

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON ARCHIVES
EURBICA
Executive Board and
Round Table of South Eastern European Archivists
Skopje – Republic of Macedonia, 27th -28th March, 2017

Minutes and decisions

Meeting of the Executive Board

Monday, 27th March, 2017 (9.30 - 12.30)

Venue: The State Archives of the Republic of Macedonia

Attendees:

Members of the Executive Board of EURBICA:

Mr. Filip Petrovski, Ph.D. (Republic of Macedonia) Ms. Deborah Jenkins, Ph.D. (United Kingdom), Ms. Karin Van Honacker, Ph.D. (Belgium), Mrs Odile Welfel  (France), Mr. Charles Farrugia, Ph.D. (Malta), Ms. Vlatka Lemic, Ph.D. (Croatia), Mr. John Chambers (United Kingdom and Ireland).

Observers from the State Archives of the Republic of Macedonia:

Ms. Svetlana Usprcova, Ms. Dora Jurukova, M.A., Ms. Ljupka Todorovska, Ms. Margareta Karajanova and Mr. Igor Sotirov.

Opening of meeting

1. The meeting was opened by a warm welcome to the State Archives of Macedonia by the Director, Dr Filip Petrovski, who described the creation of a consortium of Archives in South Eastern Europe and raised the possibility of its functioning within the EURBICA structure. The proposal was discussed by the members of the EB and welcomed. In a branch as large as EURBICA, it was desirable that sub groups should be formed to discuss more local common issues. A number of precedents were mentioned, including for instance, the co-operation of archivists in Ireland and the United Kingdom.
2. It was **AGREED** that the group of South Eastern European Archives would operate within EURBICA.

Item 1: EURBICA's priorities

3. The priorities for the work of the Branch for the next four year term were discussed. EURBICA is to be an echo chamber ('une chambre d'échos') for European archivists, sharing activities and events, information and good practice.
4. It was **AGREED** that EURBICA's 2 overriding objectives should be solidarity and expertise.
5. It was noted that EURBICA, with its 925 members, was the largest ICA branch and the archive services active within the branch were very diverse. To reflect the size of the branch and its diversity, it was **AGREED** that 2017-2018 should be dedicated to creating a more robust administrative framework for the Branch, better communications and a better understanding of the membership of EURBICA and its needs. It was also **AGREED** that these priorities should be reflected in the EURBICA business plan.

Item 2: European archival networks

6. The Executive Board reviewed the pan-European archival network and how EURBICA should relate to it. The following elements of the network were discussed:
 - EUROPEANA -- EURBICA had recently been elected to sit on the Europeana Governing Board for the next 2 years, from 1st July 2017.
 - EAG -- EURBICA has obtained observer status on the European Archives Group.
 - EBNA -- The presence of Charles Farrugia, Karin Van Honacker, Odile Welfele and Vlatka Lemic on the EURBICA executive ensured ready access to the EBNA.
 - Other organisations/projects including APEF, LODLAM, EHRI, DLM Forum, ARMA, IIAS, AIAF, PIAF, OPF, PERICLES and ICARUS were also discussed.
7. It was noted that EURBICA was the only pan-European professional organisation which spanned EU and non EU countries. It was also noted that the EURBICA Executive Board had entrées into other important world networks such as the Francophonie and the Commonwealth.
8. Following the review, it was **AGREED** that the branch's potential network in Europe should be mapped more comprehensively and that a list of partners should be compiled over the coming months. It was also **AGREED** that a list of websites to be regularly checked and reviewed by EURBICA should be created by the Executive Board members.

Item 3: Branch elections and constitution

9. The Executive Board reviewed its work so far. It was **AGREED** to re-confirm, for the record, the outcome of Executive Board elections which took place virtually in May 2016. The voting rights of the category A-B-C members were noted, as per ICA regulations, and followed as before. The Board elected its officers in December 2016 and the results were as follows:

Chair: Deborah Jenkins (1st Jan 2017-31st Dec 2018) and Charles Farrugia (1st Jan 2019-31st Dec 2020)

Vice chairs (2): Karin Van Honacker (1st Jan 2017-31 Dec 2020); Filip Petrovski (1st Jan 2017-31st Dec 2020)

Secretary: Karin Van Honacker (1st Jan 2017-31st Dec 2020)

Web page and Facebook editor: Mies Langelaar (1st Jan 2017-31st Dec 2020)

Elections scrutineer: John Chambers

Board Members: Vlatka Lemic, Odile Welfel 

10. The issue of the branch constitution, about which the ICA Executive Board in Seoul had suggested one amendment, was discussed. It was **AGREED** that the amended version sent to the Secretariat in the autumn of 2016 met the ICA EB's requirements. It was also **AGREED** that the matter should be discussed with the ICA President, Mr David Fricker, who was also attending the meeting in Skopje. [*Post meeting note: a short meeting with the President did take place and the outstanding matters were resolved by email*]

Meeting of the Executive Board

Monday, 27th March, 2017 (15.00 - 17.00)

Venue: "Porta Makedonija", Skopje

Attendees:

Mr. David Fricker, President of the International Council on Archives and Director General of the National Archives of Australia

Members of the Executive Board of EURBICA:

Mr. Filip Petrovski, Ph.D. director of the State Archives of the Republic of Macedonia, Ms. Deborah Jenkins, Ph.D. (United Kingdom), Ms. Karin Van Honacker, Ph.D. (Belgium), Ms. Odile Welfel  (France), Mr. Charles Farrugia, Ph.D. (Malta), Ms. Vlatka Lemic, Ph.D. (Croatia), Mr. John Chambers (United Kingdom and Ireland).

Mies Langelaar (Netherlands) joined the meeting by Skype for item 5.

Representatives from The State Archives of the Republic of Macedonia:

Heads of departments and heads of units.

Item 4: Inaugural Address

11. The Director of the State Archives of the Republic of Macedonia, Dr Filip Petrovski, welcomed Mr David Fricker, President of the International Council on Archives to the Republic of Macedonia and to South East Europe. He introduced participants to the work of the State Archives of the Republic of Macedonia. He emphasized the significance of the

meeting and of the importance of the co-operation between ICA and the Republic of Macedonia. He reported the decision, taken earlier, of creating a sub-regional branch in Southeast Europe within EURBICA as a bridge between Southeast Europe and other archival institutions in the world.

Item 5: Review of EURBICA's work Business and Communications Plans

12. Following an extended discussion over three sessions, a business plan was elaborated for the two calendar years 2017 and 2018. In addition to the decisions made earlier in the day, it was noted that the EURBICA communications programme effectively had a three pronged approach:
- a. Refreshing the EURBICA page on the ICA site, including reports on meetings and decisions taken by the Executive Board
 - b. Launching and sustaining the EURBICA Facebook page
 - c. Developing a mechanism to contact EURBICA members who do not use social media, possibly by relaunching the branch Newsletter.
13. It was **AGREED** that the key elements of the EURBICA Business Plan 2017-2018 were as follows:
- Map potential EURBICA partners (and their websites) at an organisational level both within and outside Europe and develop EURBICA's network of partners
 - Develop a communications framework to reach EURBICA members, using the ICA website, Facebook and a Newsletter
 - Develop relations with other ICA entities, especially the Expert Groups and Sections and New Professionals active in Europe
 - Support up to 4 professional archival events per year organised in Europe, by providing an international keynote speaker for these events
 - Improve communications with other ICA branches and investigate the possibility of joint meetings with them
 - While EURBICA is a virtual branch, the Executive Board would endeavour to meet once a year in Europe, usually in conjunction with an event sponsored by the branch and might meet informally outside Europe at ICA Conferences/Congresses
14. It was further **AGREED** that criteria for supporting up to 4 archival events per year in Europe would be drawn up.
- [Post meeting note: this work has now been done and the following criteria will be applied in the selection of the speaker:*
- a. *Conference must be owned and operated by an EURBICA member*
 - b. *Conference must be open to all EURBICA members (even if at a higher registration fee)*
 - c. *Proposed speaker must be from a country external to the conference*
 - d. *Speaker must be addressing an international issue, experience or perspective*
 - e. *The organisation applying must demonstrate that they could not fund the speaker from their own resources*
 - f. *EURBICA must be acknowledged as sponsor of the speaker]*

Round Table of South Eastern European Archivists

Tuesday, 28th March, 2017

Venue: “Porta Makedonija”, Skopje (9.00 - 12.00)

Attendees:

Mr. David Fricker, President of the International Council on Archives and Director General of the National Archives of Australia

Members of the Executive Board of EURBICA:

Mr. Filip Petrovski, Ph.D. Director of the State Archives of the Republic of Macedonia, Ms. Deborah Jenkins, Ph.D. (United Kingdom), Ms. Karin Van Honacker, Ph.D. (Belgium), Ms. Odile Welfel  (France), Mr. Charles Farrugia, Ph.D. (Malta), Ms. Vlatka Lemic, Ph.D. (Croatia), Mr. John Chambers (United Kingdom and Ireland).

Representatives from the South Eastern European Archives:

Albania – General Directorate of the Albanian Archives

Mr. Endrit Musaj; Mr. Elton Xhembulla

Bosnia and Herzegovina – Archives of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. Sasha Klepic

Bulgaria – Archives of the State Agency of the Republic of Bulgaria

Mr. Mihail Gruev

Kosovo – State Agency of the Kosovo Archives

Mr. Rame Manaj; Ms. Fixhrije Kastrati

Montenegro – State Archives of Montenegro

Mr. Stevan Radunovic

Poland – Head Office of the State Archives of Poland

Mr. Wojciech Wozniak

Romania – National Archives of Romania

Ms. Alina Pavelescu; Mrs. Gabriela Preotesi

Slovenia – Archives of the Republic of Slovenia

Mr Matevz Kosir

Turkey – General Directorate of the State Archives of the Republic of Turkey

Mr. Dervish Pasha

Representatives from The State Archives of the Republic of Macedonia:

Heads of departments and heads of units.

Presidential Address

15. Mr David Fricker, President of the International Council on Archives, addressed the meeting, describing the work of ICA, its structures, strategies and key themes including:
- The importance of the collective memory of mankind and access to it
 - Building capacity in the archives profession
 - Managing records and information is a pre-condition of social, economic and political development
 - The significance of the *Memory of the World* Programme of UNESCO, of which ICA is a partner
16. In his response to the address, Dr Filip Petrovski, Director of the State Archives of the Republic of Macedonia, agreed with the priorities outlined by the President of ICA and commented on the development of a new law in the Republic of Macedonia on managing material in accordance with international and ICA standards. This legislation is required as new formats were not included in the original formulation.

Pan European archival issues

17. A short presentation about Pan European Archival issues, including the European Union Data Protection Regulation followed. Problems with the English language translation of a proposed Code of Conduct for archive services will be clarified and presented to the EAG meeting in Malta. The meeting also **AGREED** that private archives contribute to “archiving in the public interest” in regards to the GDPR. The meeting noted that the latest issue of the ICA Human Rights Working Group Newsletter contained nine examples of where private archives had contributed to justice and human rights around the world.

National and State Archives in South Eastern Europe

18. A wide ranging discussion on issues and common problems experienced by National and State Archives in South Eastern Europe covered the following:
- Different regulations govern archival practice across the EURBICA membership. Some conflicts exist. For instance, it was not possible for a National Archives in EU membership to transfer archives to the Republic of Macedonia although both parties were in agreement, as this was against EU legal provision. Similarly, barriers exist to the transfer of data from the EU to the US.
 - The access and the use of archives from former Yugoslavia need regulation. Many relevant documents are held in Belgrade. Some of the archives may be even

destroyed. Political conflict should be avoided in order to reach compromise on access

- The question of technology, space and resources was raised. For example Kosovo inherited its archives in a bad condition.
- The importance of private archives, which can contribute to public justice
- The relevance of secret archives
- Issues of access in relation to archives of former colonies

Summary of the meeting

19. Dr Deborah Jenkins summarised the proceedings.

- EURBICA will work as an umbrella, encouraging pan European and sub regional activities within Europe. The role of the Executive Board is to ensure open and wide ranging professional discussion.
- The fundamental aspirations of EURBICA include solidarity -- creating a neutral space where difficult historical and political issues can be discussed among colleagues.
- EURBICA will act as an echo chamber and will endeavour to share expertise and to explain the complex professional networks in existence in Europe and beyond.

Closure of the meeting

20. Dr Jenkins thanked all colleagues for their open and committed approach to the discussion. She expressed her gratitude to Dr Filip Petrovski and his team for the outstanding organisation of the two day meeting (including the translators), which had helped focus on a specific part of Europe with distinct issues to resolve. The State Archives of the Republic of Macedonia had set the bar very high for future meetings of EURBICA.