



## **General Assembly (GA)**

of the International Students of History Association, held at the ISHA Autumn Seminar 2013 on Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013, in Vilnius, Lithuania.

### **ISHA sections present:**

Berlin (Germany): Nina Kraus, Daria Lohmann, Sven Arndt, Sergey Abrosimov, Anni Birke, Vincent Regente

Rome (Italy): Irene Del Vecchio, Flavia Tudini, Andrea Spicciarelli (Bologna)

Vilnius (Lithuania): Akvilė Gasiulytė

Zagreb (Croatia): Lara Zelić, Marko Čičko

### **Observing sections:**

Helsinki (Finland): Sanna Supponen

Leuven (Belgium): Pieter Baeten

Marburg (Germany): Ulrike Döbel, Björn Bürger, Sven Mörsdorf

Prague (Czech Republic): Barbora Hrubá

Reykjavik (Iceland): Björn Reynir Halldórsson

### *Present members of the International Board (IB)*

Mišo Petrović (Zagreb), president

Dario Prati (Berlin), vice-president

Max Boguslaw (Berlin), treasurer

### *Present members of the Council:*

Vincent Regente (Berlin), Björn Reynir Halldórsson (Reykjavik), Barbora Hrubá (Prague), Pieter Baeten (Leuven)

## **Agenda**

**1. Opening, taking down of attendance**

**2. Appointment of the speaker and the minute-taker; checking the quorum**

**3. Passing around the minutes of previous meetings, amendments and approvals**

**4. Reading and discussion of the agenda**

### **5. State of Affairs**

**a. International Board**

**b. Council**

**c. Treasury Committee**

**d. Carnival**

**e. Sections and Observers**

### **6. Upcoming events**

**7. Preparations for Budapest Conference and ISHA Alumni Network**

**8. ISHA Archives and How to ISHA**

**9. Debate: Participation fee, Financial Compensation for Officials, and System of Loans for Officials**

**10. Questions and Closing**

**1) Opening, taking down of attendance:** The president opened the session at 15:10. The attendance list was passed around. There is no quorum, so there will be no voting during this GA.

**2) Appointment of the speaker and the minute-taker:** Dario Prati was appointed as speaker and Mišo Petrović as minute-taker.

**3) Passing around the minutes of previous meetings, amendments and approvals:** The minutes from Berlin will be presented in Helsinki together with minutes from GA Vilnius.

**4) Reading and discussion of the agenda:** The agenda is explained and passes unchanged.

## **5) State of Affairs**

### **f. International Board**

The IB explained its and Council's work until the present day. The term has started, and after long and careful discussion, tasked has been assigned.

Presentation of Policy Plan for 2013/14.

#### Communication

- Optimise existing procedures of internal communication within ISHA (International Board, Council, Treasury Committee)
- Improve and develop structures of external communication by:
  - Supporting event organizers
  - Keeping in contact with local sections
  - Promoting activities of member sections
- Enhance the active role of section members during GA and SAM, and encourage individuals to help ISHA officials with their tasks by forming commissions who will work on certain issues
- Improve the newsletter and enhance the using of social network channels to promote and inform ISHA sections and the general public by promoting ISHA through the medias

#### Expanding and Promotion

- Spread ISHA into countries where there is no sections by promoting ISHA in local languages and where possible by presenting it at local events/home universities
- Help and encourage formation of new sections by maintaining a strong contact with existing sections and constituting a permanent platform of support for those sections
- Support sections in difficulties by providing assistance and advices (encourage sections in difficulty to report to the IB as early as possible in order to prevent situation from worsening)
- Work on promoting ISHA by regularly updating the web page, social networks, and brochures
- Consolidate the Board of Patrons – make ISHA more recognizable

#### Professionalization

- Improve and consolidate the Statutes and Standing Orders in order to compare to professional student organisations
- Standardize ISHA events by setting up guidelines and sets of requirements that have to be met, and find a clear system for event applications for ISHA officials
- *Carnival* – improve the quality, search for additional funding and promotion as well as advertising
- Constantly improve the *How to ISHA* manual, and create officials manual(s)

#### Financial basis

- Optimize money – find additional sponsors, donations, foundations
- Evaluate the real demand for ISHA products, and how to distribute them
- Have a clear and thorough discussion on how to allocate money at ISHA's disposal
- Examine the requirements for seeking funding from various institutions (e.g. UNESCO and Council of Europe)

#### On-going tasks and questions

- Expand Archive and making it available for general public
- Celebrate 25 years of ISHA at the Budapest Conference, 2014
- Continue with collaboration and affiliations with various scholarly and student networks:
  - Euroclio, Network of Concerned Historians, The Right 2 Research Coalition
  - Find new partners who share our goals and values
- Have a constant debate on the future of ISHA: should ISHA remain a neutral organization or should we commit to political activism? In the latter case, how will we define it (human rights, anti-discrimination, student interest, ...)?

Max gave a report about financial situation. It is very good. 15 sections have already paid membership fee for the 2013/2014, and several more sections will be paying their membership fee soon.

#### **g. Council**

##### Bálint Bak (Budapest)

Bálint is working on Budapest Conference. Financial and organization situation looks promising. More details under section Preparations for Budapest Conference

##### Barbora Hrubá (Prague)

Participated in the EGEA Conference in Poland. They international association of geography students, and we can learn much from them. There is a proposal to cooperate with them. They can partake in some of our future events, present their organization, and also organize a workshop on fundraising. Barbora also started communication between ISHA Marburg, ISHA Zagreb with EGEA sections from those cities.

##### Björn Reynir Halldórsson (Reykjavik)

Bjorn will be in charge of all social networks: facebook, twitter, academia.edu, linkedin, YouTube (promote ISHA with videos). Sections are asked to help with providing videos for YouTube channel. Other task is updating website with materials from Archives.

##### Pieter Baeten (Leuven)

Working on archives. Only 2 sections have answered the call to send their archives. Leuven archives will be digitalized in future (unknown when) which will task of updating website with archive materials make easier. For Budapest Conference, Pieter is working on finding Alumni contacts in Archive materials, and also on Exhibition for Conference (more under Preparations for Budapest Conference)

##### Vincent Regente (Berlin)

Working on Manual what to send for archives. Proposal will be max 2 pages, and will be done by Helsinki proposal. Vincent's main task is contact list, where he suggested an update of contact info, which means that more info will be asked from sections, which in turn will improve communication between IB and sections.

#### **h. Annual Report**

Annual reports of past two boards (IB 2011/12 and IB 2012/13) will be both done by Budapest GA. [Note: Annual report of IB 2011/12 was done by December 2013, while IB 2012/13 decided not to make their Annual report)

#### **i. Carnival**

There is a concern regarding the quality of English of current Carnival. It was suggested to postpone the publishing, and ask ISHA Kent for help with proofreading. Works on new number of Carnival are well under way.

## j. Sections and Observers

Rome (Italy): Sections has 20 official members. They have started a communication with universities in Spain, and Bologna. There will be some joint projects with their professors.

Marburg (Germany): Section is still feeling fatigue after New Years' Eve seminar. They have proposed their faculty to finance their travelling costs for ISHA events.

Zagreb (Croatia): Section has 27 members, and this year they decided to adapt their organization to ISHA International role model: there are IB and Council with 6 council members. Big plan for next academic year: to celebrate 20 years of ISHA Zagreb.

Helsinki (Finland): Section is involved in Regional seminar that will include all history organizations in Finland. There they will present ISHA. Also, they are organizing the upcoming ISHA seminar!

Leuven (Belgium): Kring Historia is the main focus of Leuven section, but they hope that some freshmen will decide to go to ISHA. President, who has no experience in ISHA, will be the contact person, but it was suggested that Pieter be also consulted.

Reykjavik (Iceland): Section is in problems. There are no leadership and no plans for future. They were able to publish journal, which was presented during GA.

Prague (Czech Republic): They weren't active during the summer. Now is the start of new academic year, so they will see the situation. Previously, they were involved in 2<sup>nd</sup> interdisciplinary summer seminar.

Berlin (Germany): Section organized the last ISHA event. Now they are trying to attract more students through idea of Museum crawl.

Vilnius (Lithuania): Are here organizing stuff! ☺

In their own eyes they are not ISHA. They have local organization in which every student can participate, and ISHA is just one of the project inside this organization.

## 6) Upcoming Events

1. *The 2013 Education, Training and Youth Forum: "Working together for Reforms", October 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>*, organized by the European Commission in Bruxelles, Belgium, emphasising the need for policy makers and key stakeholders to work in partnership, in order to foster the successful implementation of reforms at national and regional level, in particular through the opportunities offered by the new "Erasmus+" programme. To prepare an open and rich discussion at the Forum, all stakeholders are called upon to take part in the online consultation set up by EUCIS-LLL and make their voice heard. Read their [INFONOTE](#) and take part in the [SURVEY: Erasmus+: new opportunities for partnerships?](#) before 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2013.

2. *Spring Annual Conference*, organized by EUROCLIO in Ohrid, Macedonia, between March 31 – April 6 2014. The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference is expected to be one of the most significant events in the history of EUROCLIO Annual Conferences. It is the first time, history associations of Western Balkans are united to host an international conference on history education. Everyone is invited to come and experience a professional training **course** with around 200 history, heritage, citizenship educators from all over Europe and beyond, explore rich & challenging history of Balkans, engage yourself in important discussions around multiperspective approach to History and Heritage in Republic of Macedonia and History Education beyond Borders in Europe and the World and address the shared and layered heritage around Ohrid locally and in the wider region.

3. *Regional Seminar "Inspired by people and events", October 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>*, organized by Association of students of History "Dr. Milan Vasic" in Banja Luka. It will have 40 participants divided in two workshops.

English

4. *ISHA New Year's Seminar 2013-14: "Vice, Violence and Crime: Conspicuous Aspects of Human Society", December 29<sup>th</sup>-January 4<sup>th</sup>, Helsinki (Finland)*

Application Period: September 30<sup>th</sup>-October 3<sup>th</sup>.

Participation fee: 100 euros

5. *ISHA Weekend Seminar 2014: Sofia (Bulgaria)*

ISHA Sofia is thinking about organizing a Spring Weekend Seminar for 40 participants.

6. *ISHA Annual Conference 2014: Budapest (Hungary)*

Bálint Bak is the main organizer and can be contacted for questions; they also have a website and a Facebook page. An exhibition of documents and photographs about the beginnings of ISHA will be organized, everyone interested to help in organization can contact IB.

7. *ISHA Summer Seminar 2014: Ljubljana (Slovenia)*

Planning has already started. Potential topic is *Crises and Development* but more info is to follow.

8. *EAUH Conference 2014: Cities in Europe, Cities in the World, 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> September, Lisbon (Portugal)*

The next European Association for Urban History Conference will be held in Lisbon. Organizers kindly asked ISHA to organize a student session, if anyone is interested in session or urban history one can contact Sven Mörsdorf at [urban@isha-international.org](mailto:urban@isha-international.org). More info about Conference can be found on the official website.

9. *ISHA Autumn Seminar 2014: Pula (Croatia)*

More info will follow soon.

10. *ISHA New Years' Seminar 2014-15: "Love and War", December 29<sup>th</sup>-January 4<sup>th</sup>, Maribor (Slovenia)*

Topic of the New Years' Seminar will be "Love and War", and it will be held from December 29<sup>th</sup> to January the 4<sup>th</sup> 2014-2015. Four workshops will be divided by historical periods. There will be place for 40 participants, and participation fee will be 100 €.

### **10. Conference 2015 is still free!**

11. *ISHA Summer Seminar 2015: Skopje (Macedonia)*

More info will follow!

12. *ISHA Autumn Seminar 2015*

Belgrade section is interested to host the Autumn Seminar, more info will follow.

13. *ISHA New Years' Seminar 2015-16*

Zagreb section is interested to host the New Years' Seminar.

**Change of the speaker and the minute-taker:** Dario Prati had to step down as speaker. Instead Mišo Petrović was appointed as speaker and Pieter Baeten as minute-taker.

### **7. Preparations for Budapest Conference and ISHA Alumni Network**

Preparation for Budapest Conference are well under way. Budapest has applied for Višegrad and European Network Remembrance and Solidarity (ENRS). Total finances should not exceed 12,000 euros, but conference will be only 6 days, up to 100 people in 10 workshops. Partners Haver (Jewish organization on remembrance) and EUROCLIO are planning to organize a joint workshop: How to work on sensitive issues in school environment.

After several suggestions and a discussion, the GA decided to propose some ideas to Budapest (which will depend on conversation with organizers, which will be done after GA). GA decided that we should focus on ideas in this order: workshop How to ISHA. Goals should be to give answers on what is ISHA, how to improve ISHA in general (lectures, workshops). Training workshop on fundraising (there is interested and experienced lecturer available). Sven (Marburg) remarks that this conflict with How to ISHA but Daria (Berlin) remarks that this is a specialized workshop, not as broad as How to ISHA. Presentation of/by partner organization (lectures and fair which should display their projects, published works, leaflets, and so on). Panel debates, invitation to old ISHA members who will then present about their experiences and current live during those debates.

Alumni network: Nina (Berlin) remarks that students should be able to exchange projects they are working on like in EUROCLIO conferences, and that this way research can be more spread out. Sven (Marburg) remarks schedule is tight so not many things can be added. Ulrike (Marburg) mentions that applicants should choose the one thing they want when applying for conference. Sven (Marburg) remarks this is difficult for small sections because they cannot be represented in all workshops and that joining should not be mandatory. Question should be asked if future applicants would be interested in additional workshops and the possibility to swap workshops if sections are overrepresented. Presentation of partners and alumni would be good, but they would need to do it on their own, because Budapest cannot offer financial support. They first need to be contacted with question if they want to come.

Sven (Marburg) tells about plan for celebration. 500 euros are secured for celebration dinner, during which participant will enjoy in exhibition with posters, pictures and statements by old ISHA people. First ISHA president will have a short lecture during this..

## **8. ISHA Archives and How to ISHA**

Already covered. Manual will be created before Helsinki GA. How to ISHA should be in Helsinki because it is useful. Sanna (Helsinki) remarks that participants should be asked about what they want to know. Repetition if not many people who came to Berlin come over. Daria (Berlin) remarks that many people will probably not know what they want. Mišo (Zagreb) remarks that it is indeed unclear who will there and that this presentation should be adaptable. Presentation should be revised and updated, Max (Berlin) suggests a how to workshop to increase academic quality. Conclusion will need to be adapted to participants. Should be done by experienced ISHA person, preferably from Helsinki. But should be quickly decided since this needs to be included in application form. Members will be reminded that Helsinki is coming.

## **9. Debate: Participation Fees, Financial Compensation for Officials, and System of Loans for Officials**

During the GA in Leuven Cédric explained ISHA Leuven's difficulties to raise money and suggested to allow higher participation fees, in order that countries with high living costs would not be excluded from organizing seminars. It is suggested to increase the participation fee up to 120 euros. IB and council still want 100. Raise bar of 75 euros to 100. There will be no increase to 120 euros to keep participation fees low. Only possible if section has monetary problems after which IB reviews situation and decides if bigger fee would solve the problem. Increase of 120 euros would otherwise leads to standardization of 100 euros. Scaling back on fees should be encouraged. Higher fees only encouraged in case of dire financial situation. GA agrees with this policy

The former IB and Council have discussed the possibility of financially supporting ISHA officials if they cannot pay the costs connected to their tasks on their own (e.g. participating in conferences). This is a highly delicate matter for several reasons, starting with the fact that ISHA's annual income, though varying, is still quite low. This was discussed in Leuven and the idea of reimbursement was frozen. New IB decided to scrap this proposal completely.

System of Loans for Officials is a proposal by new IB. It aims to give officials opportunity to attend ISHA events, while still protecting the financial basis of ISHA International. Legal norms and deadlines will be implemented. Draft was presented to GA which ask question who can receive a loan (ISHA officials and other non-officials), in which situations (having officials present at ISHA events, and/or having non-officials representing ISHA on various other events), what are legal norms to implement (changing Statutes and Standing Orders), who will review the request so it will be impartially determined (Treasury Committee (TC), with addition of 1 representative from IB and Council), what are necessary documents (proof of poverty is not necessary, but will require deadline and plan on how to repay the loan). Sanna (Helsinki) remarks that the persons who make the decisions are also the ones taking the loans, and that GA and sections must be informed. Mišo (Zagreb) remarks that TC is impartial and that they are included. Max (Berlin) says that both TC members should be positive about the loan. GA concluded that the System of Loans can be useful, and gave the permission to IB to make a written proposal on it.

## **10. Questions and Closing**

From Zagreb seminar: Concerning the agenda of the GA, it was suggested that the order of the agenda should better reflect the importance of the topics, and that some debates could be started online in advance using the website and forum to save time. This decision will be used by the current IB already by Helsinki. Plan is to start a debate on changing of Statutes and Standing Orders, and also to present a draft on ISHA Merchandize (in which merchandize members will be interested, and how much would they cost).

Barbora (Prague) remarks we forget website. Website is bad, language mistakes and non-working links. Links to websites of other sections need to be established. Banners of our partners on homepage. Part with sections needs to be cleared and updated on basis of Vincents contact list. Sections can add content of their own. Daria (Berlin) asks how the programming is done. She is intrested in working on the website and needs to contact the webmaster about it.

Sanna (Helsinki) asks if there will be GA in Helsinki. There will be. Hopefully there will be a quorum.

End of GA at 18:30.