IUC ASSOCIATION REPORT ON OPERATION IN 2021

1. In 2021 there were 22 courses and 16 conferences held within the IUC academic programme with the total of 1543 participants. Due to complete lock-downs at the beginning of year some spring or early summer programmes have been cancelled. 11 programmes were held only in online mode (in spring and early summer), 4 programmes were held completely face-to-face while 23 programmes were hybrid. 582 participants came to Dubrovnik while 961 of them participated through online platforms (ZOOM was mostly used). Enabling hybrid courses secured decent participation in IUC programmes (with the decrease of only 20% in participation in comparison to 2019, while the decrease in number of programmes was 35%). The average number of people physically present at the programme was 21.
2. There were number of approaches (electronic and through phone) to the Ministry of Science and Education in order to secure the continuation of funding for the IUC. These contacts were made by Prof. Kraljević and Prof. Pisk to the Head Section for Science Hrvoje Meštrić and Minister Radovan Fuchs. By the end of September, the IUC has received information that the contract with direct funding will be secured since the Ministry has received information from the Government office for NGO’s that they could use the exception in case of the Inter-University Centre Dubrovnik. The Contract has been signed on 25 October on 900.000 KN. Scholarship have been granted to IUC participants as soon as it has been announced the possibility of a positive outcome. There were 112 grantees in 2021. According to the contract funds are only refunded upon the written report. Due to the partial lock-down and lower number of programmes and grantees (that would in the normal year be around 200) the IUC would be able to refund app. 735.000 KN.
3. Talks about the utility bills of University of Zagreb were going on through 2021. At the beginning of March 2021 Ms. Bruer and Prof. Pisk had a meeting with the Head Secretary of University of Zagreb Ms. Heli Hajdić-Nikolić and Head of Finances Ms. Marijana Drempetić regarding calculation of IUC part of utility costs of the building and received bills that were much higher than what was considered in accordance with the Agreement. It was accentuated that methodology of calculating the cost cannot be changed without explanation and that investments in the building need to be announced in advance and also accepted by the EC and included in the IUC budget. University of Zagreb accepted the argumentation and an amendment to the contract was prepared. Further talks have been held with the Rector Boras and his associates in the building. By beginning of December University of Zagreb by the decision of Rector Boras corrected the calculated bills, the IUC paid app. 8500 Euro of a debt from 2019 and 2020, while the bill for 2021 was issued on 137000 KN (VAT included). Amendment to the Cooperation agreement has also been signed in mid December, while the translation is attached to this report. The only change from the initial agreement is clear statement for which expenses the IUC is to pay its share of utility costs of the building and as an appendix a table with formulas for calculation.

Contract to Ms. Nikolina Vekić has expired with 22 July. It has been arranged that after a two months break (which is a legal requirement in order to not to be obliged to establish a permanent position) it would be again signed by the University of Zagreb. In the meantime, the IUC Association would secure a contract for Ms. Nikolina Vekić. However, the IUC office has received a decision from the Rector Boras that two colleagues from the CAAS office are being transferred to the IUC office, each for half of working hours. This transfer is supposed to be temporary. Colleagues, Ms. Nada Raič Jurković and Iva Adžić Kušt have been working on WITEA-ID EU project, while Ms. Vekić has been engaged in her standard tasks regarding the IUC regular programmes. In the meantime, Ms. Vekić is being re-employed by University of Zagreb (on 4 hours) as a substitute for sick-leave while a new public job vacancy announcement has been carried out in November. The procedure is over and it is expected that Ms. Vekić would sign a new contract with University of Zagreb (for up to a year and for 4 hours) at the beginning of the new year.

1. As part of the Visibility project, Mr. Grievink helped the IUC be a partner in the application Action Partnership for Digital Education Readiness (KA226) submitted by Mendel University Brno. The project “Weeks of International Teaching-Inclusive and Digital” was awarded an EU grant and the IUC would carry out a part of the programme – (mostly for dissemination in winter 2023) for which it has allocated 26300 Euros for 2 years. The purpose of the project is to form an open source tool-kit in order to support international mobility in the academic sphere. Prof. Bakker is also engaged in the project. The project coordinator – Mendel university Brno has transferred 80% of all funds (planned for the whole 2 years – majority for 2023) already in June, but according to Croatian law, these funds are held on “temporary account” until the project coordinator approves their use. Ms. Bruer attended the first workshop of the project in Crete in October.
2. Prof. Seitz printed the Academic programme brochures for 2021-2022. It is a very valuable contribution since the standard Academic programme poster has been printed only recently due to constant changes in announcements due to COVID.
3. There were two EC meetings held during the 2021. On 24 April a ZOOM meeting was held while on 2 October the meeting was hybrid; 8 people were present in Dubrovnik while the rest followed the meeting through ZOOM.
4. Ambassador of India to Republic of Croatia, H.E. Mr. Raj Kumar Srivastava has visited the IUC in July. Ms. Bruer presented the IUC, its history, tradition, but also the current academic program with special attention to programs with participation of Indian academic community. Ms. Bruer expressed a wish to extend the participation of Indian professors and students in the IUC programmes. Mr. Srivastava presented activities of Indian Embassy and suggested creating a joint program to mark the 75th anniversary of Indian independence and the 50th anniversary of the IUC for next year. It was agreed that the Embassy will promote the IUC among Indian academic institutions. Indian Ambassador is interested to develop a future joint programme with the IUC. Prof. Boras also joined the meeting near the end.
5. Prof. Šimonović informed the IUC that the proposed idea to launch the “IUC EU Accession countries scholarship fund” could not go through the Ministry of Foreign and European affairs. Instead, it has been suggested to try to launch the idea through the Ministry of Science and Education and/or academic institutions, i.e. academic channels. In the meantime, the IUC office, with the help of Mr. Grievink, has started the campaign to gather funds for the IUC South-East European Scholarship grant. Although the web page is structured in order to secure easy payment there has been no additional payments so far. The campaign will continue and we encourage Association members to advertise it through your social media channels.
6. Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, HE dr. Robert Klinke and the Ambassador of the French Republic, HE Gael Veyssiere with their associates visited the IUC on November 4th. They got to know the IUC as an institution, its programmes, mission and vision. Also, a forum "Multilateralism and the EU as Models of Contemporary International Relations" was organised in cooperation with Libertas University. The moderator of the forum was Dr. Jadranka Polović from Libertas University. Due to pandemic situation the forum was held in the blended form.
7. On 24 November Mr. Boudewijn Grievink held an info session on newly announced EU Erasmus programs through zoom to all the interested IUC course directors.
8. As it was arranged in the past EC meetings, the main event to mark the 50th anniversary celebration has been scheduled from 29 September to 1 October. On 29 and 30 September the conference ***Fostering Inclusive Internationalization:*** Role and Responsibilities of Science in Addressing Global Challenges is planned, while the 17th Council meeting will be held on 1 October. It is planned that the conference would have the invited speakers and the open call for contributions. The Preliminary programme is attached, along with the Call for contributions. All association members are invited not only to participate in the anniversary conference/Council, but also to actively contribute to the programme itself. It is planned to prepare a monograph on the occasion of the 50th anniversary which would have a different concept than previous two IUC publications on the occasion of the 30th and 35th anniversary. The book concept is also attached to these documents.
9. The planned collaboration with St. Hilda’s college – University of Oxford in putting together the commemoration conference for Kathy Wilkes has been re-scheduled for the end of April 2022.
10. University of Zürich, Technical University of Munich, University of Osnabrück, The American University in Cairo, Autonomous University of Barcelona and University of Lódź resigned from the IUC membership. Faculty of Social Studies of University of Ostrava and John Innes centre from Norwich has applied for membership and are new member of the IUC.

NB, December 2021