

Interview Romanian institute

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

I prefer to speak a little bit of the cultural marked right now in Hungary, it is, we are in Budapest and this is very important culture capital of Europe, if you like Jazz you could every day have at least ten concerts at the same time in Budapest also theatre, a lot of very good culture offers, so when we came here as a Romanian culture institute we thought "my god" it's a big deal to be here and attract somebody to come to your institute at your offer when everybody is here more than 30 theaters in the same area. the situation is a little bit different in the smaller towns, there are of course cultural offers and they have a very strong tradition in organizing festivals in gastronomy for example, every small place in Hungary have something gastronomic, they call it some very specific for this area with concerts and songs also, So it is a big marked here and a very different, with different offers. As I see in this crises time, something is changing, the most sad aspect is this very big political involvement in the culture, I saw with my own eyes how the different cultural institutes with very very good activities were restructured, not only because it is because of money, but also because the new political clients came, and they asked for positions, that's why we have new, totally new, teams in the theater management in Mupa, in all the places where culture is promoted. The second aspect is that some good places are closed, Merlin theatre, now Godor Club we don't know yet what happens with Trafolt, another very interesting place, interesting that whole this alternative cultural offers, the alternative the other than the classical, traditional culture is not enquired. this is a sad aspect and of course I see that it's about money also because if we think about national gallery and museum of fine arts they get together off course it is also about politics here because one of the directors were appointed by the others political parties, so is also concerning politics, but this kind of combination of the whole thing shows that the money are not so much.

So I don't know don't also the spring festival, they said in a press conference that now we half of the money compared with last year, because this is a big event, maybe the most important international cultural event of Hungary. So I don't know about the future because we are not sure about the future of Europe of our countries, so I don't know about the future and I see some aspects, and I am sad about this

a. Under the current development?

2. Is Eunic an important part of this development?

EUNIC is a one step before everything, because we put together our institutes in a network to produce cultural events and to produce interesting relationships inside a network with lower cost so we are pioneers in this case, so it is an advantage to get together to work together to share experience and also to have bigger events that one where we have to work a lot in our institutes with other events, but when you say please come to this event we are together the Czechs, British, Danish, Romanian, Slovaks it is interesting, it is an interesting offer.

The second I felt that if we stay as a network and not as a strong bureaucratic institution EUNIC will be successful because we don't need the pressure, paperwork and obligations, so we are free to choose to be or not to be in an event or structure or something with. We have a status and this is enough for the functioning.

3. How do you see Eunic's role in Hungary?

a. Especially in the time being

4. What is the best feature of EUNIC?

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

5. What is your preferences towards EUNIC

We have just have had the presidency within Eunic and here we were very much active, this is still our plan that we want to have an active Eunic.

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

6. Is the current status of Eunic sufficient developed?

no we need to have common guidelines

- a. Should it expand
- l. More countries

Yes here in Hungary in our cluster we opened Eunic also for guests and observers, not only because we have in our status this alternative, but also because we thought that it is more interesting to have other opinions from the outside, and that's why the Japan cultural institute is here with us as a permanent guest also Israel and other, now we have the Croatians, which are very close to the EU but not in yet, so they are used to come and share their opinions, they are invited to speak and listen, they don't have any vote but they have very good ideas and different experiences. they said as an outsider the Japan foundations director that "I felt lost when I came in Budapest here to work, and now because I discovered you as Eunic now I understand what happens in this country concerning culture and on the marked". So I think Eunic is perfect for this perspective capacity so we see what happens we share this the views and we understand better the country or where we work, so this is a very important contribution of Eunic.

The next step will be to share also to the Hungarians participants our experience, so we are like let's say like doctors, so now we see okay it is a little ill, please give the medicine.

- ii. Legislation?
- iii. Strategy?

I can not contradict myself no we need another strategy, no we need to keep our achievements and off course analyze what is missing? we worked with a lot enthusiasm here, and that is why we succeeded to organize a lot of things, now maybe we need to be more elaborate, so elaboration, to think about what to do together and why, off course this is another approach, where we before worked like youngsters and now we will work like mature people, but it is not more nice, so we need this enthusiasm because some of the institutes put all their focus on the language, French institute British, Goethe institute, have very strong structures in language teaching, the smaller institutes have not this interest, that's why Servantes (Spanish) is not with us, they are members but never show, never, they said "we are interested in teaching Spanish, have you in Eunic this goal to teach Spanish, no thank you" we are not interested in this, but more general, and that's why we need to think about this kind of projects that more than, so also the big institutes and smaller institutes could be interested, so maybe a more clear strategy, let's use this term. But if we stay on strategies we don't work, and we don't organize events, so we have to think fast and after to work. I agree in making a strategy could make the work more transparent but I am not so sure that after a made a strong strategy we will have more achievements, because we are a network, strategies and strong strategies are

for originations, because strategies are related to money, and we don't have any money, so we are a network which put together some money to arrange an event or something. So I am not so sure, I feel we need some plans, maybe strategies, but if we don't make it fast and we only make a wide big philosophy we remain as a club of philosophy. But some lines have to be made.

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

for the visibility of each institution Eunic could help, I think to the smaller institutes, but not only, because it is interesting here in Hungary and maybe in other countries, but here in Hungary it is not compulsory that the bigger institutes are more visible than the smaller ones, it is about how they manage their pr. But if we show up in public together it is more visibility and we have experienced this, we went to a conference and we said that we were Eunic and each institute presented our self, but with this elegant hat which Eunic is so it was stronger, we are invited as Eunic, so it is nice to have more opportunities to present the culture of other countries in a country locally, so it is an advantage, so I see more advantage then disadvantages, the disadvantage is okay we have long meetings, it's a pleasure to meet the colleagues, and personally I enjoy that I could meet frequently my colleagues and speak and ask and share information about things, I didn't knew that Godor club were closed (some other colleagues told me that Godor Club were closed) and maybe they will make a new disco here, a tragedy for Godor. I see a lot of advantages to work in Eunic and I enjoy it, to coordinate, it is not simple when you are an institute you have to work with your small team and to coordinate a big structure and to phone and to send mails and to insist on everything, but it is also interesting.

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

off course it could help, we thought already about how to pay let's say a secretary or somebody who could work in this field, we had an offer from a private company a small office, but with this condition to organize inside this some events. It was a little bit difficult because our money as Eunic comes only from this small contribution/tax of 200 Euros pr, pr participant, which is not much. If we use very well this amount of money for advertising and the Commission was big help for some of our big events, because they put a lot of money into some of the events, literature night and other events, so we didn't I don't know why our cluster was not enthusiastic to have a small office or administration.

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

I don't know, I think, I was in a regional meeting in Tallinn with the heads of the regional clusters in Europe and I saw there what different the clusters are and how they work, they were different, they have different views about what to do and how to do it and for what, and I think it is better to keep this freedom then and it's better to give from Brussels (Eunic Brussels) only some guidelines and let the people work together. What I said there in Tallinn, we need to share a little bit more our experiences because in the Tallinn cluster they were very skeptical concerning Eunic, what to do with this Eunic, it is not working and why do you force us to do something, so they were very skeptical about this and when we told them about our experiences and what we do and did here in Hungary they were very enthusiastic, so you could work better and more close and it was very interesting for them, so we need this light structure as a network, not organization but also to share more the experiences and guidelines to be clear from the European Eunic, so this is in my view the development, the future development of Eunic.

10. Who do you think would prefer a strong Eunic?
 - a. Who do you think would have the most benefit of it?

The smaller institutes have a natural way and a natural preference towards the Eunic, as we talked about before.

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

No in this cluster we didn't have this kind of differentiations so I am a big European and you came later so you are not or we are the old European countries and you are the eastern European countries, no I have never experienced this. You could see this because we elect our presidents and vice presidents, you could see who was elected as a president of the cluster, so eastern Europeans western European, so it is only about people who are involved in this network, so I never felt this way and off course this is a very nice thing in Eunic, so I have to add something, I saw in my carrier as a journalist a Romanian journalist I saw and met a lot of people from other European organizations so a lot, so after we joined the EU I had the occasion to meet people from other EU organizations, and I felt that it is very formally sometimes, so they are there because they need to show that we are European Union it is different with Eunic for the moment, this is an vivid organization it is alive, it is authentic, not formalized not bureaucratically so it is let's say very honest. We are working together because we want to, if not then we don't, and that is why I like to be in Eunic, we are not forced to be there, so it is not formal but driven by enthusiasm and volunteer work.

 - a. Are there any institutes which you prefer?
 - b. Why?