

## ICA General Assembly 2009

Minutes from the General Assembly of the Association for European Life Science Universities (ICA) held on Wednesday 10 June 2009 at 15.30 at the LEUVEN INSTITUTE for IRELAND in EUROPE, Leuven, Belgium.

**Present:** Per Holten-Andersen (Chair), Philippe Choquet, Philippe Caron, Maurice Boland, Irene Mueller, Pavel Kovar, Eduardo Rosa, Martyn Warren, Simon Heath, Ida M. Krogager, Andrew Cobb, Willibald Loiskandl, Evangelos Kapetanakis, Jana Kelblerova, Alan Westcott, Reiner Mühlsiegl, Heide Hoffmann, Milan Mesic, Koen Dewttinck, Guido Van Huylenbroeck, Günther Manske, Wim Heijman, Külli Körgesaar, Antonio Comparetti

Apologies: Krystyna Gutkowska

**Invited representatives:** CEDIA: Sean Gaule, IAAS: Stephanie Klaedtke, IFSA; Frauke Thorade

**Members entitled to vote as representatives of their institutions:**

**AT, University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences Vienna**, Willibald Loiskandl;  
**BE, Ghent University**, Guido Van Huylenbroeck; **CZ, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague**, Pavel Kovar; **DE, Humboldt University**, Heide Hoffmann; **DK, University of Copenhagen**, Per Holten-Andersen; **EE, Estonian University of Life Sciences**, Külli Körgesaar;  
**FR, Institut Polytechnique LaSalle Beauvais**, Philippe Choquet; **GR, Technological Educational Institute (TEI) Crete**, Evangelos Kapetanakis; **HR, University of Zagreb**, Milan Mesic; **IE, University College Dublin**, Maurice Boland; **NL, Wageningen University**, Wim Heijman; **PT, University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro**, Eduardo Rosa; **UK, Harper Adams University**, Andrew Cobb; **UK, University of Plymouth**, Martyn Warren

**Proxy votes given to Per Holten-Andersen (Chair)** by the Agricultural University of Iceland and the Agricultural University of Sweden.

**Quorum:**

Partner institutions represented: 17

Total number of ICA members who had paid their membership subscriptions for 2008: 51

A quorum is achieved when one third of the ICA members who had paid the membership subscription for 2008 are represented = 17

The meeting was quorate.

### MINUTES

<b>Welcome and opening announcements</b>
--

PHA welcomed everyone to the 21 <sup>st</sup> ICA General Assembly. Voting cards were distributed to one representative from each of the member institutions eligible to vote.
--

1	<p><b>Minutes of the General Assembly held on Tuesday 2 September 2008</b></p> <p>The minutes of the last General Assembly were approved.</p>
2	<p><b>Report of the President on behalf of the ICA Board</b></p> <p>Per Holten-Andersen (PHA) was elected President of ICA at the Board meeting in Lleida 2008.</p> <p>In his President's report PHA stressed that the goals of ICA are: 1. Networking and sharing of knowledge, 2. joint conferences as a tool for networking, 3. discussion forum for strategic issues, 4. initiate joint EU projects, 5. EU lobbying and EU information, 6. support for the European Accreditation Agency for the Life Sciences (EAALS).</p> <p>PHA listed the main ICA activities in 2008/2009 which comprised among other things a visit to the European Universities Association (EUA) in Brussels in April 2009 to discuss possibilities for cooperation, the ICA-CEDIA-KULeuven conference being held in Leuven, Belgium from June 10-13 2009 and the ICA-NASULGC (APLU) conference to be held in Prague from June 22-26 2009.</p> <p>In 2009/2010, PHA indicated that ICA would focus on submitting an application for membership of EUA and on mapping and collaborating with complementary networks. ICA will participate in organizing two conferences: the ICA-APLU conference in Gent, April 7-9 2010, and the ICA-ECHAE conference in Zagreb, in the week beginning June 14, 2010. ICA will organise an ICA Week of Conferences in connection with the ICA-ECHAE conference in Zagreb 2010 with the intention to invite all ICA Standing Committees to have their annual conferences at the same time and venue as the ICA-ECHAE conference. Furthermore, ICA intends to apply for two EU projects in 2010 (Erasmus Mundus Action 3 and Life Long Learning programme). ICA is also a partner in two EU projects (Tempus led by Hohenheim in south east Europe and Erasmus Mundus Master in European Forest Science led by Joensuu). ICA is also a partner in three Tempus applications (Tempus led by WULS, Tempus led by Kiel and Tempus led by Zagreb) which commits ICA to assisting in the dissemination and promotion of the projects.</p> <p>During his time as the President of ICA, PHA stated he wished to strengthen ICA as a networking organisation both within member institutions and by representing ICA members at the European level.</p> <p>This will be done by re-enforcing the cooperation with the Standing Committees. One way of doing that is to have annual ICA Council meetings where the chairs of the Standing Committees and the ICA Board meet to discuss the possibilities for cooperation. The first ICA Council meeting was to be held following this ICA GA with representatives of all Standing Committees. Another way of re-enforcing the cooperation with the Standing Committees is to organize joint conferences during an ICA Week of Conferences. As mentioned, ICA will work on organizing such an event in 2010 in connection with the ECHAE conference in Zagreb. AGRIMBA, IROICA and ERABEE-TN have responded positively towards having a joint conference in 2010. SILVA is keen to participate in 2010 or 2011 and NATURA is having discussions on the possibility of a joint conference, but had not yet responded. In order to strengthen ICA as a networking organisation, it is also important to note that ICA has signed an MoU with IROICA to support better communication between ICA Secretariat and the all staff in ICA member institutions.</p> <p>The ICA Board has taken the first steps to strengthen its lobbying position at the European level, as mentioned above, by discussing possible collaboration with EUA as a thematic network and will apply for Collective Associate Membership of EUA.</p> <p>PHA also stressed the need to develop ICA's services to its members. He explained that ICA is working on finalizing the new ICA website, and that ICA has developed an electronic newsletter which was sent out for the first time at the beginning of April. The intention is to send out the newsletter four times per year and to invite contributions of relevant</p>

	<p>news from ICA members and Standing Committees.</p> <p>During his Presidency, PHA recognised that it is vital to increase ICA’s annual income. The ICA Board, and in particular the Vice President, Philippe Choquet, have initiated a sponsorship campaign aimed at providing ICA with private funds in addition to membership fees. In preparation for this campaign an ICA promotional leaflet has been drafted and printed for the use of addressing sponsors and new members. A new membership campaign is part of ICA’s strategy for the coming years. IROICA will assist in finding new members by promoting ICA membership to IROICA members from institutions who are not already members of ICA. Furthermore, PHA underlined that he will follow the principle of a balanced budget and the maintenance of the reserves at an agreed level during his Presidency.</p> <p>Last but not least, PHA stressed the necessity of having an efficient mode of operation due to frequent change of Presidency. He presented the ICA annual wheel to show the annual activities of ICA, and he explained that ICA has developed a Workplan for the year 2009 that will be evaluated at the Board meeting in December. Furthermore, ICA’s working document is a follow-up list from Board meetings which is primarily used by the ICA Secretariat to keep track of the execution of the Board decisions.</p> <p>As a conclusion of the President’s report, PHA listed the five new applications for membership of ICA in 2009:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bila Tserkva National Agrarian University, Ukraine</li> <li>2. Oulu University of Applied Sciences, Finland</li> <li>3. Russian State Agrarian University, Russia</li> <li>4. Stavropol State Agrarian University, Russia</li> <li>5. University J.J. Stroosmayer, Osijek, Croatia</li> </ol> <p>He also gave his special thanks to Roland Verhé and Sandra Willaert for assisting in banking matters with KBC, ICA’s bank in Belgium and for the re-regsitration of ICA with Moniteur Belge He also paid tribute to Kerstin Trieb, the former ICA Secretary, for working efficiently with the ICA secretariat tasks from 2004 to 2009.</p> <p>A final word was given in memory of Sebastian Oltmanns, IAAS President, and his fiancée who were tragically killed in a motorcycle accident in Benin.</p>
3	<p><b>Report of the Secretary General on behalf of the EAALS Board</b></p> <p>Simon Heath (SH), ICA Secretary General, gave a report on the conclusion of the EU Quality Project which ICA had led. The Quality Project resulted in the setting up of the European Accreditation Agency for the Life Sciences (EAALS) at the last ICA General Assembly in September 2008. At the 2008 meeting, the concept of EAALS (European Accreditation Agency for Life Sciences) was formally approved by the ICA General Assembly, the EAALS statutes were approved and an interim EAALS Board appointed. An Interim Board was elected in 2008 because as the Statutes had not been approved until the General Assembly it had not been possible to hold a formal election. SH indicated that the EAALS Board would be formally elected during this General Assembly under item 8 of the agenda.</p> <p>Various activities that have been carried out to promote the establishment of the accreditation agency including a conference for Erasmus Mundus partners in order to inform them of the results of the Quality Project and of the opportunities provided with the establishment of EAALS for the accreditation of international degree programmes. Also, the Quality Project has resulted in a printed handbook – the EAALS handbook for the <b><i>Quality Assurance and Accreditation of International Master Degree Programmes in the life sciences</i></b>. SH underlined that EAALS does not restrict itself only to international Master programmes.</p>

	<p>Establishing a European Accreditation Agency is encouraged by both the European Commission and European Council who have stated on several occasions that Erasmus Mundus programs should not only be accredited by national agencies but also by international agencies. Therefore, the context for the establishment of EAALS as an international accreditation agency is validated, but the critical next step is to put EAALS on a sound financial basis. The ICA Board has agreed to fund the start-up costs of EAALS if four international master programmes sign up to be accredited by EAALS. SH explained that as yet the necessary four programmes for accreditation had not been identified, but that this will be progressed after the formal election of an EAALS Board during this ICA General Assembly.</p>
4	<p><b>Report of the ICA Treasurer</b></p> <p>The following paper had been circulated prior to the meeting:</p> <p>Paper 1 Annual accounts and Treasurer’s Report. This paper also included the Income and Expenditure Budget for 2010.</p> <p>Martyn Warren (MW), ICA Treasurer, explained that the ICA accounts 2008 were audited in May by Hans Jobstl (BOKU) and Mika Rekola (Helsinki), but that the final signatures of the auditors are still missing which is due to outstanding matters that should easily be resolved. The outstanding matters primarily have to do with changes to the closing balance sheet 2007/opening balance sheet 2008 which was a result of tidying up items from previous years.</p> <p>MW explained that the accounts show a stable situation and that there has been little change in the capital employed. Furthermore, ICA has around 80.000 euro in reserves (it was decided by the Board that this should be the constant level of reserves).</p> <p>For 2009, the result will depend on the sponsorship campaign which the ICA Board has initiated this year. The ICA Board anticipates in the 2009 budget an income of 13.000 euro from the sponsorship campaign in 2009, but this presents a risk to ICA since it is unknown how much income the sponsorship campaign will actually bring.</p> <p>Also, the result of 2009 will depend on the surplus income from the Quality and AMEU projects. The surplus income from these projects will, however, only benefit this year’s account.</p> <p>In conclusion, the ICA accounts seem to have improved compared to recent years, but there are still high costs connected with much travel activity.</p> <p>Wim Heijman congratulated ICA on turning around the accounts. He proposed that the retained surplus could be used to drive certain EAALS activities to take EAALS forward.</p> <p>MW explained that the ICA Board must decide to what extent it is possible to support EAALS financially. At the present time the ICA Board has agreed to make a loan to EAALS to cover start up costs under the condition that four degree programmes have applied to be accredited by EAALS. ICA will not get any income from EAALS and the question is if ICA should financially support EAALS which is meant to function as a completely independent agency. PHA concluded that ICA is willing to support EAALS, but that the financial support should be seen as loan that should be paid back when EAALS gets income. The Treasurer’s Report, ICA accounts 2008 and ICA budget 2009 were approved.</p>
5	<p><b>Reports by the Standing Committees and associated Networks</b></p> <p>Wim Heijman (WH) from <u>AGRIMBA</u> gave the apologies from the AGRIMBA Chair who could not be present at the ICA GA. WH presented ARGIMBA which supports the development and delivery of MBA programmes in agribusiness and commerce at various universities. The MBA programmes are low cost and are designed to offer post experience for young managers in agribusiness. AGRIMBA has received a Leonardo grant to prepare study materials for the MBA’s – the materials are available at website:</p>

agrimba.sggw.waw.pl.

AGRIMBA has its own journal: Apstratc: [www.apstract.net](http://www.apstract.net)

AGRIMBA also has its own congress: [www.avacongress.net](http://www.avacongress.net) The congress 2009 will be held in Hungary, and it is proposed to hold the congress 2011 in Wageningen.

Antonio Comparettie (AC) presented ERABEE, Education & Research in Biosystems Engineering in Europe Thematic Network,. ERABEE was established as a Lifelong framework programme with a duration of three years: Oct. 2007-Sept. 2010. The goals are to promote transition from traditional discipline of Agricultural Engineering to the emerging discipline of Bio-engineering, to support synergies between research and education at all three cycles, and to promote European doctorate. Also, ERABEE works to enhance accreditation and quality assessment as well as to expand Biosystems engineering programmes. ERABEE has held several workshops:

1<sup>st</sup> workshop, Madrid.

2<sup>st</sup> workshop, Dublin

3<sup>rd</sup> workshop , Uppsala, June 2009: 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle university studies in Europe.

Guenther Manske (GM) from NATURA, Network of European Agricultural (Tropically and Sub-tropically oriented) Universities and Scientific Complexes Related with Agricultural Development, informed the General Assembly about the proposed merger between NATURA and ECART (European Consortium for Agricultural Research in the Tropics) which will result in one new association with the name AGRINATURA (The European Alliance on Agricultural Knowledge for Development), with two subdivisions. The new AGRINATURA network will comprise 39 universities in one association. The idea of the merger is to improve access to European expertise and to have an enhanced presence in Brussels. Also, it is an important goal to have a better linkage with the global system and to create synergy between research and education. NATURA is therefore in a phase of transition. The idea is to have a joint secretariat to create new opportunities and new ideas. PHA explained that ICA has not been very unhappy about the rather strained relations between ICA and NATURA, but was hopeful that ICA and AGRINATURA could now enter a phase of cooperation. Guenther Manske replied that he is convinced that the problems can be solved.

Reiner Mühlsiegl (RM) from SILVA, European Forest Science Academic Network, gave his best regards from the SILVA chair who could unfortunately not attend the ICA GA. He informed the audience that SILVA held a conference in 2007 in Freiburg, and a conference in 2008 in Copenhagen with the theme: What do we know about our graduates? Furthermore, in 2008 SILVA participated in two congresses with Latin America: RELAFOR and CONFLAT (Latin-American forest congress). As regards new EU proposals, SILVA has not had much success the past year. University of Joensuu has applied for an External Cooperation Window programme and University of Düsseldorf has applied for a Lifelong Learning programme with ASIIN, but none of these applications were accepted. The idea is to resubmit the proposal with ASIIN. SILVA will hold a conference in the beginning of November in Thessaloniki, Greece, and in general, SILVA is very supportive of the idea to join the ICA Week of Conferences.

Milan Mesic (MM) from ECHAE, European Conference for Higher Agricultural Education, proposed the theme: *Promising and delivering quality in life science education across Europe* for the next ECHAE conference in 2010 in Zagreb. ECHAE's goals for the conference are to review the image and marketing of life science education in Europe, the design of a forward thinking curriculum, implementation of learning outcomes in course delivery, the management of collaborative learning, the support of students' learning through feedback and assessment, and the integration of research and entrepreneurship

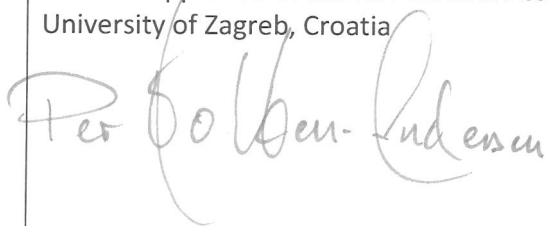
	<p>into teaching and learning. The next ECHAE conference will take place from June 16-20, 2010 in Zagreb. The ICA GA will be held on the first day of the conference. It is expected that the registration fee for ICA members will be 300 euro – non-ICA members up to 350 euro.</p> <p>Philippe Caron (PC) from <u>IROICA</u>, European Network of International Relations Officers at Higher Education Institutes for Agricultural and Related Sciences, informed the audience that IROICA will hold its annual conference on June 25-27 at Institut Politechnique LaSalle Beauvais with the theme: <i>How to transform internationalization into an added value for the mobile person</i>. In June 2008, the IROICA conference was held at CULS, Prague IROICA is also leading a project on intercultural training for administrative staff (ICTAS) which is the first project to address administrative staff. The 6 partners of the project are: BOKU (Austria), LIFE (Denmark), CULS (Czech Republic), WULS (Poland), Lleida (Spain), Udine (Italy). The goal of the project is to develop a manual of best practice models and intercultural know-how for administrative staff. The partners have made self-evaluations on their current procedures, and persons from the other partner institutions have then been on audit visits to audit the self-evaluation reports. The final conference of the project will be held in Copenhagen in October 2009. Furthermore, IROICA is partner in the Tempus project ENAGRA and in the External Windows programme EURASIA In 2010 IROICA will have a Quality Audit to evaluate the Internationalisation Strategy of Agrocampus Ovest. Preparatory workshops will be held at BOKU late 2009.</p> <p>Stephanie Klaedtke (SK) from <u>IAAS</u>, the International Association for students of Agricultural and related Sciences, presented the student association to the audience. IAAS was established 1957 in Tunis and has local committees in more than 80 universities in over 40 member countries. IAAS' mission is to promote the exchange of experience, knowledge and ideas among students, and to improve the mutual understanding between countries and cultures. To do this, IAAS organizes activities like seminars, working camps, international meetings, exchange weeks, an international exchange program etc. IAAS is working on initiating a sponsorship campaign and on developing promotional material for sponsorships. Partnerships have already been strengthened with ICA, FAO, UNEP. SK explained that IAAS has received the Youth in Action grant from the European Commission which allows IAAS to attend more partner events and to print and send the IAAS magazine. The Youth in Action grant has been a great recognition of IAAS' work. Challenges in the near future include writing the report for the Youth in Action grant, as well as receiving the grant a second time. IAAS expects further partnerships with institutions and the private sector in the future. Also, IAAS will work on re-establishing a permanent HQ in Leuven.</p> <p>Frauke Thorade (FT) from <u>IFSA</u>, the International Forestry Students' Association, informed the audience that IFSA was created in 1990 and that IFSA has 68 members in 47 countries. The goal of IFSA is to enrich education by exchange of knowledge, practice soft and special skills. IFSA writes news, maintains the website and organises meetings. The IFSA GA 2009 will be in July in Indonesia. Also, IFSA has a magazine with IFSA news to which everyone can contribute. IFSA events are announced on the webpage and IFSA has been involved in conducting surveys on international processes in the forestry community. The IFSA Questionnaire on Forestry Education and trends in forestry employment will be uploaded to the database. IFSA is currently preparing the World Forestry Conference in October 2009 in Argentina. In 2010 the conference will be held in South Korea. IFSA also assists students in getting professional experience (IUFRO secretariat in Vienna). IFSA and IAAS have organized joint events.</p>
6	<b>Presentation of the APLU-ICA Conference 2010, Gent University</b>



	<p>Guido Van Huylenbroeck presented the APLU-ICA conference 2010 which will be held in April at the University of Ghent. Roland Verhé will retire and therefore there will be a special session on this occasion.</p> <p>APLU has a tradition of holding bi-annual conferences. In 2008 the conference was held in Missouri.</p>						
7	<p><b>Election of ICA Board members</b></p> <p>Per Holten-Andersen (University of Copenhagen), Jan Hron (Czech University of Life Sciences) and Eduardo Rosa (Universidade de Tràs-os Montes e Alto Duoro) were re-elected to the ICA Board. James Phelan (University College Dublin) was elected as new candidate to the ICA Board.</p> <p>PHA thanked Maurice Boland on behalf of the General Assembly, who was stepping down from the Board, for his contribution to the work and development of ICA.</p>						
8	<p><b>Election of EAALS Board Members</b></p> <p>The following were elected to the EAALS Board: Andrew Cobb (Harper Adams University College), Vincent Dolle (Mediterranean Agronomic Institute Montpellier), Wim Heijman (Wageningen University), Paavo Pelkonen (Joensuu University). In addition a student representative will be nominated by IAAS and IFSA to the EAALS Board.</p> <p>The EAALS Board was congratulated.</p>						
9	<p><b>Ratification of new members of ICA - <u>to be approved</u></b></p> <p>The following new members have been approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bila Tserkva National Agrarian University, Bila Tserkva, Ukraine</li> <li>• Oulu University of Applied Sciences, Oulu, Finland</li> <li>• Russian State Agrarian University - Moscow Agriculture Timiryazev Academy, Moscow, Russia</li> <li>• Stavropol State Agrarian University, Stavropol, Russia</li> <li>• University J.J. Stroosmayer, Faculty of Agriculture, Osijek, Croatia</li> </ul> <p>The ICA Board is pleased to have five new members and welcomes these new members to the ICA network. There has been a trend of the new memberships coming from the east.</p>						
10	<p><b>Ratification of suspension of members at 31 December 2009 for not paying subscriptions - <u>to be approved</u></b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Higher Institute Charlemagne</td> <td style="width: 20%;">BE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Technological Educational Institute (TEI) of Larissa</td> <td>GR</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Universita Degli Studi Di Tuscia Viterbo</td> <td>IT</td> </tr> </table> <p>The above mentioned institutions have until Dec. 31, 2009 to pay the missing membership subscriptions. If the institutions have not paid by then, they will be suspended. Institutions can be suspended when they have not paid membership subscriptions for the two years prior to the current year. The audience was encouraged to use their networking connection to encourage the continued membership by these institutions.</p>	Higher Institute Charlemagne	BE	Technological Educational Institute (TEI) of Larissa	GR	Universita Degli Studi Di Tuscia Viterbo	IT
Higher Institute Charlemagne	BE						
Technological Educational Institute (TEI) of Larissa	GR						
Universita Degli Studi Di Tuscia Viterbo	IT						
11	<p><b>Appointment of Auditors for the 2009 accounts – <u>to be approved</u></b></p>						

	<p>Dr Mika Rekola, University of Helsinki and Mr. Henrik Zobbe, Director of Institute of Food and Resource Economics, University of Copenhagen have both accepted to be auditors for the ICA accounts 2009.</p> <p>These nominations for the auditors for the ICA accounts 2009 were approved.</p>
12	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p>PHA noted that a lot of ICA's work is not carried out by the Board members. He thanked Simon Heath for keeping ICA on track and Ida Krogager for stepping in to the position of ICA secretary without knowing ICA beforehand and for most efficiently supporting him in his role as President and the work of ICA.</p>
13	<p><b>Closure</b></p> <p>PHA thanked everyone for participating in this year's ICA General Assembly.</p>

Minutes approved at the ICA General Assembly held on 16 June 2010 at the Rectorate, University of Zagreb, Croatia



Per Holten-Andersen  
Chair



Simon Heath  
Secretary General