Interviewguide Master Tesis: Lasse Thomsen

- 1. How is the future of Culture developing in Hungary?
 - a. Under the current development?

After a general election, resulting in a government with a new political color it is a normal procedure/tradition in the Central- and East European region that the management of the public cultural institutions are changed to a management with a political correct observance. As the present government is conservative, the focus is more on conservative/cultural heritage culture. If, at the next general election, the socialists will get the majority, the management will be changed again. There is no "arm's length policy" like in Scandinavia. Hungary is a very cultural nation, cultural heritage and classic music with great composers, great music academies and schools are in front of this. Also the film industry with Istvan Szabo and Bjéla Tarr belongs to the best in Europe.

- 2. Is Eunic an important part of this development?
 In general and officially EUNIC does not interfere in political national matters, but on "the backstage" there are dialogues and briefings with ministers and public institutions.
- 3. How do you see Eunics role in Hungary?
 - a. Especially in the time being

EUNIC is a network of European national Cultural Institutes, protecting European culture, values and democracy and open up dialogues with the cultures outside Europe. This is important in a time with some local cultural restrictions,

4. What is the best feature of EUNIC?

Supporting European culture and values, being stronger, when we are together. Especially the small coopuntires' Institutes profit of the network cooperataion.

And the worst? When we are too nationalistic, and not enough European

- What do you think is the main assignments for Eunic?
 EUNIC is a network of European national Cultural Institutes, protecting European culture,
 values and democracy and open up dialogues with the cultures outside Europe
- 5. What is your preferences towards EUNIC
 - a. Active suggesting programs?
 Literature, languages, minorities problems, diversity, life long learning, active ageing, giving young artists possibilities for networking, sustainaibility and green issues.
 - b. Passive partner? No. The Danish Cultural Institute is very active...
- 6. Is the current status of Eunic sufficient developed?
 - a. Should it expand

 More countries. All EU countries with national cultural institutes are invited to join as members. Embassies, organisations, other countries are invited to join as oberservers/permanent guests.

ii.

- iii. Legislation? The heads (head offices of the national cultural institutes based in the capitals of the EU countries) is working at it. There is now a task force team in Brussels, and all EUNIC clusters will be registrated.
- iv. Strategy? In Hungary we are currently working at a future strategy, dealing with Promoting European agendas and values, sharing best practice, flagship projects or not, limited topics, following the EU commission's slogan of the year (the year of inclusion/exclusion, volunteering, active ageing and the like)but again diversity and values are on top.
- 7. What can the Eunic cooperation do better than you can alone?

 Together we are more. Especially for the small institutes. Our projets get mor visisble when we present them together and more affordable when we finance together.
- 8. Could a legislative administration be a part of the solution of the cooperation?

 Not in my opinion. We do not want to have more bureaucracy and more administration. We want to keep it as an informal network.
- 9. Could a single independent structure within Eunic make the expansion of culture stronger?

 I do not think so.
- 10. Who do you think would prefer a strong Eunic?
 - a. Who do you think would have the most benefit of it? Again the smaller countries/institutes profit more than the big ones. Some countries are more nationalistic than others. Some countries are more European than others. This is also the case for EUNIC. I think EUNIC is strong enough as it is.
- 11. Is the cooperation in the organization filled with prejudices?
 - a. Are there any institutes which you prefer? Most often it depends very much on the persons in charge of the national EU institutes, but I have no preferences in general.
 - b. Why?
- 12. What about the non European partners, do they contribute to the internal European construction? There is a certain interest and wishes to be together with EUNIC and join the meetings, as they need network, inspiration, and colleagues and partners to join.

- 13. How do you see the future of eunic? I think after the EUNIC administration team in Brussels has been founded and the more intensive cooperation with the EU commission's representations which is especially intensive and fruitful here in Hungary (The commission's representations have got financial means for culture) the EUNIC will not undergo any big changes here in Hungary, being in Europe.
 - a. Development?

However, there will be more and more clusters outside Europe, in China, in India, in Brasil, in the Middle East, e.g. The number has grown a lot the last couple of years. So this might contribute to better dialogues, cultural understanding, exchange of different cultures, especially getting a better understanding among the young generation. Hopefully...