



# General Assembly

This meeting was held during the Annual Conference in Jena, on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 2012.

## ISHA sections present:

- Berlin
- Bucharest
- Groningen
- Helsinki
- Jena
- Leuven
- Maribor
- Marburg
- Nijmegen
- Osijek
- Pula
- Reykjavik
- Rome
- Sofia
- Thessaloniki
- Trieste-Koper
- Turku/Åbo
- Utrecht
- Zagreb

## Observing sections:

- Belgrade
- Budapest
- Ljubljana
- Saint-Etienne

*Present members of the International Board:* Stephanie Bakker (President), Jernej Kotar (Vice-President), Sanna Hellstedt (Secretary), Marjolein Vos (Treasurer).

*Present members of the Council and the Treasury Committee:* Björn Reynir Halldórsson (Reykjavik), Lia Hamminga (Nijmegen)

**Agenda:**

1) **Opening**

2) **Appointment of Speaker**

3) **Appointment of Minute-Taker**

4) **Taking down of Attendance, checking the Quorum**

5) **Reading the agenda**

6) **Review of minutes of the GA in Belgrade**

7) **Upcoming events**

- *Summer Seminar 2012: Bucharest*
- *Autumn Seminar 2012: Zagreb*
- *New Year's Seminar 2012: Ljubljana*
- *Annual Conference 2013: ?*
- *Summer Seminar 2013: Berlin*

8) **State of Affairs**

- a) International Board*
- b) Council*
- c) Carnival Editor*
- d) Treasury Committee*
- e) Webmaster*
- f) Sections and Observers*

9) **Cooperation with other organizations**

- *IFISO*
- *Right to Research Coalition*
- *ClioWorld*

10) **Presentation of the Annual Report 2010-2011**

11) **Presentation of the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the Carnival**

12) **Approval of the minutes of the GA in Belgrade**

13) **Elections of the officials 2012-2013**

- *Presentation of the candidates*
- *Voting*

14) **Questions and Closing**

**1. Opening** at 16.00.

**2. Appointment of Speaker:** Stephanie Bakker is appointed.

**3. Appointment of Minute-taker:** Sanna Hellstedt is appointed.

**4. Taking down attendance of Attendance, checking the Quorum:** A list is passed around. In the year 2011-2012 there are 21 paying sections of which 19 are present at the GA. Thus the requirement of 2/3 of the sections is established.

**5. Reading the Agenda:** Stephanie reads the agenda.

#### **6. Review of Minutes of the GA in Belgrade**

- Minutes of the GA in Belgrade are passed around. Stephanie goes through them page by page and clarifies that the Statutes and Standing Orders have been changed in Turku and Belgrade respectively. She also updates the GA about ISHA's relocation: Council member Valentina (Rome) is currently looking into the moving issue. At the moment the IB is leaning towards staying in Switzerland and registering in the trade register there instead of moving the whole organisation. Moving would require a lot of work and be probably more expensive. Furthermore no-one knows about the future so staying in one country is as good as in any other.

#### **7. Upcoming events**

- **Summer Seminar 2012 in Bucharest:** Bucharest has been kind enough to offer their city for the Summer Seminar 2012 when there were no other interested sections. Bogdan tells that the exact dates are not yet known but the Seminar will probably take place during the first week of July. The period for subscribing will be 23-29.4.2012, the theme will be Art in History and they are expecting around 60 participants. At the moment everything is going well with the preparations and more information will follow soon.
- **Autumn Seminar 2012 in Zagreb:** Mišo informs the GA that while there are still some issues with financing, planning for the Seminar is going well. Zagreb too is expecting around 60 people and they already have a hostel and a place for meals. The Seminar will take place 24.-30.9.2012.
- **New Year's Seminar 2012 in Ljubljana:** Jernej tells that the preparations are in good order: they have topics for workshops but they are trying to find a hostel. There should be place for around 30-40 participants.

- **Annual Conference 2013 in ?** Stephanie emphasizes the importance of an Annual Conference and says that the spot for it in 2013 is still open. She asks whether any section would be prepared to have it. There are no volunteers and therefore Stephanie encourages people to think about this and consult those at home. The IB will also keep searching for locations outside the GA.
- **Summer Seminar 2013 in Berlin:** Berlin has expressed their interest in organizing the Summer Seminar 2013. Vincent mentions that they have new engaged members and that they have already started looking for a hostel and a possible topic for the Seminar. They are ready to accommodate 30-50 people, depending on the hostel. The dates are 15-23.7.2013.
- **Later Seminars:** Stephanie asks whether other sections would be interested in organizing later Seminars. Petya (Sofia) tells that Sofia might be able to do that but that they need to think more about it. Björn (Reykjavik) also mentions that there has been talk about this in Reykjavik.

## 8. State of Affairs

### a) International Board

- The whole International Board is present at the GA. Stephanie brings up a change in the IB's formation as Frerik has resigned and Marjolein taken over his responsibilities. She has been previously in the Treasury Committee, a Council Member this year and a candidate in Pula for the position of the Treasurer. She then lost only by two votes to Frerik. Stephanie asks for comments or questions concerning this and when there is none, the GA votes unanimously in favor of Marjolein being officially the Treasurer.
- Stephanie informs the GA about sad news concerning the European Union grant application (Youth in Action): ISHA was not granted it this year. There is however another project next year. Niels asks what went wrong with the application. Stephanie replies that the system was about giving points and we simply did not get enough of them. ISHA's lowest score was to do with not concurring with the objectives of the section about Youth in Action. This is strange because not that much has changed in our application since the previous year. Björn asks whether this is about luck, to which Stephanie answers that some organisations are more professional and that they have people who have experience with filing these kinds of applications. Petra (Bucharest) mentions that there are people in Bucharest who have experience with this and they would be willing to help. Saša (Pula) in turn points out that the precise objectives change every year and that ISHA should be more aware of that.
- Marjolein announces that sections can now start paying for the New Year and preferably by bank transfers as we can only take a limited amount of cash payments and do not accept cheques. Marjolein will also give the bank details for this. Stephanie reminds everyone that sections can also pay during the two following Seminars and this Conference.

## **b) Council**

- **Björn:** Björn's task has been to give light to ISHA's history and in order to do so he has been sending e-mails and asking for documents. He has been in contact with some old ISHA Presidents from the 1990s and they have promised to send him their files. Björn has also had contact with archives in Leuven and Pieter (Leuven) has offered to help him in this regard. Björn has also been in contact with Nenad (Belgrade) who has approached a person working at the Austrian Embassy in Belgrade. Björn tells that Nenad has already interviewed him but that interview is inaccessible at the moment due to the breaking down of Nenad's computer. Furthermore, Björn asks the sections present at the GA to find out if they have any old documents.
- **Valentina:** Like mentioned already above, Valentina is currently looking into the registration in Switzerland.
- **Marjolein:** Marjolein is still busy with the Board of Patrons which could be finished in Zagreb at the earliest. Marjolein reminds the sections that if they still want to suggest a possible Patron, they can send it to Marjolein and she will prepare a short-list for later.
- **Anastasia:** Anastasia has been looking into getting the Carnival more noticeable in the Internet in different databases.

## **c) Carnival Editor**

- The current Carnival has an Editor, Dubravko Aladić (Osijek), who was assigned after the GA in Belgrade but the current GA needs to officially appoint him. Stephanie suggests a vote and all sections are in favor of choosing him, none against. Therefore Dubravko is now officially the Editor-in-chief for Carnival vol. 14 (2012). The call for papers is already available online and they will be also distributed during this Conference.

## **d) Treasury Committee**

- Lia has already been in contact with the other member of the Treasury Committee Tina (Ljubljana) and they have agreed on finishing the report after Jena. They are still waiting for further instructions.
- Stephanie reminds the GA that we still need one more person for next year's Committee. The work would basically be checking the work of Frerik and Marjolein. It should not be of too much work but all the more important in order to ensure that nothing strange happens to ISHA's money.

## **e) Webmaster**

- Stephanie tells that the newsletter is working and there are new things on the website. She urges people to visit it more often as for example you can now make your section page to look more individual. Sections should contact Fabian concerning this.

- Fabian is still working as the webmaster but he has been that for a long time already and we should let someone first work with Fabian and then take it over gradually. After this GA we should hopefully have a second webmaster.

#### f) Sections and Observers

- Because of the limited time, Stephanie asks only the sections with real news to speak out. Before that she gives the floor to the observers who get the opportunity to introduce themselves.
- **Saint-Etienne:** Anthony tells the GA that there is not yet a local section but they are really happy to be in Jena and find it very pleasant. The participants here consist of students of history and geography.
- **Budapest:** Bálint says that Budapest used to have a section and it is where ISHA started from and that they now intend to bring Budapest back to ISHA. There is interest in participating in ISHA activities. Bálint will tell his colleagues what he has seen in Jena and he promises to keep in contact.
- **Osijek:** Tihana recommends that people should take a look at their magazine, the Essehist. She also tells that there is now a new generation in Osijek.
- **Helsinki:** The new President for ISHA Helsinki, Tiia, is present at the GA and informs others that a new board was elected in January with a new generation of ISHA actives.
- **Sofia:** Sofia also has a new board and Petya says that they will send some of them to the next Seminar.
- **Nijmegen:** Lia tells that even though Nijmegen is not really active anymore in ISHA, the local student organization has agreed to continue paying the participation fee for the next years.

#### 9. Cooperation with other organizations

- There is not that much news on this front.
- **IFISO:** Stephanie suggests that we might want to have a Council member responsible for this in the next year. IFISO contains of student organizations, some of which are a lot more professional than ISHA. This is why we could learn from them but cooperation in this is quite a lot to handle so a task for one Council member could be to focus on this.
- **Right to Research Coalition:** Stephanie has had a meeting with Nick Shockey from the Right to Research Coalition. The Right to Research Coalition is an American organization for free and available research which many academic journals often are not. They have already before asked ISHA to support their views. Stephanie urges people to take a look at their website and tell about their own opinions later.

- **Cliohworld:** Sven (Jena) tells about ISHA having had a partnership with Cliohworld in the past and that it was about a project which contained different organizations from various countries. The project is over now but now there is a possibility of a new project, Clioh+, about democracy, historical culture and life-long learning. They have applied for funding and if they do get it and ISHA becomes their partner, participants from ISHA would get travel costs reimbursed.
- **Euroclio:** Stephanie has been in contact with Euroclio, the association of history educators, and they have made ISHA an offer. Stephanie only read their e-mail about it today so it is all still very vague. She suggests that the new and old boards should discuss the matter together.
- **IHSA Conference in Galway:** Stephanie went to Galway to take part in their IHSA Conference in March. It was a very nice event and Stephanie hopes that there would be more Irish participants in ISHA Seminars in the future.

#### **10. Presentation of the Annual Report 2010-2011**

- Sven, in the role of Vice-President for 2010-2011, informs the GA about the Annual Report for their term. The Report covers the ISHA activities for that period. It is available online and there is a copy of it present at the current GA.

#### **11. Presentation of the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the Carnival**

- Stephanie tells that the Carnival, which she personally edited, from last year is finally here. It is passed around. Every copy of it should have been available in Jena but due to a misunderstanding in an e-mail, there are only seven copies present. There are 150 in total, one for each contributor and observer section, two for full sections. There is a question of who should get the present copies and Sven suggests that the people who know that they are going to participate in future Seminars should not take one now.

#### **12. Approval of the minutes of the GA in Belgrade**

- The Minutes of the GA in Belgrade have been passed around and small modifications have been made on the papers. They should be later handed over to Sanna for final alteration. All sections agree unanimously on the approval of the Minutes, none are against.

Break at 16:55.

Continues at 17:06.

### 13. Election of the Officials 2012-2013

- Stephanie suggests that the election of the new Officials for 2012-2013 will start by appointing an Election Committee and suggests Lia and Saša for this task. The GA votes in favor of this unanimously, none are against.
- Copies of the candidates' motivation letters have been passed around. There is time for people to read them after which each candidate gives a short presentation and answers possible questions. After that the candidates must leave the room when there will be time for discussion for the rest of the GA. The voting will take place subsequent to the returning of the candidates.

- **Presentation of the Candidates for the International Board 2012-2013:**

- **Sven Mörsdorf** (ISHA Jena), candidate for President

Sven tells that he has been working for ISHA in the Council, the Carnival, the International Board and now he has been responsible for the organization of this Conference. He likes ISHA and it is the most important thing for him. Sven would like to continue neglecting his studies for ISHA in the future too. He has gained a lot of experience through ISHA and would like to contribute more. Like mentioned in his motivation letter, Sven has a four-point view for ISHA: he would like to promote it, build a good team, improve communication and seek funding from the EU and by other means. Furthermore he would like to help existing sections to stay alive and help found new ones.

- **Marko Morović** (ISHA Zagreb), candidate for Secretary

Marko has been active in ISHA for many years now and earlier he was the President of ISHA Zagreb for two years. He has had to do a lot of secretarial and administrative work and would like to give something back to ISHA in this way – he wants to see the IB function properly.

- **Anne Greule** (ISHA Jena), candidate for Treasurer

Anne announces her candidacy during the GA when there are no other volunteers for the position of the Treasurer. She first applied for the Carnival's Editor-in-Chief for the next year and in her motivation letter she wrote that she sees great potential in ISHA. Supporting ISHA is very important to her and a necessity. Anne has been active in ISHA Jena ever since it was founded in 2010: she has proved to be reliable and a person who can do the job. These she sees needed from a Treasurer.

- **Presentation of the Candidates for the Council 2012-2013:**

- **Tihana Sedlar** (ISHA Osijek)

Tihana has applied for a Council member because she is an active member in ISHA Osijek, now being their Secretary. She considers herself to be reliable and able to help the IB in its work.

- **Dario Prati** (ISHA Berlin)

Dario has decided to apply on a short notice but he hopes to be able to help and support the IB and the other Council members in their important work. He is looking forward to doing this.

- **Pieter Baeten** (ISHA Leuven)

Pieter has been interested in ISHA since he was a freshman and he tries to participate as much as possible in ISHA events - this is his third time now. He would like to work in the Council to look more into the archives and the history of ISHA. He finds it a shame that history students know so little about their own past.

- **Cédric Suttels** (ISHA Leuven)

Cédric sees himself as an impulsive and hard worker who got interested in ISHA in the Leuven Seminar.

- **Marko Ožegović** (ISHA Zagreb)

Marko wants to give something back to ISHA as he has been a member for three years now. Especially he looks forward to reviving the section in Split.

- **Presentation of the Candidates for the Treasury Committee 2012-2013:**

- **Björn Reynir Halldórsson** (ISHA Reykjavik)

Björn decided to candidate only yesterday and would like for people to vote for him.

- **Jernej Kotar** (ISHA Ljubljana)

Jernej volunteers at the GA to the Treasury Committee but his candidacy is rejected because he is part of the current IB.

- **Níels Pálmi Skovsgård Jónsson** (ISHA Reykjavik)

Níels asks how many hours the job would involve and Marjolein answers to him that it only takes 10-20 hours in total. He volunteers at the GA to the Treasury Committee but his candidacy is rejected because the Committee members need to be from different sections. Petra wonders why this does not apply to the IB to which Stephanie replies that the Committee work is more about checking the books.

- **Max Boguslaw** (ISHA Berlin)

Max volunteers at the GA to the Treasury Committee and his candidacy is found eligible. Max tells that he will do a good job because of his vast experience in ISHA before and because he is currently the Treasurer of ISHA Berlin. He wants to give something back.

- **Presentation of the Candidates for the Webmaster 2012-2013:**

- **Fabian Würtz** (ISHA Zürich)

Stephanie speaks on behalf of Fabian and says that he has been the Webmaster for many years now but he would like to continue in this role. Stephanie also tells that there should be someone to help him with this task.

- **Andraž Kamenik** (ISHA Maribor)

Andraž has volunteered for being the other Webmaster. He is already the Webmaster and founder of another historical website so he is familiar with managing websites.

- **Presentation of the Candidate for the Editor-in-Chief of Carnival 2013:**

- Originally Anne Greule had applied to this position but as she now is running for the Treasurer, there is an opening. Stephanie asks if anyone is interested in this.

- **Simona Barbu** (ISHA Bucharest)

Petra (Bucharest) says that Simona would be interested in the position. Petra, speaking on behalf of Simona, continues by telling that editing is not new to Simona as she does it in her work. She is on the second year of her PhD.

- Stephanie thanks everyone who has applied and tried to apply. She clarifies that when it comes to the Webmaster, sections should vote either for one person, two people or just blank. She also states that there is now time for questions.

- Marjolein asks Sven where he intends to seek for funding, besides the EU grant. Sven answers that as soon as ISHA's registration is final, we should start inviting people to make donations that can be reduced in taxes. ISHA does not have a status that would permit this right now but hopefully things will change soon.

- There are no further questions. Stephanie asks all the candidates to leave the room for discussion after which they will be called back.

- The GA votes in favor for the electoral committee to speak freely. Lia states that Sven's candidacy is a good thing but questions whether Sven will be the only one having a voice in the IB for the next year, considering that he has very strong

opinions. Saša says that the Council and the sections would need to help the IB and that it is good to have IB members that are from the same section, this makes cooperation easier. He also adds that he has strong faith in Marko's abilities as a secretary. Petra continues by saying that we should have more options so the best possible team could be built. People seem to be scared to run for Officials now and they should be encouraged to do something. Bogdan says that it is not normal to have only one candidate or none for each position. Saša sees there to be a generation gap where the old are slowly moving away and the new ones have not that much experience yet. Niels is worried about the small number of observers and says that there should be more free time before the GA because many people now see this as free time.

- There is also discussion of whether it is a conflict of interests if a candidate acts as the person voting for their section. Stephanie answers that voters should be seen as representatives and Saša continues that going into this would bring out the question of proxy votes again. Karoliina (Turku) asks whether the Council is flexible when it comes to its number to which Stephanie replies that there are five places. Stephanie also thanks ISHA Bucharest for their comments and admits that there is a problem of people not getting involved and the younger should step up already. She urges the sections to encourage people in their home sections to do something for ISHA too, especially when they are already involved in other student organizations. The situation in Jena has not been good as there has been a need to talk and ask people personally still during the Conference.
- The candidates are asked back inside.

- **Voting:**

- Saša asks everyone to hide the voting. He clears the voting rules: ballots are given faced down, they should not be opened yet and they have all been stamped to make them official. There are 21 ballots of which two are destroyed as two sections are not present (Prague and St. Petersburg). Saša announces that the ballots can be opened and the voting can officially start.
- There are 19 returned ballots so every eligible section has voted. Saša and Lia count the votes and announce the votes given for the International Board as they go. Votes for the other officials are declared later.

- The votes are:
  - **International Board:** Sven (13/19), Marko M. (18/19) and Anne (15/19)
  - **Council:** Tihana (19/19), Dario (17/19), Pieter (18/19), Cédric (18/19), Marko O. (19/19)
  - **Treasury Committee:** Björn (18/19), Max (18/19)
  - **Webmaster:** Fabian (17/19), Andraž (19/19)
  - **Editor-in-Chief:** Simona (18/19)
- All the eligible candidates were therefore elected.
- More about the election procedure can be found in the Election Committee Report attached to the Jena minutes.
- Stephanie and the rest of the International Board 2011-2012 congratulate the newly elected Officials for 2012-2013.

#### 14. Questions and Closing

- Stephanie reminds everyone that there are still t-shirts available for purchasing for 18 Euros. She also urges to fill in the Evaluation Form for Jena later.
- Speaker closes the GA at 17.49.