

les rencontres

*association des villes et régions de la grande europe pour la culture
association of european cities and regions for culture*

Annual Report 2007

(Ce document existe aussi en français)

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Conferences and events organised by les rencontres

The events for 2007, approved by the Committee meeting in Belfast that were initially programmed all took place as well as an additional Board meeting in Paris in April.

Each of these seven events organised by **les rencontres** aimed to respect the requests made by the elected members of the network and the hosting local or regional authority.

The team of **les rencontres**, with the support of the Steering Committee and the members of the Board and in collaboration with the hosting member organisation, conceived, prepared and organised the events.

The aim of the meetings is to allow elected officials to exchange their opinions and experiences in an informal and open context, to familiarise themselves with the functioning of cultural administration in other countries of the EU and beyond, to set up joint projects and finally, to elaborate proposals on the setting up of a European cultural policy.

During each event, contacts were made with the national institutions in charge of culture in each country (the Ministries of Culture for example, or equivalent), with the national associations of local and regional governing bodies (mainly those that are members of the CEMR – Council of European municipalities and regions), as well as European cultural networks, national observatories in charge of culture, artists, intellectuals and experts from the region.

Interpreting was available at each event in English and in French. Whenever possible the mother tongue of the host country was also interpreted.

We have noticed that depending on the theme or place where the conference is taking place, that an important percentage of new members and new partners or individuals take part in our meetings. We can deduce that firstly, our invitations arrive to the contact person in our database (approximately 4000 invitations sent throughout Europe for each meeting) and that these people are aware of our activities, and that secondly, depending on their agendas, interest or place where the conference is held, they attend or not. Because of the variety of events we organise we are therefore able to federate a wide range of professionals throughout Europe.

There is also a number of active members who regularly attend our events at least once, twice or three times in the year, sometimes more, in order to take part in the important decisions made for the running of the network and its role in the European cultural landscape.

Communication material is produced for each event and indicates the contribution of the funding partners particularly the four main funders (European Commission, French Ministries of Culture and Foreign Affairs, French speaking community of Belgium) and their logos are shown as well as the budget line from which the funds have been taken. These documents are sent to all the European institutions and national institutions in each country of the European continent as well as to a total of over 11 000 names of representatives of local governing bodies throughout Europe (all levels of administration).

A total of 538 cultural professionals from 31 European countries took part in our events this year.

La Rencontre de Sibiu (Committee meeting and Working Seminar)

Type : statutory meeting and thematic meeting

Title : First steps in the European Union

Theme : To assess the cultural policies of the local and regional authorities of the new member states that joined the EU in 2004 as well as the challenges ahead for Romania and Bulgaria that joined the EU in 2007.

The aim was to look at concrete experiences at a local level to listen to the opinions of local cultural operators, to evaluate the difficulties they have encountered and to understand their needs. We looked at the effects of the integration process on local policymaking. The Committee members were present and were able to meet their counterparts from Roumania and Bulgaria. Focus and particularly attention was paid to the direct needs of artists and how local and regional authorities should help them.

Place : Sibiu, Roumania

Dates : 8 to 11 February 2007

Number of participants : 112

Partners :

- City of Sibiu,
- Sibiu 2007,
- Province of Sibiu,
- The Radu Stanca Theatre,
- the association of Rumanian cites and
- the Democratic German Forum in Rumania.

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La Rencontre de Sevilla

Type : Thematic meeting

Theme : Funding Culture in Europe : public and private partnerships

In view of the growing pressures on the funding of culture in Europe, Les rencontres has decided to address the question of the cooperation between local and regional authorities and private companies, foundations and civil society.

The plenary sessions and the workshops will be articulated around five issues:

- The evolution of funding models for cultural projects and emerging trends for public and private partnerships
- Legal frameworks in Europe for sponsorship and cultural patronage and their relationship with local and regional authorities
- Experiences of cooperation through public and private partnerships in Europe
- Civil society participation
- New collaborative strategies for developing the objectives of cultural diversity

Place : Sevilla, Spain

Dates : 8th to 11th March 2007

Number of participants : 133

Partners :

- the City of Sevilla,
- the Culture and Arts Institute of Sevilla,
- the Province of Andalucia,
- the Diputacion of Sevilla,
- the Spain Ministry of Culture,
- the Foundation of Three Cultures of the Mediterranean,
- the Cruz Campo Foundation,
- the El Monte Foundation and
- la Caja San Fernando.

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La Réunion du Bureau élargi aux membres des rencontres

Type : statutory meeting

Theme : The White Paper

The Committee that met in Sibiu approved the drafting of a White Paper on the cultural policies of local and regional authorities in Europe. It was therefore important to organise a Board meeting to discuss the drafting of this document. Furthermore the Agenda 21 for Culture and the Unesco Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions that came into force on 18th march 2007 need to be presented and discussed among members.

Place: Paris, France

Dates : 27 & 28th April 2007

Number of participants : 39

Partners : the French Senate

Les Rencontres d'Avignon – European Regions and Culture

Type : Thematic meeting

Theme : Preparatory Seminar to la rencontre de Palerme 2008

In the context of a current re-structuring of the Europe of Regions, and in view of the increasing number of regional members, the network organised *it seemed appropriate to concentrate on the regions of Europe and* prepare a major meeting in Palermo in November 2008.

The meeting in Avignon grouped together regional leaders in charge of culture in order to favour a better understanding of the role that regions can and should play in cultural policymaking and their cooperation, in this sector, with other local authorities, the EU Member States and the European institutions (European Parliament, Committee of the Regions, European Commission).

The agenda for the Palermo conference was adopted and main speakers were identified. A Steering Committee to develop the themes and put forward a calendar was established.

The launching of a *European Agency of Regions for Culture* was mentioned. The main role of this agency would be to promote cultural projects that are European in nature and that are initiated by local and regional authorities. It would also promote interregional cooperation and the cooperation with other areas, for example in the Mediterranean area.

Place: Avignon, France

Dates : 19th July 2007

Number of participants : 69

Partners :

- the PACA region,
- the City of Avignon,
- the Chartreuse, national centre for dramatic works,
- the Ceila,
- the Lambert Collection of Avignon,
- ISTS,
- the Avignon Festival and Valère Novarina.

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Les Rencontres d'Avignon – First European Meeting of Directors of Culture and Arts in local and regional authorities throughout the Broader Europe

Type : Thematic meeting

Theme : Meeting of information and exchange between Directors of local Culture Departments.

On the initiative of the French Association of Directors of Cultural Affairs, chaired by Jean-Pierre Heintz, **les rencontres** encouraged debates between directors of cultural affairs from the local and regional authorities of the network (mainly cities, but also conurbations and intermediary structures) throughout Europe. After a preliminary informal meeting in Patras on 31st May 2006 (where 8 cities from 6 European countries were represented), a second meeting took place during the Avignon Festival at the National Centre for Theatre of the Cloître st. Louis on 20th July 2007 in order to launch a sub-network. This meeting examined specific points such as training, cultural policymaking, cultural administration, budgets, management, European programmes and favoured exchange of experiences, debate and the official setting up of this sub-network within the **les rencontres** association.

Place: Avignon, France

Dates : 20th July 2007

Number of participants : 63

Partners :
the PACA region,
the City of Avignon,
the Chartreuse, national centre for dramatic works,
the Ceila,
the Lambert Collection of Avignon,
ISTS,
the Avignon Festival and Valère Novarina.

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Les Rencontres de Luxembourg

Type : Annual General Meeting of the members of the network

Theme : Cross-Border Cultural Cooperation in Europe

What are the reasons behind the dynamism of certain cultural cooperations in the border regions of Europe ? Are they simply establishing effective methods of sharing resources across borders, or does their success stem from the natural synergies of their common heritage – language, history, political system, geography – whilst in other cases these same factors make cultural cooperation difficult ? In the framework of the building of Europe, what is the impact of cross-border areas and how important is it to water-down the notion of the borderline ? What is the role of cross-border cultural projects in the territorial restructuring programme pushed by the EU and what is their contribution to the creation of symbols related to European identity ?

During the event we examined the notion of border and border areas and stressed the consequences that this had on exchanges and cultural life on each side of a borderline – and across it ! Since we focused on Culture, we also studied the implications of these questions/answers with regard to the European Capital of Culture programme – presented by the Director, Robert Garcia – as well as the implications on the new generation of the Community Initiative INTERREG. We also presented concrete examples of cooperation and analysed the obstacles and perspectives.

Les rencontres de Luxembourg set up a **working group on cross-border cultural cooperation** uniting major practitioners in this field in order to share experiences and develop medium and long term analysis. One of the main results of the debates was the **Declaration of Luxembourg**, which we shared with MOT, cross-border operational organisation who organised their conference on 8th & 9th November 2007 in Lille on the theme « Cross-border territories : Everyday Europe ». Members of **les rencontres** discussed the drafting of the « White Paper on the cultural actions of local and regional authorities in Europe ». We also furthered discussions and exchanges between Directors of cultural affairs from the cities and regions of Europe as we did in Avignon in July.

Place : Luxembourg

Date : 12th & 13^h October 2007

Number of participants : 106

Partners:

The City of Luxembourg,
the Cultural Centre of encounters “Abbey of Neumünster”,
Luxembourg 2007,
the Manège in Mons, Belgium,
the Luxembourg Agency for Cultural Action

We received several letters of congratulations from the participants showing their satisfaction and their wishes to keep up such debates. The European, national and local press related our actions in a positive way.

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La Rencontre de Malmö/Lund

Type : Thematic meeting

Theme : Records & Archives and local government in Europe

les rencontres, European association of elected leaders and managers in charge of culture, organised, together with the cities of Malmö and Lund, **la rencontre de Malmö/Lund** on 23rd & 24th November 2007 on the theme "records & archives and local governments in Europe".

Following the debates, the participants have decided to send an appeal to the local and regional authorities of Europe.

The appeal underlined the importance of archives as a tool for democracy. Local and regional authorities in Europe should favour the setting up of relevant legislation based on the evolution of society and the archival profession, throughout the European countries; guarantee direct and free access for the citizen to archives; react effectively, in the framework of the development of e-administration, to the increase in the production of digitalised documents, by insuring that they are correctly managed and preserved; use the possibilities offered by technological progress, in the process of the distribution and valorisation of archival heritage, particularly through digitalisation; insure the preservation and security of archival heritage by protecting them against natural and human disasters; provide to archival departments or services, an administrative position as well as human and economic resources that allow them to accomplish their mission; rely, in order for these recommendations to be applied, on qualified professionals in this sector.

Place : Malmö and Lund, Sweden

Date : 22nd to 24th November 2007

Number of participants : 43

Partners:

- City of Malmö,
- City of Lund,
- Swedish association of local and regional authorities,
- French National Archives.

Presidencies of the European Union

The presidency of the European Union is a tremendous opportunity for the country concerned to initiate debates, projects and decision-making. Local and regional authorities must take part in this process. It is a tradition at **les rencontres** to organise a meeting of the elected officials responsible for culture in the country holding the presidency. In 2007, this was the case for Germany and Portugal. This initiative seems to meet with the approval of local government officials in many countries of the EU as they are keen to attend these debates.

La Rencontre de Görlitz

Type : semester meeting in the framework of the German presidency of the EU

Theme : Debate on the policies for culture in Germany and the European perspectives

The meeting brought together elected leaders in German and surrounding countries particularly Poland and the representatives of the neighbouring town of Zgorzelec. The participants presented their cultural projects particularly those with a European dimension.

Dates : 11th to 13th April 2007

Place : Görlitz, Germany

Number of participants : 51

Partners :

- City of Görlitz,
- City of Zgorzelec,
- The Schlesisches Museum of Görlitz,
- the Görlitz Theatre,
- the German presidency of the EU,
- the Ministry of Saxony

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La Rencontre de Covilhã

Type : semester meeting in the framework of the Portuguese presidency of the EU

Theme : Debate on the policies for culture in Portugal and the European perspectives

The meeting brought together elected leaders in Portugal and surrounding countries particularly Spain and France. The participants presented their cultural projects particularly those with a European dimension. The question of cultural heritage and industrial sites was highlighted bringing to the fore the projects in the cultural sector that rehabilitated and preserved industrial sites.

Date : 8th to 11th November 2007

Place : Covilhã, Portugal

Number of participants : 53

Partners :
City of Covilhã,
the Association of portuguese municipalities,
Museum of Lanficios of UBI

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The White Paper on the cultural policies of local and regional authorities in Europe

Since October 2004 and the publication of the Green Paper on the cultural policies of local and regional authorities in Europe the European cultural landscape has changed considerably not only because more and more local and regional authorities are developing their cultural policies, but also because the European Commission , the European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions are making headway in this field.

Our network, that bears the aspirations and experiences of local elected leaders and professionals, will provide ideas and suggest actions for the next decade within the White paper.

This document, that we hope to publish before the elections of the European Parliament in 2009, will go beyond the descriptions and analyses in the Green Paper, and offer perspectives and concrete methods of action, which corresponds in European terminology to the drafting of a White Paper.

We will, in particular, outline the levels of competence of the various governing bodies – local and regional authorities, European institutions, other regional institutions – and suggest a working relationship between them, particularly in the light of the Agenda 21 for Culture and the Convention of UNESCO on cultural diversity.

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Presence & activities of les rencontres in Europe

The chairman of **les rencontres**, Roger Tropéano, as well as members of the team or Committee took part in a number of conferences and events throughout Europe either as guests of the organisers or as participants, representing our network.

January

- 18 – 22 Trip to Bulgaria
- 25 Trip to Brussels – Laurent Moissonnier
- 26 - 28 Trip to Biarritz, France Festival International de Programmes audiovisuels FIPA
- 29 Trip to Brussels – Roger Tropeano & Angie Cotte

February

- 11 – 15 Trip to Berlin & Dresden

March

- 2 – 3 Trip to Brussels – Roger Tropéano
- 17 Trip to Lille - Conference « Proud to be European: 1ers états généraux de l'Europe »
- 26 Trip to Nantes AGM of SYNDEAC (Groupe Europe)
- 27 Trip to Lyon - ENCACT conference on the Agenda 21 for culture & local and regional authorities in Europe
- 28 Trip to Brussels – Roger Tropeano & Laurent Moissonnier

May

- 2 – 5 Trip to Visby – Union of Baltic Cities Commission on Culture
- 31 Trip to Brussels – Roger Tropeano & Angie Cotte
- Trip to Cannes during the International Cinema Festival

June

- 1 – 5 Trip to Jerusalem
- 8 Trip to Brussels – Angie Cotte – European Festivals Association and International Society for the Performing Arts
- 11 Trip to Brussels – Roger Tropeano
- 14 Trip to Avignon – Roger Tropeano & Laurent Moissonnier
- 14 Trip to Strasbourg – Rafael Mandujano
- 15-17 Trip to Toulouse 2013
- 19 Trip to Brussels – Roger Tropeano - ENCACT
- 21-24 Trip to Palerme – Roger Tropeano & Laurent Moissonnier

July

- 6 – 8 Trip to Avignon – Roger Tropeano

August

- 24 – 26 Trip to Essen & Münster – Roger Tropéano
- 28 Trip to Brussels – Roger Tropeano

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September

- 8 – 9 Trip to Perpignan – Visa pour l'Image – Roger Tropeano
- 10 Trip to Brussels – Roger Tropeano
- 13 – 14 Trip to Lille – Working Group on Culture of the CLGU – Roger Tropeano
- 20 – 22 Trip to Toulouse 2013 – Roger Tropeano
- 25 – 29 Trip to Lisbonne – Cultural Forum for Europe – Roger Tropeano

October

- 10 Trip to Brussels – Open Days European week of Regions and Cities – Laurent Moissonnier
- 19 – 21 Trip to Dijon – les rencontres cinématographiques de Dijon – Roger Tropeano

November

- 20 Trip to Brussels – Roger Tropeano
- 21 Trip to Copenhagen – Roger Tropeano
- 24 – 6 déc Trip to Escazu, Latin America – Interlocal conference – Rafael Mandujano
- 29 – 30 Trip to Cabourg – ADAMI – Rencontres européennes des artistes – Roger Tropeano

December

- 4 Trip to Brussels – Roger Tropeano
- 7 – 14 Trip to Turquie – Roger Tropeano
- 15 – 16 Trip to Reims – Théâtre de la ville, théâtres des villes – Roger Tropeano
- 19 – 26 Trip to Chypre – Roger Tropeano

For each trip a detailed agenda in French is compiled with the names, contact details of each meeting organised, and a report is made in French.

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Secretariat of Les Rencontres

In 2007 the staff was composed of:

A Chairman, Roger Tropéano

A Secretary General, Angie Cotte

A Project Coordinator: Jeanne Pélissier

2 Project Managers : Rafael Mandujano (permanent), and Frédéric Solbes for a few months only

A Regions Manager : Laurent Maissonier

A Webmaster, working one day a week : Paul Mouliom

An accountant: Elizabeth Baudin

Internships (for 2 to 6 months): Julie Pascoët, Sabrina Bazzi, Iris Mohwinkel, Rafaele Barbato, and Cliff Gnacadja.

Statutory meetings

A Committee meeting took place in Sibiu from 8th to 11th February and a Board meeting took place in Paris from 27th to 28th April.

Database

The database of **Les rencontres** represents one of the major assets of the network because it is updated and reflects the local, cultural, artistic and political life of the European continent.

The website

Our website is regularly updated. We hope to exchange information with other networks and develop the site further.

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La rencontre de Sibiu

Visual (fr/en)

The programme

List of participants

Report of the meeting

Press release

Press articles

Partners

La rencontre de Sibiu

Visual (fr/en)

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La rencontre de Sevilla

The programme (fr/sp)

List of participants

Biographies

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La rencontre de Sevilla

The programme (fr/sp)

List of participants

Biographies

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Press articles

Partners

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La Rencontre de Görlitz

The programme
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La Rencontre de Görlitz

The programme
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Board meeting of les rencontres

The programme

Report of the meeting including list of participants

Board meeting of les rencontres

The programme

Report of the meeting including list of participants

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Les rencontres d'Avignon

The programmes

Lists of participants

Reports of the meeting

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Les Rencontres de Luxembourg

The programme

List of participants

Reports of the meeting of officers in charge of culture from local governments and
and of the meeting on the White Paper

Biographies of the speakers

Agenda of the Working Group on Cross-Border Cultural Cooperation

Declaration of les rencontres de Luxembourg (english and spanish)

Partners

Les Rencontres de Luxembourg

The programme

List of participants

Reports of the meeting of officers in charge of culture from local governments and
and of the meeting on the White Paper

Biographies of the speakers

Agenda of the Working Group on Cross-Border Cultural Cooperation

Declaration of les rencontres de Luxembourg (english and spanish)

Partners

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La rencontre de Covilhã

The programme (in English and Portuguese)

List of participants

Biographies

Partners

Opening Speech by Roger Tropéano

La rencontre de Covilhã

The programme (in English and Portuguese)

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Opening Speech by Roger Tropéano

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La Rencontre de Malmö/Lund

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The Malmö/Lund Appeal

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La Rencontre de Malmö/Lund

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***White Paper on the cultural policies
of local and regional authorities in Europe***
Plan and recommendations

***White Paper on the cultural policies
of local and regional authorities in Europe***
Plan and recommendations