



## 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 some amendments and an undertaking to introduce further amendments to better reflect the lighter structure agreed for the Réseau/Network, at the first conference of the REELC/ENCLS at Florence, 16<sup>th</sup> of September 2005. The following is the text of the Charter as approved at the General Meeting of the REELC/ENCLS, 11 September 2009, further revised at the General Meeting of the REELC-ENCLS, September 2013.

### Article I. Name and Object

- I.1 The Name of the Network is: Réseau Européen d'études littéraires comparées/ European Network of Comparative Literary Studies (Acronym: REELC/ENCLS).
- I.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 shall provide a European space for interdisciplinary dialogues about culture, literature and literary studies. To this end, it shall promote international exchanges of and collaboration between teachers, scholars, and students, as well as generate debates, publications, and conferences, and it shall support, complement, and internationalise ongoing efforts by individuals as well as regional, national, and multinational associations of General and Comparative Literature. The European dimension of the Network will not preclude the participation or collaboration with individuals and organisations from outside Europe.
- I.3 The main tools through which the Network will carry out and develop its action shall be: the website (<http://www.eurolit.net>; <http://www.eurolit.org>; <http://www.reelc.net>; <http://www.encls.net>); the biennial Congress; the action of the Executive Committee; the General Assembly of its members.

### Article II. Membership

- II.1 The REELC/ENCLS welcomes academics, independent scholars, students, intellectuals, artists, journalists, public officials, and all those who are active or share an interest in matters concerning the comparative study of literature or general literary studies.

Any person interested in the study of General and Comparative Literature can be a member, either through the registration at the biennial conference of the Network, or through registration on the Network's website.

Any institution, research organisation, joint, regional and/or multinational association can also register its details on the Network's webpage.

- II.2 Membership shall be free until such time when it will become necessary for the survival of the Network to charge a membership fee. In that case, any fees should be set as low as reasonable. Differential fees proportional to different countries' average earnings will be considered. Alternative forms of fund-raising and/or fees for specific services (e.g. access to publications that the Network may undertake) should be considered.

Any introduction of fees shall be submitted to the General Assembly for approval.

### Article III. Executive Committee

III.1 The Network shall have an Executive Committee, whose main function will be to coordinate the activities of the Network. It will oversee current activities, and it will make and receive proposals about future activities. It will promote the mission of the Network, encouraging, facilitating, and/or agreeing on the Network's behalf to take part in collaborative and joint projects.

III.2 The Executive Committee shall consist of:

- a) A number of Executive Officers as specified by the regulations submitted to and approved by the General Assembly, and published on the Network's Website. Two posts on Executive Committee shall be reserved for one Doctoral and one Postdoctoral Officers. The Executive Officers appoint a General Coordinator from among their ranks, according to the approved regulations.
- b) Ex-officio Executive Committee members, such as: the immediate past General Coordinator; the Webmaster; the Web Coordinator overseeing relations with the web support providers.
- c) Any co-opted Executed Committee members with responsibilities concerning a specific or future activity of the network (such as conference organizers).

III.3 The term of office and eligibility of Officers, including the Doctoral and Postdoctoral Officers; the modalities for the election of Officers; the term of office and modalities of appointment of the General Coordinator will be determined by the regulations published on the Network's Website.

III.4 It will be the responsibility of the Executive Committee to set the date and location of Network biennial congresses, on the principle of geographical rotation around Europe, and seeking to ensure economic affordability for members from different parts of Europe.

It will also be the responsibility of the Executive Committee to determine and publish the deadlines for the election of Officers; to agree the Agenda for the General Assembly; to implement decisions approved by the General Assembly; to publish its decisions and actions on the Network's website, and present an account of these to the General Assembly; publish minutes of the General Assembly meetings.

III.5 The Executive Committee sets its priorities at its first meeting and delegates to its members responsibility for specific areas of activity (e.g. a collaborative research project, postgraduate matters, etc.), and will appoint any committees or sub-committees as it deems necessary to carry out the activities of the Network. These shall report to the Executive Committee.

III.6 It will be the responsibility of the Executive Committee to keep under review the question of membership fees. Any introduction of a fee and any changes to the level of fee shall be submitted to the General Assembly for approval.

If fees are at any point introduced, it will be the responsibility of the Executive Committee to fix their level (and, if appropriate, differential levels); appoint a Treasurer; determine the purposes for which the income is employed; prepare and approve annual budgets, publish them on the Network's website, and submit them to the General Assembly. It will also be the responsibility of the Executive Committee to select the country where the bank account should be held, and ensure the compliance of the Network with the relevant legislation. The Executive Committee shall also seek to raise funds through other channels so as to keep the level of fees as low as is reasonable.

III.7 The General Coordinator shall chair the Executive Committee meetings and the General Assembly of the Network's members.

The General Coordinator shall coordinate the activities of the Executive Committee, and delegate as appropriate any specific project to a member of the Executive Committee. S/he shall consult the Executive Committee on proposals for new activities and collaborations involving the Network, and on any proposed changes to the Network's Charter or regulations.

The General Coordinator, or an Executive Committee member delegated to this role, shall liaise with the Webmaster and the Web Coordinator to ensure the proper functioning and development of the Network's Website and the prompt publication and dissemination of relevant information, including procedures and deadlines for the election of Officers.

The General Coordinator shall ensure that there is a channel for the membership to propose items for consideration by the Executive Committee, and to present motions or other items for inclusion in the Agenda of the General Assembly.

The General Coordinator shall draft and agree with the Executive Committee the Agenda for the General Assembly, and publish it on the Network's Website in advance of the General Assembly.

The General Coordinator shall present, on behalf of the Executive Committee, a two-yearly report of the Network's activities to the General Assembly.

#### **Article IV. General Assembly**

IV.1 The General Assembly is the main deliberative body of the REELC/ENCLS.

IV.2 The General Assembly shall meet at the Network's biennial Congress. Its meetings shall be chaired by the General Coordinator of the Network.

The Network's Executive Committee shall submit its proposals and deliberations to the meeting General Assembly for approval, and it will follow the motions and resolutions approved by the General Assembly through majority vote.

Deadlines for proposing motions and Agenda items for discussion at the General Assembly will be communicated to the membership in good time. The Agenda of the meeting of the General Assembly will be published on the Network's website in advance of the meeting.

An Executive Officer shall serve as Recorder of the Assembly meetings. The minutes will be published on the Network's Website.

IV.3 The General Assembly shall elect the Officers of the Executive Committee according to the approved regulations.

#### **Article V. Meetings and Conferences**

V.1 The Executive Committee shall schedule an international European congress of the Network every two years. It shall work with a Local Organizing Committee to coordinate efforts for the congress, and shall appoint an ad hoc Programme Committee as appropriate. The General Assembly shall hold its general meeting on the occasion of the biennial European congress.

V.2 The Executive Committee shall select a location for each congress well in advance of the congress date, where possible in cooperation with joint regional and/or multi-national associations or federation of associations. Whenever possible, at a biennial Congress the Executive Committee should strive to have agreed the location and dates of the following Congress, and a discussion about the location of the Congress to follow four years later should also commence. Locations for the congress shall be selected on the principle of geographical rotation.

V.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.

V.4 The Network's Executive Committee, in conjunction with the Programme Committee, shall approve the theme of the congress and review the procedures for evaluating proposals and the content of the congress.

V.5 A slot shall be reserved for the meeting of the General Assembly at each Congress. The Local organisers should liaise with the Executive Committee to ensure that a meeting of the Executive Committee can take place before the General Assembly.

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

VI.1 This Charter may be altered or amended by the Executive Committee on a resolution originating in the General Assembly or proposed by the Executive Committee itself, and confirmed by majority vote at the General Assembly.

VI.2 Amendments submitted to the General Assembly should be published on the Network's website in advance of a General Assembly, and will be a substantial item in the Agenda of the meeting of the General Assembly.

The original Charter was approved and signed On 3 May 2003 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.

These revisions entrusted by the General Assembly, September 2005 and September 2007, to the Executive Committee and its General Coordinator and approved by the General Assembly at its Meeting in Vilnius, 11 September 2009.