DRAFT MINUTES

28th Meeting of the IUC Association Assembly

and

33nd Meeting of the IUC Association Board

Held through internet from 16 to 23 February 2021

PARTICIPATED: Nada Bruer Ljubišić, Wieger Bakker, Gunn Elisabeth Birkelund, Vida Demarin, Milena Dragičević Šešić, Berta Dragičević, Peter Fischer Appelt, Sigmund Grønmo, Peter Kampits, Lise Kjølsrod, Hrvoje Kraljević, Asim Kurjak, Frank Laubert, Krunoslav Pisk, Hans Joachim Seitz, Zvonimir Šikić, Zvonimir Paul Šeparović (with time delay), Ivo Šlaus, Aleksandar Štulhofer, Mitja Žagar

A quorum is established by participation of 20 out of 29 members.

1. **Report**, prepared by Prof. Pisk and Ms. Bruer, was circulated through mail. Abstract of the report: The year 2020 due to Corona pandemic ended with 12 (standard, blended and online) programmes with 606 participants. The IUC office did not receive an explanation from University of Zagreb for the increase of its share of utility costs of the building for 2019 and for 2020 although members of the IUC governing bodies wrote on several occasions to Rector Boras to ask for meeting to find a solution for these bills. The IUC paid the bill for the first part of the year 2020 stressing the need to clear out the issue. During 2020, University of Zagreb replaced 4 chestnut trees in the courtyard with 4 younger trees and paved it with later removed concrete slabs. They also cleared out two rooms of the library to rent it to private Libertas University. Two classrooms in the building (2 and 4 on the second floor) would be made available to Libertas University from September until end of June. Since these classrooms were also used and reserved by the IUC for longstanding (large) programmes the manager of the building, Mr. Frano Hartman is assuring the IUC office that solution would be found for the period when the IUC has its courses in the building. The IUC has new web pages with numerous novelties: free online lectures deriving from blended courses - <https://iuc.hr/online-lectures>; Working Paper Series - <https://iuc.hr/iuc-working-paper-series> - initiated and edited by Prof. Bakker and [connect through IUC interactive map](https://iuc.hr/connect-through-iuc). According to the EC decision from October 2019 to engage an outside expert in order to reach a sustainable IUC operation, IUC started cooperation with Mr. Boudewijn Grievink, on the project: Consultancy on Membership Structure & Value Proposition of the IUC. This project was focusing on three subtopics:

-***Development of Membership structure*** Mr. Grievink analysed different types of IUC members, interviewed IUC course directors and concluded that although the membership fee of the IUC is considered low there is a clear gap between course directors and central administration. He suggested different strategies to overcome the gap. He also suggested raising the membership fee and use the half for student scholarship, which was accepted at the fall meeting of the Executive Committee.

-***Enhancement of IUC’s visibility & value proposition*** Mr. Grievink produced an interactive flyer to show membership benefits and a Google map embedded in the IUC web page showing all member institutions and active course directors and their programmes. The map can be found on the [“Connect through the IUC”](https://iuc.hr/connect-through-iuc) web page. He also suggested other promotional solutions which are being implemented by the IUC office.

- ***Roadmap to European grants -*** In the beginning of April Mr. Grievink, Prof. Bakker and IUC office submitted an application for COVID 19 Extraordinary call for proposal of the CEI in the field of Education and e-learning/distance learning. The proposal was not awarded the grant (success rate was 0,4%). In November, Mr. Grievink put together the IUC office with Mendel University from Brno and aided in applying as partners in the project “Weeks of International Teaching-Inclusive and Digital” in the Action Partnership for Digital Education Readiness (KA226) Call for proposals. This project is in the phase of evaluation. Mr. Grievink will make a summary of the promising program elements for the IUC as soon as the financing scheme would be announced by the EU Commission.

The IUC Secretariat applied for donation from various Croatian corporations, Ministries and Foundations in order to secure some funding but without any positive response.

On behalf of the IUC governing bodies, Prof. Pisk, Prof. Bakker and Ms. Bruer put together a proposal for small IUC scholarship (60.000 Euros yearly for 5 years) to support internationalization of EU Accession countries’ academic community. Prof. Šimonović advocated for this initiative and forwarded it to the Permanent representation of Croatia to the EU, office of the Prime-Minister and Ministry of Science and Education. The intention is to identify possible EU funds that can be used to support the academic community of SE Europe – EU accession countries. Additionally, Prof. Bakker is planning to advertise more the IUC regional scholarship fund – SE European scholarship fund – through social media campaign.

The IUC started discussing with representatives of the Ministry of Science about further support of IUC activities and new discussions are anticipated.

In order to secure online payments through IUC web pages IUC needed to adopt General Terms and Conditions and Personal Data Protection documents. These documents are both attached to this document and should be approved by the Association Assembly along with this report.

Executive Committee decided that online participation in IUC programmes (during COVID period and beyond) should be charged 25 Euro per participant.

Prof. Pisk and Ms. Bruer were received by the Croatian President Mr. Milanović in November 2020.

Resignation of membership was received from University of Minnesota (no significant no. of participants) and Technical University of Munich.

Preliminary academic programme is prepared but due to Covid pandemic it is expected that other alterations would happen (rescheduling, transferring to online or blended model, etc.) For the same reason the academic programme brochure usually prepared by Prof. Seitz has not been printed yet.

It is planned that IUC would support conference series in memory of Prof. Kathy Wilkes (Chair of the IUC EC 1988-96) as a result from the collaboration with University of Oxford. First conference is scheduled for fall 2021 in Dubrovnik. Second and third conference will be held in Milan and Oxford.

**Discussion:**

The report was unanimously accepted with following remarks:

Mr. Laubert commented that it cannot be accepted how the UoZ acts towards the IUC: It is unfair and not in accordance with the contract to raise the annual use fee without prior consultation with our DG and/or the IUC office and without giving any explanation. The same goes for the unilateral appropriation of the Library rooms and the lecture rooms which have been let to the IUC for its academic purposes. He suggested considering to hold back further payments until the authorities of the UoZ decide to behave as agreed upon.

These remarks have been endorsed also by Dr. Peter Fischer Appelt.

1. Financial report for 2020

Abstract: The Support from the Croatian Ministry was not received in 2020, but the IUC used funds leftover from the grant signed in 2019.There was one IUC scholarship awarded and 25 Croatian Ministry scholarships. Collection of course fees had been very low and amounted to around 12% of fees collected in 2019. Collection of membership fees was at the same level as in 2019. Utility costs to University of Zagreb have been paid for the first part of the year. Although the planned deficit for the year 2020 was 32.300 Euro, the year ended with the deficit of -8.600 Euro. Mr. Offerdal prepared the financial reports for 2019 and preliminary budget for 2021 communicating online. Financial report for 2019 is a part of this report as well. He will do the onsite inspection as soon as pandemic measures would allow it.

Financial report for 2020 was unanimously approved.

1. Preliminary budget for 2021

The preliminary budget for 2021 was attached and unanimously approved with the following remarks:

Mr. Laubert accentuated that the auditor has again pointed out that our budget gives cause for concern in the medium and long run. It would be highly desirable if the IUC could get to a financially independent status. But he thinks it is not realistic to break away from any support of the Croatian Science Ministry, since the IUC has always been on the drip of support from Croatia: by using rooms in a building owned by the UoZ and, permanent staff being financed by the same university. From his point of view the only promising direction is to continue and to elaborate communication and negotiations with the Science Ministry as well as with the UoZ, no matter how difficult it is and would be. He complimented DG and Executive Secretary, together with Prof. Kraljević for doing a remarkable job so far. He also suggested not giving up on trying to find other means of financing, despite his scepticism about finding funds or foundations that would be willing to subsidize the IUC’s running operations.

Dr. Peter Fischer Appelt shared the remarks of Mr. Laubert.

1. The Academic programme for 2021 was unanimously accepted.
2. Ms. Bruer informed the Assembly that dates for the 50th Anniversary are scheduled for 26 September to 2 October 2022. It has to include the IUC Council. Additional programme needs to be organized.

Prof. Bakker suggested, apart from Anniversary week, organizing also a few ‘anniversary events’ throughout the year concerning topics that have been of special interest for the IUC and have a forward-looking character (the future of -academic freedom/region/the role of academia in conflict, etc.). He also suggested organizing during the anniversary week also some online events and make it possible to participate online in events on location, which can be beneficial for the Council meeting. He also suggested preparing an updated version of (or a new) Beyond Frontiers. He also suggested one or more alumni events since many old participants who are no longer in the academic wish to have the ‘renewed inspiration like in Dubrovnik’.

Great majority of members agreed with suggestions of Prof. Bakker, especially online and alumni events. Prof. Žagar also suggested presenting these activities to relevant global media. Dr. Fischer-Appelt recommended inviting the Prime Minister and the Minister of Education to the opening ceremony.

Prof. Grønmo suggested that the EC should appoint a planning committee for the anniversary events which should come with the programme for the anniversary year, to be adopted in the fall EC meeting. This suggestion was also supported by many members.

The meeting is closed.

NB, February 2021