

Dear Readers,

This Newsletter is to inform you about the programme **Culture and Development**, which is being carried out by Cultur Cooperation e.V. between 2005 and 2008.

Two topics have filled the first half of 2007: The conference on the Europe-wide networking of actors working on culture and development took place in Vienna in January and was a great success. The campaign "Nefertiti travels" started in April and enjoyed a response from the media worldwide. You still have the opportunity to cast your vote up to the end of June!

Regards,  
Anja Kuhr and Lena Blosat  
**The CulturCooperation e.V. Team**

## NEWSLETTER June 2007

### Current topic: Will Nefertiti travel?

At last – in April it was time to start the campaign "Nefertiti travels". A wave of media reports set off the debate about a loan of the bust, reaching up to 10 million people worldwide. On 12<sup>th</sup> April, one day after CulturCooperation's press release was published, the *Berliner Morgenpost* asked, "Will Nefertiti go back to Egypt?" In an open letter the initiators of the campaign called on the Minister of State for Culture, Bernd Neumann, to offer Egypt a loan of the bust. "Loan Nefertiti? No way!" was the reply in *Die Welt* just a day later. Neumann wanted to pre-empt the development of the debate and issued a press release on 13<sup>th</sup> April saying that Nefertiti was not in a condition to travel for conservation reasons.

When representatives of the media came to Berlin on 19<sup>th</sup> April for a press conference in the House of Democracy and Human Rights, there was already news from Egypt: In Cairo the government had debated the matter and expressed outrage about the attitude of the German government. Egypt threatened to end cooperation with German museums if Germany continued to refuse to loan the bust of Nefertiti to an Egyptian museum. Germany would not be receiving any more loans from Egypt, said the head of the Egyptian Administration of Antiquities, Zahi Hawass, to the press.

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### Impressum

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## **Network Conference "Culture and Development"**

At the end of January, 39 experts who work on the topic of "Culture and Development" met in Vienna for a European Network Conference. At the invitation of the Vienna Institute for Development and Cooperation (Vidc) and CulturCooperation e.V., representatives came together from national ministries and development agencies, from NGOs and academic institutions to exchange experience and topics, methods and aims of their work. The common viewpoint on the wide field of intervention in "Culture and Development" was the basis for developing overlapping strategies for agenda setting and joint European lobby work on this topic.



**Prof. Abdul Sheriff presented the work of the „House of Wonders“ in Zanzibar**

Using many interesting illustrations, one of the guests, Els van der Plas, Director of the Prince Claus Foundation Amsterdam, clearly presented the potential of cultural and artistic movements for changes in society in her opening contribution. Then Morten Poulsen from the Danish Center for Culture and Development (DCCD) explained the changes that cultural factors have contributed to development cooperation practice in the last few years. With further very convincing statements, Johannes Gehringer, who works directly at EuropeAid in Brussels, it was clear that the participants were in agreement on the high value to be placed on culture and development in development cooperation. However, as practical application of these principles has only been achieved in small areas it can be concluded that "culture" is still a very neglected factor on national and European levels.

The conference interpreted this situation as the opportunity to create a network of the various actors working on culture and

development in order to work out joint strategies for the long-term implementation of cultural projects in development cooperation.

Following the introductory contributions of European experts, Paul Voogt (Royal Tropical Institute Amsterdam) and Abdul Sheriff (National Museum Zanzibar, Tanzania) gave an impressive presentation of their work in the museum in Zanzibar. The project of reconstructing the museum was carried out in cooperation between African and European museum experts. Stephen Rwangyezi, Head of the Uganda Development Theatre Association (UDTA), reported on dance and theatre projects in Uganda, which have in the meantime been able to establish numerous active theatre groups including many in rural areas. The theatre of the UDTA is not only the artistic expression of social and political topics. It also transports knowledge about health protection and the political rights of the country.

The introductory talks were followed by reports from individual countries and an intensive exchange in various groups. The third day of the conference was directed to achieving results: Two letters to the European Commission signed by all the participants contain recommendations that cultural factors should be given greater consideration in European development cooperation work and for the support of projects on cultural diversity (Unesco Convention).



**Common strategies for Agenda Setting and lobby work were developed in the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna.**

***"Message to the European Commission concerning the draft strategy document on Culture in the European Development Policy"***

The first letter to the Commission drafted during the conference refers to a strategy paper calling for greater consideration of cultural projects in development cooperation.

It was passed at the beginning of 2006 but has not been satisfactorily implemented. In the letter the participants of the conference call for

- dialogue with experts including those from NGOs for the revision of the strategy paper,
- more financial, personnel and administrative capacities to be made available for the cultural sector of European development cooperation.

**"Message on Culture in Development to the Coalitions for Cultural Diversity"**

The second letter to the European Commission concerns the implementation of the Unesco Convention on Cultural Diversity which came into effect in March 2007. The letter calls on the signatory states of the Convention represented in the Commission to make an active contribution to the protection and promotion of cultural diversity.

**EU: New culture programmes for development cooperation with the ACP states**

The director of European relations to the ACP states, Bernard Petit, replied promptly to the letter of the network conference and announced that the budget of the European Development Fund (EDF) had been increased by €14m in 2007 and that two new programmes for cultural projects in the ACP states have been started. According to Petit, a total of €80m have been allocated for cultural projects in the so-called developing countries for the period 2007-2013.

The papers documenting the results of the conference can be accessed in the Internet:

[culture-and-development.info/project/network.htm](http://culture-and-development.info/project/network.htm)

An informal working group has been created from the network conference to exchange information on cultural programmes in the European development cooperation and to provide advice on long-term strategies.

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**Nefertiti travels  
Report on the Campaign 2007**

When the Minister of State for Culture, Neumann, reacted to the campaign in refusing to consider a loan of the bust to Egypt and gave alleged conservation concerns as a reason, outrage was not only expressed by

the Egyptian Administration of Antiquities. The international media such as the *Times*, *Le Monde* and *The Independent* criticised the German blockade attitude and were sceptical about the conservation considerations. But even after the official request from Egypt for a loan for the opening of the Echnaton Museum in Marnya in 2010 Berlin remained immovable. In a statement on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, Dietrich Wildung, Director of the Egyptian Museum said, "Nefertiti's presence in Berlin has never been called in question by the Egyptians". Therefore there was "no need for discussions between the states about Nefertiti". Even though Egypt is known to have accused the German excavation team of deceit in the division of the finds in the 1920s and repeatedly demanded the return of the bust, today nobody is questioning the right of ownership any more. Egypt is simply asking for a loan of the bust and in doing so is in a way recognising Berlin's right of ownership. Under these circumstances it seems even stranger that both the Minister of State for Culture and the Berlin museums feel the need to emphasise that the bust is rightfully owned by Berlin.



The queue to see Nefertiti: Only possible in Berlin

What has been missing up to now in the reactions from Berlin is any kind of signal of willingness to cooperate and to seek for a solution for this conflict. Wildung ended his declaration with the comment: "The great interest of the media in this campaign has given the Egyptian Museum the opportunity to present its role and that of the museums in general in the cultural dialogue". In saying this he is confirming again that there is no interest in Berlin in solving this case, offering fair solutions or even of seeking to enter into dialogue.

There was a completely different reaction from Katja Lembke, Director of the Egyptian Museum in Hildesheim. She replied to an enquiry from Cairo about a loan of the statue of Hemiunu that there were no fundamental objections to a loan.

Conservation considerations could not be the decisive factor, she said. In answer to an enquiry about a loan of the Rosetta Stone, London replied that the case would be considered.

The international criticism of the German attitude, the renewed request of Egypt for a loan of the bust of Nefertiti and the open reactions from Hildesheim and London should actually be sufficient pressure on the Berlin museums. As nothing seems to be moving it is up to the politicians: Following a 10-minute information session by the Minister of State for Culture, the Culture Committee of the Federal Parliament agreed with his attitude. However, they neither consulted the Unesco committee of experts nor looked to enter into dialogue with Egypt.

In a memorandum the initiators of the campaign appeal to the members of the Culture Committee to take a serious interest in this case and to find a suitable response to the enquiry from Egypt in the near future.



**The "Berlin Development Politics Advice" (B.E.R. e.V.) and Alliance 90 / The Greens issued invitations to a discussion in the House of the Parliamentarians in Berlin on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. All the political representatives invited announced their intention to take part in this event.**

**We want to know your opinion!**

As part of the campaign discussion events are taking place in various towns and cities. Those who cannot take part can still take part in the debate. On our website there is a forum on which intense debate has been taking place since April. The intention is that you should make up your mind and have the opportunity to express your opinion. Up to the end of June you can decide: Should Nefertiti travel? Should she be returned to Egypt or should the bust stay in Berlin?

**Current state of the voting**

Nefertiti should travel to Egypt	43 %
Nefertiti should be given back to Egypt	7 %
Nefertiti should stay in Berlin	50 %

**Discussion forum and voting until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007 on**

Visit the English website at

[www.nofretete-geht-auf-reisen.de](http://www.nofretete-geht-auf-reisen.de)



**"Nefertiti comes": The "New Museum" in Berlin is to house the Egyptian queen from 2009.**

**Autumn 2007: Topic Cultural Tourism**

In the autumn of 2007 an international conference will take place in Hamburg on the topic of "Cultural Tourism and Tourism Culture" as part of the project Culture and Development. The significance of tourism for the cultural heritage in the countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America is ambivalent: on the one hand tourism brings in foreign currency, but it also endangers the historic sites. Experts in development cooperation, culture and the tourist industry will work on perspectives for sustainable attitudes to cultural heritage. The exact date will be announced.

**The next Newsletter will appear in September 2007.**



*This Newsletter has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of CulturCooperation e.V. and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.*