

## Interview French Institute

### 1. How is the future of Culture developing in Hungary?

From the point of the French institute, the future of our cooperation and our mission in Hungary, I mean I really think into cultural artistic movement things have been changing a lot in the last 20 years. to give a main answer to that 20 years ago we the French institute were cultural operators and cultural organizers, were bringing in the artistic bands and knowhow and things like this, and a little by little and step by step we have been changing to supporting and helping locals to develop themselves and improve their way, their knowhow their knowledge and things like this, and little by little we became partners of the Hungarian contractors or agents. Now I think our mission in cultural cooperation is to help the local institutions a better knowledge of the culture, our projects and to promote sometimes less and less cross-cultural programs cross-cultural projects. So we were an actor, but now we are a supporter, it is a little bit short to say it like this, but this is the direction we are moving.

#### A. Under the current development? Which is moving more nationalistic

this is a long political discussion, I am really answering in termes of the next 20 years, not about the current political discussion, which could have an impact on our discussion and the questions of few years we have to be subtle and have to focus more on our mission considering the last 20 years and the next 20 years of development.

### 2. Is Eunic an important part of this development?

is it already a player on the field, this is complicated, because I am only here for one year, Eunic have been 4 or 5 years, after 4 years is EUNIC a player or is it a network a cluster, this is exactly the question we raised at the last meeting, like what is the point of the meetings and it is a complicated question, because EUNIC is made by different institutes which have more or less the same mission, but finally different ways, different possibilities, different kind of rules of function and budgets, so it is quite complicated to see EUNIC as one player. For me it is still, it started last year to be an individual player, us gathering and EUNIC working as a unique player, as one player. It is the early beginning and I think that it is not totally clear how it will go and will it stay like this, is it a network, it is a label as we said the last time or has it a mission to become a real actor as a consistent and solid institutions. And for me it is not really clear, I wouldn't be able to answer on this to be honest.

### 3. How do you see Eunic's role in Hungary? How can EUNIC work in Hungary?

I think the question is a little different, is EUNIC important and the same way of working and the same mission in European and non European countries? I guess I haven't been running any Eunic meeting in a non European country, before I was in Lithuania so this is in context, and before I was far away y there was no eunic at that time. That is a tricky question EUNIC in Europe I think things would be clearer if we were running a Eunic cluster in south Asia or Africa because then the mission and not everything would be clear, but one of the missions is to promote the eu idea abroad as we do it for the national institutes abroad. So in a way it would be easier for us to understand a catch the possible actions the policy actions and projects. In Europe it is more interesting but also more tricky because analyzing Europe in Europe, so off course it

still have same mission, it still promote European culture, but then it is in Europe, so it is a little more complicated in Hungary as a European country.

a. Especially in the time being

4. What is the best feature of EUNIC?

what we did in the last ... if I knew, I think the question of the strategy is interesting, because I don't know if we are going to have a common strategy on everything, maybe on something, it could be that we could gather some forces on some cooperation projects not only showing performances, which is important, but I could be that we could work on, where we all have something to bring as cultural management, we could have cooperation together with the universities wheat bringing any of us interesting people, for example I would say that I would make more sense in the field of, as we had in the beginning of the week (ideas of science, reflections of conferences) maybe it would be more, it is an more easy place where we bring our specific knowledge and we gather them and propose them to the Hungarian audience. Then it makes sense to point out the different point of views from the European countries and European feeling about specific themes like science or culture future or sustainable development but I mean that is a little bit vague, but it is to bring the best of our knowledge, but different knowledge from different countries and bringing them to the Hungarian audience, where they can see the variety of the different point of views and opinions.

- And the worst?
- What do you think is the main assignments for Eunic?

5. What is your preferences towards EUNIC?

- a. Active suggesting programs?  
b. Passive partner?

6. Is the current status of EUNIC sufficient developed?

I think it need what we have to do this year, it need that we think about it, it is not a question about more money more people working for it or, I think it is really the question you are asking concerning where are we going and how should we develop before developing, so which fields, what way to work, how should we proceed and what should be our rules and this is in a way simple I mean that everyone can have an opinion and my opinion is the best, but then off course first difficulties that we don't have the same opinions, we don't have the same missions, one could be a little more political and another could be completely cultural and we don't have the same capacity, this makes the thing that we are not, we don't have the same houses exactly, everybody have a different way of working and then it makes a little more complicated but interesting more to.

- a. Should it expand?  
l. More countries

I think we take countries when they come, and they ask, when they are European and they have an institutes.

It is possible, we have to compromise in the regular eunic members which is a lot and it is quite big, and I don't think there are many countries which is not there, 17, it is great to have observatores and partners from the outside but then the number of partners only live on the good will and if they are eager to

participate in this period it is great to have them, but I don't think we would go out and look for more countries.

ii.                   Legislation?

Yeah then what, if it not going to have power over the institutes? I don't think it would work, I mean it would need some thoughts, but I don't think it is the way we should approach right now. To create a representative structure within every country what would they be doing?

Lasse: they would create a foundation for making common projects for the eunic cluster, within the presidency

It is worth talking about it so far, but now I would be more for the concept as it is right now like when it comes to projects like heavy to organize that to have one of the institutes to organizing it, it is a question about involvement, it would be strange to have EUNIC to decide it and some EUNIC members or staff organizing it but not part of the institutes, I mean it is really a question of gathering of institutes, today in Budapest more that to by itself and it makes sense I mean that we don't want to..No today and without thinking about it too long, I would say that the it would not be my priority.

iii.                   Strategy? Is it clear enough?

Is it a strategy? I don't think so, so far it haven't been a strategy it was a common practice, it was the first years so it is not that bad, but I wouldn't say that there were a real strategy but more a gathering. And it was a really good step and last year was really rich and then we reached a point where we asked us other questions, to go a step further or not, but to decide something.

iv.                   Do money play a big role in the development? And how to get these?

7.                   What can the EUNIC cooperation do better than you can alone?

As eunic as a actor. if you go to the field of real artistic projects we can always do things together, but I would say artistic life is already quite mixed, we already have Belgian directors working with Spanish dancers, it could be more, but what could we really bring in terms of artistic field, we will not organize a big European festival, and it wouldn't make sense, just see the program of the next spring festival, we will find, English authors, French directors, Romanian authors and directors, international festivals here are serious even if for some time it is not that big they would bring anyway European culture on stage.

I went to muchanok yesterday and they had a great exhibition from the Netherlands some time ago, so they are doing the job, so in terms of European artistic culture it is not like the job is not completely done, but the role of the institutes are quite clear in this field, I think it can be really more efficient to gather in terms of scientific knowledge culture educational culture. So in specific artistic fields the culture institutes manage themselves, but when it comes to wide cultural field where all have something to share, the EUNIC is a good platform.

8.                   Could a legislative administration be a part of the solution of the cooperation?

9.                   Could a single independent structure within EUNIC make the expansion of culture stronger?

so far from me, no it is not the question not now, but maybe in two years it would be different, Now I think we should organize our self and to agree on some principles, but in the next two years I am not sure that it would be the priority to have a institution like an existing people working for Eunic, I am not sure.

10. Who do you think would prefer a strong EUNIC?

Is your idea that the big countries wouldn't specifically not like the small countries, and the small countries would prefer a strong eunic? Their might something like this for simple reason that the big institutes for example Goethe British French Austrian here has the capacity of having a lot of projects, it is a simple as that, so it is a question of relativity like eunic projects might be smaller than the big projects of the big institutes so maybe they would take care a little bit less, but I think it is a little bit short to say something like this, and once again if we stay on the artistic field off course eunic wouldn't be my priory in sight of the projects and budget I have and the partners I am working with directly it wouldn't make sense to have Eunic projects, I would be happen but, but then if we move a little bit the field where we are, then eunic can really take all the sense it have and then it would be a really important gathering, cluster network or whatever, and if we come into the knowledge wide field, then it would become really important, because this is something we value a lot, and this is something were we would be very strong together. There might be something truth in what you have in mind, but it changing I think and depending on what we will do in the next years it could really change, and it's not that sure.

a. Who do you think would have the most benefit of it?

11. Is the cooperation in the organization filled with prejudices?

a. Are there any institutes which you prefer?

I wouldn't say prefer but there are some natural relations, who have been working a lot with Goethe institute in the last 50 years because of the historically relations and because of promotion between the common work with Franco, we have specific founds for franco-german projects, for example working with the Goethe is naturally for us and historically and now we prefer because we are used to it, now we have at least one project together, with topics and reflections and common history. Then some of the institutes we work with them naturally for example in march we promote the Franco relations, French speaking nations, so defintly then we gather with Belgium, Canada, Switzerland plus all the countries which is not specially 100 percent French speaking, but which have French speaking communities. they gather with us in the international organization of Franco ferny, so we have a cinema festival in two or three weeks with all countries, but also with Tunisia, morocco, Egypt, we also have links with the mediteriaan countries so like France have specific relations with countries, naturally we have them on specific projects, like French speaking countries or Germany or mederterrianian countries but there after on specific projects possibilities to connect other countries, it is not a question of preferences but about what we are doing and does it make sense to gather to specific ideas, more natural relations.

b. Why?

12. What about the non European partners, do they contribute to the internal European construction?

As observers

13. How do you see the future of eunic?

a. Development?

come back in a few months, I mean you have some of my ideas in which field it should go and how we could work together, I wouldn't say more than this, but I think your direction is a way we could follow, but it would mean you would need first that we have a discussion concerning this and sometimes we are a little bit slow in these matters, this is always the problem when we are 17 institutes, it takes time and if we were three of us it would be decided already and now it will take one year, and that is normal I think and a very good experience of how could European level management work even eunic under it is very small, and already this you can see sometimes that 17 institutes to make them work together it is complicated and takes time, but I think this is just normal.