



Biennial report on the REELC/ENCLS activities in 2011-2013 from the General Coordinator

1. In 2011-2013, the REELC/ ENCLS was represented at **international congresses and symposia.**

César Dominguez and Marco Paone organized the panel “Teaching European Literature in the Imperial Europe” under the auspices of the ENCLS at the ACLA (American Comparative Literature Association) Conference at Brown University, in March 29-April 1, 2012 (participants Sonja Stojmenska-Elzeser, Anastasija Gjurgcinova, Jola Škulj, Aleš Vaupotič).

The ENCLS was present at the 1st international conference of the CLAI (Comparative Literature Association of Ireland) “Transitions in Comparative Studies”, June 2012, with the plenary panel “Comparative Literature – A Discipline in Transition?” (organized by Sandra Vlasta, chaired by Michael Kelly, as Sandra was not able to attend; speakers Sanna Nyqvist, Jola Škulj, Aleš Vaupotič). CLAI President Brigitte Le Juez is a member of the ENCLS Executive Committee. ENCLS General Coordinator Marina Grishakova and ENCLS member Massimo Fusillo acted as keynote speakers at the CLAI conference.

Marina Grishakova organized the ENCLS session “Comparative Literature in Europe: State of the Art“ at the ICLA 20th Congress “Comparative Literature as a Critical Approach“, Paris IV Sorbonne, July 2013. The session included 5 seminars chaired by Marina Grishakova (seminar “Constructing Literature, Constructing Europe”), Brigitte Le Juez (“Conceptions and Methodologies“), Sonja Stojmenska-Elzeser (“Transgression, Strangeness and Complexity“), Anastasija Gjurgcinova (“Philologies and Translation Studies“) and Asunción López-Varela (“Literature and Media“); speakers Lucia Boldrini, Miloš Zelenka, Bernard Franco, Kathleen Shields, Jola Škulj, Małgorzata Świdorska, Aleš Vaupotič, Narvika Bovcon.

2. European Alliance for Social Sciences and the Humanities

In December 2011, General Coordinator Marina Grishakova was invited as the ENCLS representative, along with representatives of 45 professional European Associations, Societies and Alliances, to participate in the founding meeting of the European Alliance for Social Sciences and the Humanities in Amsterdam and in the SSH Assembly in Brussels (2012). Though the SSH Alliance does not currently continue as an autonomous organization, the meetings provided an opportunity to introduce the ENCLS to the representatives of top-level professional organizations and to express our willingness to support and promote the mission of the humanities in Europe.

3. Meetings of the Executive Committee.

The ENCLS Executive Committee came together twice between the ENCLS Congresses to discuss various issues related to the functioning of the network, such as publications – particularly the ENCLS online journal, FILLM membership and membership fee, applications and projects, website development, remote voting and others:

- at the videoconference (organized by Marina Grishakova, supported by the multimedia center of the University of Tartu, June 6, 2012)
- at the consultative meeting during the ICLA Congress in Paris (July 22, 2013).

The unanimous agreement on remote voting was reached at the Paris meeting, whereas the issues of website development, the online journal and membership fee require further discussion.

4. Publications.

General Coordinator Marina Grishakova has repeatedly invited the organizers of the 3th ENCLS Congress in Vilnius, representatives of the Lithuanian Association of Comparative Literature, to make the Proceedings of the Congress (apparently released in a very limited print run) available as the PDF on the ENCLS website. Unfortunately, the Proceedings have not yet reached the contributors.

On the contrary, the Proceedings of the 4th Congress (Skopje-Ohrid) “Literary Dislocations” impressive in scope and published by the Macedonian Association (edited by Sonja Stojmenska-Elzeser and Vladimir Martinovski) are now available on the website. Sandra Vlasta has written a report on the congress in Skopje and a presentation of the REELC/ENCLS for the yearbook of the German Comparative Literature Association.

Brigitte Le Juez edited a thematic issue of the *Revue de littérature comparée* on “Transition(s) in Comparative Literature” in which all contributors are ENCLS members.

Lucia Boldrini and Marina Grishakova are currently editing the special issue of the *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* „New Work in Comparative Literature in Europe“ featuring the work of ENCLS members and some prominent European comparatists.

5. Applications.

Joint projects and applications have been discussed at the meetings of the Executive Committee as a means to increase professional synergy between the ENCLS members and to (partially) solve the financial issues. Members of the Executive Committee (Brigitte Le Juez, Asunción López-Varela, Marina Grishakova, Sanna Nyqvist and others) prepared and submitted two applications: the European Science Foundation (ESF) Exploratory Workshop application (the main applicant Asunción López-Varela, co-applicants Brigitte Le Juez and Marina Grishakova, May 2012) and the COST application (the main applicant Brigitte Le Juez, March 2013).

Though the applications were not successful, they consolidated potential project participants from within and outside the ENCLS working on definite topics and therefore may serve as a basis for subsequent applications.

6. Newsletter.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee in Ohrid (September 2011) Brigitte Le Juez's volunteered to edit the ENCLS Newsletter. She has been performing this task with a great success. Three Newsletters have been issued since then, the fourth is forthcoming in late September. The Newsletter includes reports on recent events, new books and journals' thematic issues, doctoral theses defended, announcements of teaching positions in Comparative Literature, information on new associations and programs, proposals for research projects.

7. Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/European-Network-for-Comparative-Literary-Studies/116954331744272?ref=stream>

The ENCLC Facebook page was created and moderated by Asunción López-Varela. Posts range from information on books and literary events, conferences and seminars, grants and aid, calls for papers to posts on jobs for all academic levels. An average of 1-2 posts per day, including weekends, have been posted since 2011. The average number of people joining the ENCLS Facebook page is 5-8 persons per week. The total number of the Facebook page followers is 900. In the first two weeks in September, reach has been over 1300 visits to the different posts. Facebook is a dynamic and vibrant environment: Asunción Lopez-Varela's work on the Facebook page fosters interest in the ENCLS mission and activities.

8. Bibliography.

The bibliography project was launched in 2010. Its goal was to ensure an exchange of professional information among the scholars in comparative literary and cultural studies. Olga Romanova volunteered to be in charge of the project. However, as the project had not been progressing well, the Executive Committee elected, at its regular meeting during the 4th Congress in Skopje-Ohrid, the new editor Bernard Franco and the assistant Fabien Pillet to boost the bibliographical works. However, the revival of the bibliography took time: the new plan of the bibliography and the principles of selection have been discussed and approved at the meeting in Paris in July 2013.

9. Website.

In 2011, Aleš Vaupotič prepared and submitted, along with Swiss colleagues (Markus Winkler, Fabien Pillet), the joint Slovenian-Swiss application to create a mirror website that would strengthen the safety of the ENCLS website (the project was not funded). In 2013, the website suffered a major crash. Due to the work and effort by Slovenian colleagues, it was recovered (though the crash resulted in a partial loss of data), and the mirror site has been created.

There are currently 567 members registered on the website (as compared with 416 members reported by Lucia Boldrini in September 2012). The website serves as a large database of comparative literary studies in Europe. However, not all members have been actively using the website. According to Lucia Boldrini, “about 50% can be said to have been active at least minimally, in the sense that they visited the site again at least once after the initial registration.”

Discussion on the involvement of members in the network activities, website development and professional improvement as well as financial support is to be continued. The system of regional moderators has not been sufficiently active, and there were very few responses to the EC recent call (2011) to volunteer as regional moderators. New members of the EC should be involved in the discussion on the website and its development.

10. Congresses

The biennial 5th congress in Funchal, Madeira, brings together more than one hundred participants. The sixth biennial congress will be held in Dublin (organizer Brigitte Le Juez). The call for the next congress will be announced.

General Coordinator 2011-2013 Marina Grishakova