing our grant from 1.1.2008.

Beside that we had an advertisement in the newspaper with nearly 250 local artists supporting us together with an advertisement with nearly 70 local cultural institutions supporting us. Beside that we have had a great support from all around Europe, where centres and cultural institutions have wrote letters to the members of the city council.

So all together the support has been just so great! And I can't imagine any other cultural institution in the city, which would have had the same kind of support from all over the society....

In the evening the 5th of October the city council made their final decision about next years budget – all together they had to save 55 mill Euro on the budget, which also means huge savings on social welfare for kids and elderly people.

[...]

The same day the political leader of culture had a meeting with the Danish railways about buying the area in the centre of the town, where there is a big building used as a railway goods yard.

This building has for more than three years been discussed in the city as a new centre for visual art and theatre – and HUSET have been very much involved in the future planning of this – but because of reluctance from the Danish railways this project has the last year been more or less giving up – and some of the other institutions, which would have been part of the project, is not interested any more.

Suddenly now I could read in the newspapers the 6th of October that these plans were active again, and the political leader of culture said that HUSET could be a part of the new plans for the building.

So suddenly there was a small opening for survival of HUSET and our activities....

But until now I have not been able to get any more promises from him or the mayor about how – and in which way we could be part of this project.....

So we are still working on alternatives even that this can be very difficult. In a new building we will have huge costs for replacement of our equipment, ventilation, electricity etc. And beside that we will have to pay rather huge rents for private buildings in a situation where we don't get any money from the city...

So – this is just a short description of the current situation – and I will keep you informed about the development.

But – we will of course be very happy if anybody have good ideas for us....”

Bent Blindbaek

2. The European Commission's "Call for ideas" means also "Call for experiences"

As already done in our last newsletter we would like to strongly encourage you to participate in the "Call for ideas" of the European Commission addressed to civil society and all other interested parties for promoting intercultural dialogue in Europe. It is not only about ideas, but also about best practices and sustainable synergies as Ivo Peeters and Sabine Wicher got to know in Brussels during the EUROPE FOR CITIZENS FORUM last week.

By considering your experiences and ideas the European Commission will define guidelines for future calls for proposals in the framework of the Year of Intercultural Dialogue! These calls for proposals will be published in 2007.

The Answer Form is online until the **30th of October 2006:**

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/dialogue/call_idea/login/index.cfm?fuseaction=login&lang=en

3. Short report about the "EUROPE FOR CITIZENS" Forum in Brussels, 28th/29th September 06

Mrs. Margot Wallström, Vice President of the European Commission, opened the forum by strengthening that Europe needs a human infrastructure besides its successfully developed technical one. European citizens have the obligation and duty to act as citizens and as democrats promoting European values. The Plan D – Democracy, Dialogue, Debate –, initiated by Mrs. Wallström, was implemented as reaction to the defeated Constitution in order to integrate Europe's citizens into the debate, to listen to them and to bring forward a joint discussion. She underlined that the Plan D has to be put into practice particularly at the local level. The conference awarded 6 Town twinning projects and 5 civil society projects with the Golden Stars of Active European Citizenship. With this selection the European Commission aims to demonstrate "the importance of fostering synergy and co-operation between various elements of European civil society. This is what the new "Europe for Citizens" programme intends to achieve: to bring together citizens, their organisations and their local representatives in different Member States and to support their aspirations and thereby contribute to the further integration of Europe."¹ Some important rather technical improvements of the new programme are to submit proposals via email, to ameliorate the cash flow through a new system of lump sums (fixed lump sum for each participant) and to better involve NGOs into Town twinning projects. Finally the European Commission is

¹ See Figel, Ján: Active European Citizenship. Golden Stars Awards, The book of awarded projects. Town twinning and Civil society projects, p. 1.

looking forward to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome next year. Different speakers emphasized the importance of that anniversary and that it should best be commemorated through active European citizenship.

The new "Europe for Citizens" programme is expected to be published by the end of October or beginning of November 2006.

For further information:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/1269&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=fr>

II. Current ENCC activities

1. News from the ENCC Website

Ivo Peeters (ENCC member of the board, De Zeyp/Belgium), Günter Chodzinski (director of eufund) and Luis Prada (eufund) met in Berlin on the 26th of September 2006 to discuss about how the existing ENCC website could be improved and to develop a concept of a new page. At a long-term perspective they agreed on an interactive site supported by different web applications that should be created in order to facilitate different activities at the same time: search for partners, present your cultural centre, provide information, chat and exchange between ENCC and cultural centres.

2. About the ENCC Board Meeting in Helsinki, 5th October 2006

It took place at the City of Helsinki Cultural Office. The meeting started with an interesting explanation of Bent Blindaek about the dramatic situation in Denmark at the moment, where "Huset" cultural centre and many other culture related places are being cut off from public funding. The layouts of the future "ENCC Presentation" in Power Point and of the study concerning the European Cultural Centres in East and Central Europe were presented and approved. Andreas Kämpf, Günter Chodzinski and Christiane Ziller gave brief comments about their trips to Poland, Tschechien and the Baltic States. Decisions concerning the future development of the ENCC web page, searching tool and data base were taken and the strategy for ENCC in 2007 was discussed.

The full minutes of the meeting will be posted on the ENCC web page soon.

www.ENCC.net

3. ENCC Project Fair in Vienna, 3rd/4th/5th November 2006

By now, all of you should have received the invitation package (including invitation letter, programme and registration form). If not so, please contact us as soon as possible. The **deadline** to register has been **extended until the 20th of October 2006**. Don't miss the extraordinary opportunity to exchange with cultural centres coming from all over Europe!

Elisabeth Mayerhofer (IG Kultur Austria), Linn Quante (IG Kultur Austria) and Sabine Wicher (eufund) met in Vienna last week in order to take further steps of the preparation of the event. On that occasion the location of the ENCC Project Fair has been visited as well.

All participants will get detailed information about the location of the project fair, hotel, local transport in Vienna and other useful things to know at the beginning of next week.

III. Upcoming dates

22.-25.10.06 River//Cities Forum "Take me to YOUR river", Warsaw

The forum is organized by the "wisla.art.pl Platform", that tries to revitalize the banks of the river Wisla in Warsaw. The main objectives are to learn from experience and projects located on the river banks of other European cities and to create a dynamic EUROPEAN PLATFORM OF RIVER CITIES, that will allow those projects to gain an international dimension. The forum will be moderated by Chris Torch (Vice-President of EFAH) and Mik Flood (President of the IETM from 1996-2001).

For the full program and further information please visit: www.wisla.art.pl

3.-5.11.06 ENCC PROJECT FAIR, Vienna

23./24.11.06 “CULTURAL MANAGEMENT IN CHANGING ENVIROMENT” Congress, Tartu, Estonia: The congress is organized by the Department of Culture of Tartu City Government It will cover topics relating to management of culture: management of culture sector at the state and local government level; management of cultural organizations; management of international cultural projects; strategic management, planning and teamwork in arts organizations, etc.... Conference fee: when registering before 1 November 1000 EEK (65 EUR); when registering from 2 to 17 November 1500 EEK (100 EUR).

For further information please visit: www.tartu.ee/kultuurikonverentsid

22./23.11.06 Intercultural Dialogue Conference and Exhibition. Best practices at Community level. Organized by the DG Education and Culture, Brussels

The conference should examine the most appropriate ways to provide sustainability to the initiatives from the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue. Therefore it provides a platform for discussions from policy makers, those responsible for education, training and culture, stakeholders and, in particular, young people, on the best ways to integrate intercultural dialogue into actions at national, regional and European level.

For further information (Draft Programme etc.) please go to:
http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/dialogue/index_en.html

IV. To do's:

- ***Don't hesitate to inform us about interested persons, partners or organizations for our newsletter!***