

Breaking
Down
Barriers
Conference



a Eunic Brussels project

FOCUS89

28
October
2009

28 October 2009

09:00 – 18:00

Room Civitas, JDE 62, 6th floor

99 rue Belliardstraat

B-1040 Brussels

www.focus89.eu

FOCUS89

The fall of the Berlin wall not only reunited Germany but fundamentally changed the whole of Europe on a socio-political, cultural and economic level. European Union National Institutes of Culture (EUNIC) is partnering a series of conferences in Europe to explore the current implications of this momentous event.

This conference, organised by EUNIC in Brussels in partnership with the EESC, the Council of Europe, and Culture Action Europe, will build on the recommendations of recent seminars, notably the Culture Watch Europe conference in Cracow, to chart a way forward for cultural players and decision makers in Europe.

Please register electronically at
www.eesc.europa.eu/focus89 by 16 October 2009.

For further information please contact:

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or visit the website www.focus89.eu

Breaking Down Barriers Conference Programme

08:30 – 09:00

Registration and coffee

09:00 – 09:45

Welcome

Mario Sepi (President, EESC)

Keynote speech

Vladimír Šucha (Director, Culture, Multilingualism and Communication, DG EAC, European Commission)

Finn Andersen (Director, Danish Cultural Institute, President of EUNIC)

09:45 – 11:15

Session 1

Cultural policy in Europe since 1989

In Communist countries before 1989, there was little negotiation about cultural policy between government and other stakeholders. 20 years on, it is recognised that the process of planning and implementing cultural policy decisions require a broad alliance of different sectors of society, including the public sector, cultural professionals, the media, the business community, and civil society organisations. What is needed to make this happen?

Vesna Copic (National expert, Compendium, Directorate Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage, Council of Europe)

Marina Davydova (Theatre critic, Izvestiya, Moscow)

Dragan Klaic (Theatre scholar and cultural analyst)

Katarina Mathernova (Deputy Director-General, DG REGIO) tbc

Moderator: Péter Inkei

(Director, The Budapest Observatory)

11:15 – 11:30

Tea and coffee break

11:30 – 13:00

Session 2

Cultural expression and the socio-political value of artistic creation before and after 1989

Opposition to the regime before 1989 was often expressed through culture, and different forms of cultural expression helped to prepare civil society for the events of 1989. 20 years on, does culture still have such a powerful role to play in challenging society and governments?

Julia Schoch (Author and translator, Germany)

Anda Rottenberg (Art curator and art historian, Poland)

Magda Cârnci (Essayist, President Romanian Institute of Culture, Paris)

Moderator: Andreas Stopp
(Deutschlandradio Köln)

13:00 – 14:00

Lunch break

14:00 – 15:30

Session 3

The role of cultural civil society and cultural networks

One of the principal features of democratic societies is an active cultural civil society, the encouragement of mobility and overseas networking among the cultural and educational sectors. How can we ensure that there is greater engagement and representation in and from the post-communist states?

Stephan Roman (Director British Council, Western Europe and North America)

Kathrin Merkle (Head of Cultural Policy, Diversity and Dialogue Division, Directorate of Culture, Cultural and Natural Heritage, Council of Europe)

Pavel Storek (Director, Four Days Festival, Prague) tbc

Rikke Helms (Director, Danish Cultural Institute, St Petersburg)

Moderator: Ilona Kish

(Secretary General, Culture Action Europe)

15:30 – 15:45

Tea and coffee break

15:45 – 17:15

Session 4

Breaking down barriers: Socio-economic changes since 1989 and their impact on European culture

Europe is confronted with challenges; economic recession, the impact of migration, and the rise of the far right. What can cultural players contribute to a progressive Europe?

Mario Sepi (President, EESC)

Zora Jaurová (Artistic Director for Košice, European Capital of Culture 2013)

Berthold Molden (Researcher and Project Director, Ludwig Boltzmann Institut für European History and Public Spheres, Vienna)

Claudio Magris (Author and editorialist, Corriere della Sera) tbc

Moderator: Steve Green
(Team leader EUNIC)

17:15 – 18:00

Summary and recommendations

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