

Minutes of the ECURES Members' Assembly 2012 in Helsinki

The 10th Members' Assembly of the European Association of Cultural Researchers e.V. (ECURES) took place 29 June 2012 at the House of the Estates in Helsinki (Finland). As practised before in Strasbourg, Berlin, Amsterdam, Budapest and Zurich, the Assembly was held in connection with the annual Meeting of Compendium experts.

The Assembly was attended by 20 members and opened by outgoing ECURES President Ritva Mitchell. The following items were discussed:

1. Report on the mission and activities of ECURES

The presentation and debate covered the time from the transfer of research projects to the ERICarts Institute after its establishment (2004) - with ECURES members frequently taking part in ERICarts projects - to more recent initiatives and plans, such as those mentioned below under 2. and 3. All speakers underlined the crucial role of the Association in the governance of the ERICarts Institute.

2. "Compendium" Community of Practice

At the last Assembly held in Zurich 2010 it was decided that ECURES should assume, due to its status as a registered organisation and to the strong overlap of its membership with the Compendium experts, supporting and protective functions for this community. During the past year, this role included participating in the evaluation of the successful Open Call for Compendium Experts, together with the Council of Europe and the ERICarts Institute.

3. Participation in the development and editing of www.hotopics.net

Since the ECURES Assembly held 2005 in Amsterdam, the Association had discussed the pros and cons of setting up an interactive webspace covering its field of expertise. Consequently, ECURES President Ritva Mitchell and Secretary General Andreas Wiesand agreed to realise a model for the new CultureWatchEurope information and debate website www.hotopics.net, in close cooperation between the Council of Europe Secretariat and Compendium/ERICarts webmaster Jörg Torkler. During the test phase in 2012, this partnership will continue and members are encouraged to take an active part in making the site a lively platform of exchanges on important cultural policy issues.

However, since the outcome of this test phase could not be predicted in advance, the Secretary General agreed to develop an additional, independent website for the ECURES e.V.

4. Admission of New Members

Many of the newly recruited Compendium Experts (see under 2.) filed a demand for admission to the ECURES e.V. Together with some other researchers, they were admitted as members by the Assembly. The Secretary General is to check the status of both the existing and new members. Following this exercise, the names of the members should be published on the new ECURES website.

5. Exoneration of the Board

Based on a report of Treasurer Otto Hofecker, the Assembly exonerated the outgoing Board.

6. Election of a new Board

Ritva Mitchell informed the Assembly that she would not like to continue as President of the ECURES Board, due to her many other commitments and in order to support the current generation change in the Association. Vesna Čopič (Ljubljana) was elected to this function and Ritva as one of her deputies; Anna Villaroya was confirmed as the second Deputy Chairperson as was Otto Hofecker (Treasurer). The Assembly elected five additional Board Members (Angela Atzori; Carla Bodo; Aleksandar Brkic; Jaka Primorac; Elka Tschernokoshewa) and thanked the previous Board for its work.

Andreas Wiesand left the Board, but was reinstated as Secretary General (with the power to represent the ECURES e.V. in legal matters, e.g. at the Bonn Court of Registry).

7. Other Business

The Secretary General proposed that an "Open Board Meeting" - marking the 20th birthday of the organisation - should be held at next years' Compendium Experts Meeting in Vienna. Otto Hofecker suggested to initiate, at that occasion, a specific Forum for Young Researchers, which was welcomed by the Assembly.

The day before, June 28th, ECURES had offered a cocktail on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of first initiatives (in Finland) leading to the ERICarts Institute (at the restaurant Savu on Tervasaari Island)