

Annual Report 2006

(Ce document existe aussi en français)

Friday 19th January 2007

Conferences and events organised by les rencontres

The events for 2006 that were initially programmed all took place except the meeting in Sintra which was integrated into the meeting in Belfast.

Each event 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).

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A total of 530 cultural professionals from 32 European countries took part in our events this year.

La Rencontre de Paris (Board and Committee meetings)

Type : statutory meeting

Place : Paris, France

Dates : 23-25 February 2006

Number of participants : 120

Number of countries represented : 24 (Germany, Austria, Cyprus, Croatia, Denmark, Spain, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Korea, Latvia, Norway, The Netherlands, Czech Republic, Romania, United Kingdom, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland)

Partners : Opéra National de Paris, Contemporary Art Museum of Val-de-Marne, Scottish Opera, Réseau-European Network of Educative Services of Operas.

La Rencontre de Patras

Type : Thematic meeting

Theme : Artistic education of a citizen and long life learning.

Place : Patras, Greece

Dates : 30 May-2 June 2006

Number of participants : 99

Number of countries represented : 21 (Albania, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Croatia, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Korea, Moldavia, the Netherlands, Portugal, Rumania, United Kingdom, Serbia Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland)

La Rencontre de Vojvodine

Type : thematic and regional meeting

Theme : The circulation of theatre works, artists' mobility in the South-East of Europe and the role of regional and local governments.

Place: Belgrade and Novi-Sad, Serbia

Dates : 21-24 September 2006

Number of participants : 127

Number of countries represented : 11 (Belgium, Bosnia Herzegovina, Cyprus, France, Greece, Hungary, Macedonia, Rumania, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey)

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Partners : City of Belgrade, The Province of Vojvodine, French Cultural Centre, BITEF, The Ministry of Culture of Serbia, The Cultural Institutes of Belgrade, The Matica Srpska Gallery, the Serbian National Theatre, The Slovakian Theatre of Vojvodine, Josef Nadj, choreographer

La Rencontre de San Sebastian

Type : Thematic meeting

Theme : The regions of the European Union and Cinema

Place: San Sebastian-Donostia, Spain

Dates : 25-27 September 2006

Number of participants : 21

Number of countries represented: 7 (Germany, Belgium, Spain, France, Czech Republic, Italy, Rumania)

Partners : The City of San Sebastian, The San Sebastian International Film Festival

La Rencontre de Belfast

Type : Annual General Meeting of the members of the network

Theme : Cultures and Conflicts

Place : Belfast, Northern Ireland

Date : 23-26 November 2006

Number of participants : 84

Number of countries represented : 22 (Albania, Germany, Belgium, Croatia, Spain, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Norway, Portugal, Romania, United Kingdom, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, Ukraine)

Partners: Belfast City Council, The European network "Banlieues d'Europe", Community Arts Forum, Arts Council of Northern Ireland

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.

General Assembly (Board and Committee meeting)

Type : Statutory meeting

Place: Belfast, Ireland

Dates : 26 November 2006

Number of participants : 10

Number of countries represented : 5 (Belgium, France, Ireland, Sweden, Slovenia)

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 2006, this will be the case for Austria and then Finland. This initiative

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seems to meet with the approval of local government officials in many countries of the EU as was the case for example in Greece in 2006.

La Rencontre de Vienna

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

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

Date : 10 – 11 November

Place : Vienna, Austria

Number of participants : 54

Number of countries represented: 5 (Austria, Germany, Belgium, France, Rumania)

Partners : City of Vienna, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Austria, Diplmotische Akademie, Ernst Hilger Academy in Vienna, Top Kino in Vienna

La Rencontre de Rovianemi

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

Theme : (The applications of Finnish cities for the title of European capital of culture) presentation of the cultural Agenda of the Finnish presidency and cooperation projects between the cities and regions of Finland

Date : 23 – 26 August

Place : Rovianemi, Finland

Number of participants : 53

Number of countries represented: 6 (Belgium, France, Croatia, Finland, Greece, Sweden)

Partners : City of Rovianemi, Ministry of Foreign affairs of Finland, The Sami Parliament

The Green paper on the cultural policies of local and regional authorities in Europe

The **les rencontres** network has published a Green Paper, a document that began life as a questionnaire distributed to hundreds of local and regional authorities across the European continent and that has since been refined through a series of conferences, seminars, working groups and discussion forums.

The document bears no deliberate political preferences, given that politicians from across the political spectrum have taken part in the drafting process.

It is divided into four main themes: the place of local and regional authorities in the cultural sector in Europe, Cultural Policy in Europe, the implementation of cultural policy in local government and suggestions for the future.

Arts provide an important economic contribution to the city, maintain employment in the city centre, contribute to urban regeneration and improve the city profile. City policy must look to creative ways of funding and making economies of scale. The multicultural and intercultural policies are the way forward in a European and global context.

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Actions that should be taken include encouraging public and private partnership, efforts to reduce barriers between sectors as well as encouraging the training of cultural mediators. Due to lack of recognition by the European institutions, local and regional governing bodies should focus on developing experimental projects in the cultural sector. Strategies should focus on more access to culture and exchange within Europe and the wider world.

The Green Paper on the cultural policies of local and regional authorities in Europe was published in October 2004 by the CERC Editing (Centro de Estudios y Recursos Culturales) and the Diputacion de Granada, Spain. A Spanish version is being published and a Serbian version has also been published by Balkankult in Belgrade.

This book was sent to over 5000 cultural practitioners in Europe in English, French, Serbian and Spanish.

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

24-25 Brussels. Meeting with the EU Parliament, the Committee of the Regions, The new Executive Agency for the Culture and Education of the European Commission

February

3/4 Essen, conference "Twins 10"
10.14 Berlin – meetings in the framework of the "Berlinale"

April

24-29 Mission to Madrid and Granada.

May

11 General Assembly of the AFCAE (French association of Art Cinemas)
13 General Assembly of the CICAIE (International Confederation of Art Cinemas)
15 General Assembly of Europa Cinemas
17 Participation to an event organised in Cannes by the ARP (Civil society of Authors and Producers) the SACD (Society of Drama authors and composers) in the framework of Europe's European day
24 Meeting at the European Parliament
28/29 Event « Le marathon des mots » in Toulouse

June

7/8 Meetings in Brussels.
11/12 Meetings in Mons, followed by « A soul for Europe » conference in Luxemburg
23/25 European Forum of Orchestras
27/30 Mission to Belgrade and Novi Sad

July

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- 4/6 Mission to Belfast
participation in the different French and European meetings in the framework of the Festival of Avignon (F)
- August
23-24 University of Communication of Hourtin (F)
26 La Rochelle, meeting with the director of Cultural affairs of the city
- September
14/15 Mission to Sevilla
14/15 Conference about Culture and Management in Europe, Neuchâtel
19 annual FPCF Congress
28/29 Conference « Regions and cultural diversity – a European and Global dynamic »
- October
5 Eurovision Administration Council in Rome (I)
9/13 Mission to Rumania (Sibiu, Bucarest, Timisoara)
15.16 Participation in the Plenary Session about the Austrian Independant Film Sector at the Festival of Auch (F)
20/22 Mission to Rome, Conference about the 20th International Festival of Cinema and Television
23/24 Barcelona, Culture Working Group, of « United Local Governments and Cities »
20/22 Mission to Rome
22.24 Les Rencontres de Beaune (F)
- November
16/21 Mission to Berlin/Görlitz
30 Cabourg « 7th European meeting of artists », ADAMI
- December
6/10 Art Basel, Miami
9/10 Seminar « The role of the City in Building Europe », Amsterdam, Felix Meritis Foundation
13/14 Saint-Etienne, Candidate for the title of European capital of Culture in 2013
14 Congress of The Assembly of French Regions
20 Meetings in Brussels

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

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Secretariat of Les Rencontres

In 2006 the staff was composed of:

A Chairman, Roger Tropéano

A Secretary General, Angie Cotte

Three Project Coordinators: Sylvie Tossah (January to August), Renaud Thillaye (January to March),
Jeanne Pélissier (October to December)

Project Managers : Rafael Mandujano, Frédéric Solbes (November)

A Region Manager : Laurent Maissonier (December)

A webmaster, apprenticeship contract: Yve Gomis (January to February)

A Webmaster, special training scheme: Paul Mouliou (October to December)

An accountant: Elizabeth Baudin

Internships (for 2 to 6 months):

Joachim Pflieger (Germany)

Natalia Tsakmakidou (Greece)

Natalia Colina (Spain)

Emer Mullarkey (Ireland)

Anne Jardin (Germany)

Satu Lakso (Finland)

Cécile Guedon

Claire le Cam

Romain Gastaldello (Italy)

Nathalie Fauveau (Greece)

Dehra Scott (Northern Ireland)

Volunteers:

Frédéric Solbes (Spanish speaking)

Frédéric Millet

Statutory meetings

The two General meetings took place, one in Paris (23th February) and in Belfast (24th /25th November).

The General Assembly also took place in Belfast on 26th November.

Newsletter

In order for all the members to receive information on our activities and more, we publish a newsletter four times a year in French and English. This newsletter is sent by electronic mail.

Information on current or future conferences in Europe, publications, calls for tender, other European and cultural events or activities is provided.

Members are also invited to contribute by writing reports, opinions, or projects.

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.

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The website

Our website is regularly updated. We hope to work within the framework of the “Lab” programme of the ECF (European cultural foundation) to exchange information with other networks and develop the site further.

Miscellaneous

les rencontres gave support to a collective of European photographers who made an exhibition named « 25 canapés pour l’Europe » (25 sofas for Europe).

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