



## CHARTER OF THE REELC-ENCLS

The Réseau Européen d'études littéraires comparées / European Network of Comparative Literary Studies (REELC/ENCLS) was founded in Paris on the 6th of October 2001 by European scholars committed to the study of General and Comparative Literature. At a second meeting convened in Brussels, at the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 2003, the Charter of the Network was formulated by the undersigned representatives from 18 national Associations of General and Comparative Literature (Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom). The charter was approved, with amendments and an undertaking to carry out further amendments, at the first conference of the REELC/ENCLS at Florence, 16<sup>th</sup> of September 2005.

### Article I. Name and Object

#### Sec. 1

The Name of the Network shall be Réseau Européen d'études littéraires comparées/ European Network of Comparative Literary Studies Acronym: REELC/ENCLS.

#### Sec. 2

The object of the Network shall be to further the international exchange of ideas and information among scholars from all European nations and various disciplines who study and teach General and Comparative Literature.

Rooted in various fields of study, the REELC/ENCLS will provide a European space for interdisciplinary dialogues about culture, literature and literary studies. To this purpose, it will promote international exchanges of teachers, scholars, and students and generate debates, publications, and conferences.

The work of the REELC/ENCLS will support, complement, and internationalise ongoing efforts by individuals as well as regional, national, and multinational associations of General and Comparative Literature. The REELC/ENCLS welcomes individual from all professional scholars in the social and natural sciences, the humanities and the arts, from intellectuals, artists, journalists, public officials, and all those active in matters concerning the comparative study of literature or general literary studies.

### Article II. Membership

#### Sec.1

The members of the Network shall be: Any person interested in the study of General and Comparative Literature.

### Article III. Executive Officers & Executive Committee

#### Sec. 1

The organization shall have an Executive Committee with a maximum of 15 elected Executive Officers.

To the executive Committee are added co-opted officers with responsibilities concerning a future activity of the network (e.g. conference organizers).

Fixed responsibilities of the members of the executive Committee are: General Coordinator, previous General Coordinator, Communications Officer (Web Master) and other EC members.

#### Sec. 2

The Executive Committee serves as consultative and as governance board that considers elections by the membership, and appointments to positions within the organization that are other than elected (such as the General Coordinator or Ad Hoc committees), and determines the disposition of motions and resolutions originating in the General Assembly.

The Executive Committee sets the date and venue of Network congresses, meets several times a year (in person at the General Assembly during the biannual congress and online the rest of the time) for a business meeting for the election of members to committees, consideration of reports of the Executive Officers, consideration of motions and resolutions by the General Assembly, and the discussion of general policy and the transaction of other Network business as may come before it. The Executive Committee may appoint subcommittees from among its own membership for the transaction of Network business as necessary. The Executive Committee shall publish its decisions and actions through means mechanical, electronic, or otherwise to the membership of the Network.

### Sec. 3

The General Coordinator and the Executive Officers shall in principle serve a 2 year term. This term is renewable for another two years only. The General Coordinator and Executive Officers shall preside at meetings of the General Assembly, the Executive Committee, and congresses of the Network.

The Executive Officers shall be elected from among members in good standing during the bi-annual conference of the network. Applications for a mandate must be communicated to the executive Committee at the conference before the meeting of the general assembly. Applications can be proposed to members of the executive Committee.

The General Coordinator shall be appointed by the Executive members, with ratification of his/her appointment by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Officers, each of whom, ideally, should have his/her principal professional appointment in a different country, shall be responsible for the administration of the organization and for overseeing its successful operation.

### Sec. 4

The members of the executive Committee decide which functions will be necessary during its term and appoints a number their officers for specific responsibilities. The responsibilities of the Executive Officers are the following: The General Coordinator, in collaboration with the other Executive Officers, will be responsible for the formulation of policies and projects, and for receiving motions and resolutions formulated and voted on by members of the General Assembly for presentation to the Executive Committee for disposition and implementation. The communications officer will maintain the website of the organisation. This officer can become 'ex officio' member of the Executive Committee in order to preserve the continuity of the communication infrastructure.

## **Article IV. General Assembly**

### Sec. 1

The General Assembly is the main body of the REELC/ENCLS and is comprised of all members of the Executive Committee, and all other members. The General Coordinator of the Network shall serve as Recorder of the Assembly meetings.

### Sec. 2

The General Assembly shall be the deliberative body of the Network, where issues pertaining to the field, to Network policy, and to the interests of the members shall be discussed. The Assembly shall forward such motions and resolutions it approves by majority vote to the Network's Executive Committee for appropriate disposition.

## **Article V. Meetings, Conferences, Congresses and other events.**

### Sec. 1

The Executive Committee, in conjunction with an ad hoc Program Committee, shall schedule an international European congress of the Network occurring every two years. The ad hoc Program Committee shall work with a Local Organizing Committee to coordinate efforts for the congress. The General Assembly shall hold its general meeting on the occasion of said European congress.

### Sec. 2

The Executive Committee shall select a site for each congress well in advance of the congress date, when possible in cooperation with joint regional and/or multi-national associations, or federation of associations. Sites for the congress shall be selected on the principle of geographical rotation, if possible four years in advance.

### Sec. 3

The chair of the Local Organizing Committee shall be approved by the Executive Committee at least 18 months in advance of the congress date. The chair shall appoint the members of the Local Organizing Committee at his/her discretion.

### Sec. 4

The Network's ad hoc Program Committee shall approve the theme of the congress and review the procedures for evaluating proposals and the content of the congress. Each of the Network's standing committees shall have at least one slot reserved on the program of the congress. A meeting slot shall be reserved for the Executive Committee and one for the General Assembly at each congress.

### Sec. 5

The Executive Committee of the Network shall consider invitations to hold its annual meetings in conjunction with the meeting or congress of a national, joint regional or multi-national European Comparative Literature association.

## **Article VI. Amendment of the Charter**

The Executive Committee can initiate proposals for Charter adjustments to be decided at General Assembly and adopted by a majority of the voting members of the Network. Committee members unable to attend the business meeting may submit a proxy in writing, hard or verifiable electronic copy, to the General Coordinator prior to the meeting.

### **Signed by**

Ioannou Y., Larsen S., Madsen P., Lehnert G., Schmeling M., Talvet J., Mikkonen K., Bessière J., Chauvin D., Montadon A., Westphal B., Politou-Marmarinou E., Tverdota G., Domenichelli M., Kaselioniene N., Korthals-Altes L., Macedo A., Buescu H., Spiridon M., Skulj J., Boixareu M., Large D., Boldrini L., Winkler M., D'haen T., Keunen B.