



## Results of the ISHA New Year's Questionnaire 2009/2010

The questionnaire was filled in by representatives of 23 sections. Not all of these sections paid their membership fee for this year, so at the 31<sup>st</sup> of July we will see how many of these can actually be considered member sections. We are confident though that this questionnaire is very clear and helpful in running ISHA. Please mind that the results reflect the status of ISHA around New Year, some data might be already outdated.

Sections that filled in the Questionnaire: Nicosia; Helsinki; Turku/Åbo; Leuven; Marburg; Heidelberg; Berlin; Utrecht; Sofia; Vilnius; Kaunas; Zagreb; Rome; Osijek; Galway; Pula; Belgrade; Ljubljana; Groningen; Nijmegen; Salzburg; Msida; Pisa.

### Status of Sections

11 out of 23 sections stated that they are part of a bigger local student organization.

10 out of 23 sections stated that they are an independent student organization.

2 out of 23 sections stated that they are organizations coordinating the international activities of several other student organizations.

### Numbers

- In all the universities where these ISHA sections are based, there are approximately 13.000 students studying history (in many facets like political history, social history etcetera). This number reflects the theoretical reach of ISHA at this point.
- The active members of the ISHA sections combined count 292 members. This means an ISHA-section has about 13 members in general.
- 17,4% of the sections think their numbers will decrease in the near future, 47,8% see their numbers stabilize, and 34,8% expect to grow.
- 47,8% of the sections find it difficult to attract new members, 30,4% however encounter no problems in this. 4 sections gave vague answers here, so they are not counted. For the spread of ISHA it is a good thought that 82,6% sees possibilities to promote ISHA in other universities. We are awaiting results 😊.
- The number of students in affiliated local organizations adds up to about 1200 students, who are in close reach of ISHA promotion.

Please note that the numbers are very diverse and do not reflect the situation that well. The numbers of students go from 1000+ studying in Berlin to only 100 in Pula. The number of active students in ISHA is also very different from one another. Every section should have at least 10 members to be considered a healthy section.

Bachelor/Master/PhD distribution is as expected. The far majority of people active in ISHA is bachelor (70%), next to 25% Master-students, and 5% PhD-students. A few students are outside the Bologna system, but they have been calculated in these numbers as being either Bachelor, Master or PhD student.

### Thoughts about ISHA

- 95,7% thinks ISHA is working democratically. One section abstained from answering, because they do not know the organization that well yet to reflect on this point.
- 87,0% thinks there are enough possibilities for students to join ISHA events. The ones that did not, argue that transport costs are very high, which excludes a lot of their students from joining events.

- 91,3% of the sections state that there is a balance in gender within ISHA. One section notices an overrepresentation of females. One section abstained. This issue is important as gender equality is not everywhere a natural thing, and ISHA wants to contribute to treat everybody equally, disregarding sex.
- Almost all of the sections state they have no problem paying the membership fee, though Galway has problems 'bringing up' such a fee, as apparently this means vomiting. There is one section that has serious problems getting this fee together.

## Information

- 87,0% of the sections says information reaches them in time. Four sections emphasized that information should reach them earlier to do sufficient promotion.
- 95,7% of the sections state that contact with the International Board and the Council members is easy enough. Quick response would be appreciated.
- 17,4% of the sections encounter problems with English, though three of these stated that this goes only for some of their members. Some sections mentioned that it does form an obstacle to join ISHA in the first place.

Of the means of spreading information, Facebook and the News section on the website were the most popular. All the other options got ticked as well, so it is the task to focus on some, but not to forget the other channels of communication.

Also, many sections made use of this opportunity to do some recommendations for ISHA. We will take everything into account, so that ISHA will be what you want it to be. We thank all the sections to fill in the questionnaires.

Yours historically,

The International Board 2009-2010  
 Frerik Kampman, *president*  
 Elsa Mäki-Reinikka, *secretary*  
 Marko Smokvina, *treasurer*