



ENCLS/REELC General Assembly, Congress Centre – Ohrid, 2nd September 2011

Meeting Started 1.25pm

Minutes taken by Dearbhla McGrath

General Coordinator Elect Marina Grishakova opened the meeting and distributed the CVs of the doctoral and post-doctoral candidates for the Executive Committee 2011-2013 to prepare the election.

Congress Organiser Sonja Stojmenska-Elzeser introduced Professor Milan Gjucinov (member of the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts) who welcomed the network that promotes collaboration between comparatists. He wished the participants a pleasant conference and donated a book on comparative literature to ENCLS.

Marina Grishakova addressed the members and announced the agenda. Following this, she presented the biennial report on the ENCLS activities in 2009-2011 compiled by former General Coordinator Nele Bemong. Issues raised in the report were as follows:

1. ICLA 2010. REELC/ENCLS was present at the XIXth Congress of the International Comparative Literature Association in Seoul, South-Korea, with a panel on “Comparative Literature, Europe(s), the World: Legacies and Perspectives”, presided by the former General Coordinators Lucia Boldrini and Nele Bemong.

2. FILLM membership. The International Federation for Modern Languages and Literatures, which had its business meeting during the Seoul conference, has approached our Network about the membership. However, the FILLM membership includes membership fee. The amount of that fee is determined on the basis of the number of members of the organisations. The ENCLS members do not have to pay a yearly contribution, and that as such, we don't have any 'income'. The FILLM will take this fact into account when discussing our possible membership, but we might still be asked for a contribution anyway. There are three options to solve the problem: a) charging membership fees; b) adding a small extra sum to the congress fees; c) There is also a possibility where the membership fee initially might be drawn from a private fund instituted for the purposes of promoting intellectual and academic activities (Lucia Boldrini).

It was agreed by a vote that the Executive Committee has the power to accept FILLM's offer of membership should it be offered and decide on fees.

3. The Website.

a) Regional moderators. A number of Regional Moderators had already been appointed in the previous years, but more are still needed from regions / languages that are still unrepresented. Regional Moderators can help by disseminating information about REELC/ENCLS in their areas, and post on the website information and announcements about events, publications, positions, in their area.

b) Self-archiving. Members were told to contact Aleš Vaupotič should they have questions as regards self-archiving.

c) Presentation of the bibliography project. Editor Olga Romanova. The project has not been quite successful. Members are invited to contribute to the bibliography.

d) Financial situation. Up till now, our Slovenian colleagues from ZRC-SAZU hosted our website and financially took care of it. Due to the ongoing financial crisis in the academic world, we should however start thinking about what happens if the Academy in Slovenia stops the funding? Applying for EU or other funds is presenting itself as necessary at this point, but we also need to consider the option that we may not get any funds, and even if we were successful it may be for a short time, or for less money than is needed. Therefore we should start exploring the option as well – together with Slovenian colleagues – whether the website can be transferred to another institution.

4. Transnational research questionnaires by Marko Juvan.

5. Possibility of conferences in collaboration with REELC/ENCLS. Apart from our biennial conferences, the REELC/ENCLS also wants to help organizing other conferences. On 25-26 November 2010, together with the Slovenian Comparative Literature Association and the ZRC SAZU Institute for Slovenian Literature and Literary Studies, we organized an international conference entitled: “The Book: An Economy of Cultural Spaces” in Ljubljana, Slovenia, 2010 capital of the book. We welcome more suggestions for co-operations of this kind.

6. The creation of the Ukrainian Association for Comparative Literature.

7. General Coordinator Elect. Marina Grishakova was elected by the EC as General Coordinator Elect, and is proposed as the EC’s official candidate for the function of General Coordinator for the following term.

8. The plans for the 5th biennial congress to be held in Madeira, Portugal (organiser Maria Teresa Nascimento).

Election

Copies of lists of candidates for the new Executive Committee were distributed. As there were only enough candidates to fill the ordinary officers’ open positions on the EC the members were asked to approve this list. The list of new and continuing officers was unanimously approved.

Doctoral and Post-doctoral candidates were introduced to the members at the meeting. It was noted that Post-doctoral candidate Jernej Habjan was unable to attend due to reasons of funding. Ballot papers were distributed with the names of candidates which were as follows:

Post-doctoral officer: Jernej Habjan, Sanna Nyqvist

Doctoral Officer: Patricia García, Sara Pesatori, Fabien Pillet.

It was agreed that Vladimir Martinovski and Marijan Dović would count the votes.

While the votes were counted, various reports and proposals were presented.

The theme for the 2013 congress in Madeira was announced as ‘Islands and Continents’. Also Brigitte Le Juez spoke about the 2015 congress being held in Dublin. A possible theme would be in relation to the Gaelic aspect of Irish culture but no fixed theme has been set yet.

Eventually a call for the 2017 congress will be published.

Karl Zeiger spoke about the ICLA conference taking place in 2013 in Paris IV. A call for papers was distributed and members were encouraged to submit abstracts for collective and individual papers.

Marko Juvan spoke about the conference in Ljubljana that was in collaboration with REELC/ENCLS and suggested that it would be good for the network to organise further such conferences to increase visibility. Also, members were encouraged to consider research ideas for European projects.

Aleš Vaupotič (webmaster) spoke about the webpage. He invited members who are involved in research projects to have them visible on the website, if they wish to do so, and invited suggestions from members on how they wish to avail of the website.

Marko Juvan suggested that the website could be a medium for publishing congress proceedings and it was suggested that an editorial board would be necessary in order to do this. Congress proceedings on the website would give continuity to the network.

Following these discussions the results of the election were heard. There were 38 votes in total. Sanna Nyqvist was elected post-doctoral officer, Sara Pesatori doctoral officer.

As such the REELC/ENCLS Executive Committee for 2011 – 2013 is as follows:

Officers

1. Marina Grishakova (General Coordinator)
2. Brigitte Le Juez
3. Olga Romanova
4. Sonja Stojmenska-Elzeser
5. César Domínguez
6. Bernard Franco
7. Sandro Jung
8. Asunción López-Varela
9. Sandra Vlasta

Ex-officio members: Lucia Boldrini (past coordinator), Jola J. Škulj (web coordinator), Aleš Vaupotič (webmaster)

Post-doctoral Officer: Sanna Nyqvist

Doctoral Officer: Sara Pesatori

Candidates who were unsuccessful in the election were asked to remain active members in the network and take on various responsibilities as co-opted members of the Executive Committee. Meeting was closed at 2.25pm