DRAFT MINUTES

27th Meeting of the IUC Association Assembly

and

32nd Meeting of the IUC Association Board

Held in Zagreb on 14 February and through internet from 13 February until 25 February 2020

PARTICIPATED in Zagreb: Nada Bruer Ljubišić, Vida Demarin, Berta Dragičević, Gvozden Flego, Hrvoje Kraljević, Asim Kurjak, Krunoslav Pisk, Zvonimir Šeparović, Zvonimir Šikić

PARTICIPATED through internet: Wieger Bakker, Gunn Elisabeth Birkelund, Peter Fischer Appelt, Sigmund Grønmo, Lise Kjølsrod, Frank Laubert, Aleksandar Štulhofer, Mitja Žagar, Ørjar Øyen

A quorum is established by participation of 18 out of 31 members.

1. Prof. Pisk opened the meeting and greeted all present member. He informed all that the whole meeting is taking place through internet since many members are from abroad. The proposed Agenda was accepted. Ms. Bruer presented the report on operation in 2019, prepared mostly by Mr. Tomislav Kvesić since she has been on maternity leave. The IUC had a record number of almost 2000 participants in 60 courses and conferences. 3 longstanding programmes: Victimology, Summer Stroke School and Social Work Theory and Practice celebrated their anniversaries. Prof. Kurjak informed the Assembly that Inter-University School of Medical Ultrasound celebrated its 35th Anniversary with the conference in Dubrovnik hotel since it gathered more than 400 participants. Support from the Ministry was received only at the end of the year after difficult negotiations and some potential solutions that were dismissed (financing the IUC through the Foundation of the Croatian Academy of Arts and Sciences). Finally, it was suggested by the Ministry to finance the IUC through the Programme Agreement of University of Rijeka. Due to the uncertainty only 131 participants were funded instead of usual 200.

Prof. Pisk explained the negotiations flow with the Ministry and mentioned that the solution was found after strong reactions from numerous course directors on the Ministry’s decision not to fund the IUC from August and the letter he wrote to the Prime Minister. He also mentioned that the cooperation with Rijeka was not taken well at the Rector’s office of University of Zagreb. He informed members of the Association that he had a meeting with Rector Boras and that they agreed to write again to the Prime Minister and look for more permanent solution for which the IUC should again ask for support from Croatian Rector’s Conference. He also announced the request to have another meeting at the Ministry.

Prof. Kurjak and Prof. Flego expressed their discontent about the offered solution and accentuated the need to have direct financing (or if that is not possible through University of Zagreb or Dubrovnik.) Prof. Kraljević explained that Rijeka was a solution found by the Ministry since they had a signed programme agreement. He also accentuated that Ministry of finance did not allow Ministry of Education to use the exception in the regulations for another year.

Majority of participating members expressed their concerns about the cooperation with the Ministry and accentuated the need for the long-term and stable financing. Dr. Fischer-Appelt mentioned that he has not received a response to his letter to the Prime Minister. Mr. Laubert asked if support could be again received through University of Rijeka or if all Croatian Universities could form together a joint project for financial support to the Ministry, covering scholarships for their participating students and including some overhead to meet the administrative costs for the IUC. He also suggested asking for a legal advice about the legal entity for the IUC if the only obstacle for financing is the fact that the NGO is the umbrella for the IUC. Prof. Pisk also informed the Assembly that talks were held with Prof. Šimonović to establish an IUC Foundation to avoid problems for financing that now exist for the NGO.

Prof. Flego expressed disagreement with the offered solution of financing the IUC through University of Rijeka mentioning that it is possible to secure direct financing. He also mentioned that the finances for the IUC have been reduced while the Ministry claims to have increased the overall budget for 17%. He suggested finding a way to talk to the Prime Minister to make the impact on the Minister of Science to secure a 4 year agreement. He and Prof. Kurjak also mentioned that the City of Dubrovnik and Dubrovnik-Neretva County should also financially support the IUC. Prof. Šeparović also accentuated the importance of University of Zagreb for the IUC and mentioned the need to take European money since the IUC is European and World institution. Prof. Flego reminded the Assembly that the IUC needs help in order to get the European money and suggested engaging the agencies and contacting different individuals who work in Brussels on different positions for suggestions and contacts (Daniel Mondekar, Neven Mimica and Milena Žic Fuchs (currently a member of the High Level Group on Maximising Impact of EU Research and Innovation Programmes of European Commission.)

Prof. Pisk also accentuated the need for good cooperation with University of Zagreb and mentioned a good agreement that has been signed for 5 years as well as the fact that the University has just approved to correct salary coefficients for Ms. Bruer and Mr. Kvesić to make them more suitable to workload and education level.

1. Report on recent developments continued. IUC financed 4 students from the SE Europe.

IUC invested more than 5000 Euros in new equipment in the classrooms as a part of its obligation to invest half of its surplus in the building infrastructure. Also, the IUC has so far paid majority of the utility bill, but the final amount yet has to be communicated with University of Zagreb.

Prof. Bryan Roberts was an IUC fellow from February until June 2019.

Resignations were received from Chemnitz University of Technology and Dresden University of Technology while the Department of Philosophy took over the membership for Stockholm University.

The everyday work in the office has been handled by Tomislav Kvesić, who is substituting Ms. Nada Bruer while she is on maternity leave, Nikolina Vekić and Manuela Valjalo, while the office had two interns in 2019. IUC office wrote to Ms. Naumkina, Acting CoDirector of Higher Education Support Programme of OSF to see if some king of support could be achieved for the region. The office received a negative response with information which areas are now eligible for funding from HESP.

Prof. Flego suggested contacting Bill Newton Smith on advice how to approach OSF. He also suggested contacting István Rév and Zorana Gajić at the OSF.

IUC will have new web pages in few weeks with new novelties such as searching for courses through fields of study.

During 2019 IUC has received complaints on slow Wi-Fi connection in the building.

Members accepted the report on operation

1. Ms. Bruer presented the financial report for 2019. It includes report of income from the Ministry and membership fees. Attached to this report is also Financial report for 2018 as presented by Mr. Offerdal at the May 2019 EC Meeting. Mr. Offerdal will visit the IUC office at the end of winter or beginning of spring in order to make the final report on 2019 and present it at the spring EC Meeting. All members accepted the presented financial report for 2019. Dr. Fischer Appelt made the remark that he would accept the final version as prepared by the Auditor and suggested that Association Assembly meetings are scheduled later in the year, when this report is ready.
2. Ms. Bruer presented the Preliminary Budget for 2020 as it was presented in October 2019 EC Meeting by Mr. Offerdal. She stressed that the Budget is “an optimistic” version assuming that the IUC would get the support from the Ministry. Participating members accepted the budget for 2020.
3. Ms. Bruer presented the pogramme for 2020. Majority of programmes are longstanding and the programme LIDA (Libraries in the Digital Age) has returned at the IUC after 10 years in Zadar. Participating members accepted the budget for 2020.
4. Regarding elections, Prof. Šikić suggested following:
* for President Krunoslav Pisk
* for Executive Secretary Nada Bruer Ljubišić
* for members of the Board: Sigmund Grønmo, Hans Joachim Seitz, Vida Demarin
* for members of Supervisory Board: Berta Dragičević, Hrvoje Kraljević, Wieger Bakker

Participating members accepted the suggested members of the Association governing bodies.

1. Prof. Flego resigned from the membership of the Association Assembly because he felt some of the blame for the failure to find a long-lasting and stable financing of the IUC. Prof. Pisk expressed regret for that decision and thanked Prof. Flego for all that he has done for the IUC until now.

Ms. Dragičević reminded the members of the Assembly that the IUC Association was established in 1994 to secure the survival of the IUC and normal functioning under the legal framework in Croatia.

Prof. Šeparović accentuated the need for the IUC to remain an independent international organization (with strong support of University of Zagreb as it always had). He also asked prof. Pisk to thank one of the founders of the Victimology course Prof Kirchhoff for his longstanding support of the IUC.

As a part of the 32nd Meeting of the Association Board Ms. Bruer suggested electing Prof. Sigmund Grønmo as the Vice-President of the IUC Association. The suggestion was accepted by all voting members.

Prof. Pisk closed the meeting and thanked all members that have participated.

NB, February 2020