

ICA General Assembly 2010

Minutes from the General Assembly of the Association for European Life Science Universities (ICA) held on Wednesday 16 June 2010 at 16.30 at the Rectorate of the University of Zagreb, Croatia.

Present: Per Holten-Andersen (Chair), Marianne Aarø-Hansen, Javier Arantegui, Peter Bielik, Martin Blum, Jadwiga Bolechowska, Pim Brascamp, Vincent Brenier, Margarita Calderon-Peter, Philippe Caron, Joelle Chancerel, Vanny Chim, Philippe Choquet, Andrew Cobb, Anna Demner, Cecile Dubas, Marie Dubruque, Anne Dutriaux, Helmut Fax, Thomas Guggenberger, Krystyna Gutkowska, Simon Heath, Wim Heijman, Barbara Hinterstoisser, Jan Hron, Just Jensen, Evangelos Kapetanakis, Jana Kelblerova, Gabriele Klumpp, Ioannis Kokkoras, Ida Krogager, Udo Kummerow, Hana Kuzdasova, Anna Lauritz, Olga Legonkova, Agnes Liebl, Minvydas Liegus, Jaume Lloveras, Willibald Loiskandl, Michal Lostak, Sonja Maric, Josep Maria Marti, Svatopluk Matula, Milan Mesic, Reiner Mühlsiegl, Gerhard Müller-Starck, Christine Notte, Joanna Pietrzak, Didier Pillot, Ivana Prosinecki, Jiri Randall, Mika Rekola, Kristel Rock, Davor Romic, Eduardo Rosa, Raimundas Rukuiza, Christine Sage, Outi Savonlahti, Dejan Skorjanc, Ivana Ticha, Matt Tips, Marta Tyminska, Hilde Vandecasteele, Martyn Warren, Gerhard Wenzel, Alina Wieliczko, Agnieszka Wojciechowska, Petr Zasadil, Martin Ziesak

Invited representatives: CEDIA: Sean Gaule, IAAS: Emma Flemmig, IFSA: Florent Kaiser, Kenneth Esbenshade, Cosmin Salasan

Apologies: Krystyna Gutkowska, Guido Van Huylbroeck, Eric Haubruge, Paul Van Assche

Members entitled to vote as representatives of their institutions:

AT, University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences Vienna, Willibald Loiskandl;
BE, Ghent University, Hilde Vandecasteele; BE, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Matt Tips;
BG, Agricultural University Plovdiv, Dimitar Grekov; CZ, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, Jan Hron; CZ, Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry, Hana Kuzdasova; DE, Humboldt University, Udo Kummerow; DE, Technical University Munich, Gerhard Wenzel;
DE, University of Hohenheim, Martin Blum; DK, University of Copenhagen, Per Holten-Andersen; DK, Aarhus University, Just Jensen; ES, University of Lleida, Jaume Lloveras; FI, University of Helsinki, Mika Rekola; FI, University of Eastern Finland, Outi Savonlahti; FR, Agrocampus Ouest, Joelle Chancerel; FR, AgroSup Dijon, Christine Notte; FR, Institut Polytechnique LaSalle Beauvais, Philippe Choquet; FR, Montpellier SupAgro, Didier Pillot;
GR, Technological Educational Institute (TEI) Crete, Evangelos Kapetanakis; GR, Technological Educational Institute (TEI) Larissa, Ioannis Kokkoras; HR, University J.J. Stroosmayer, Sonja Maric; HR, University of Zagreb, Davor Romic; NL, Van Hall Larenstein, Pim Brascamp; NL, Wageningen University, Pim Brascamp; PT, University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro, Eduardo Rosa; PL, Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Agnieszka

Wojciechowska; RU, Moscow State University of Applied Biotechnology, Olga Iegonkova; SE, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Anna Lauritz; SI, University of Maribor, Dejan Skorjanc; SK, Slovak University in Nitra, Peter Bielik; UK, Harper Adams University, Andrew Cobb; UK, University of Plymouth, Martyn Warren

Proxy votes given to Per Holten-Andersen (Chair) by Gembloux Agricultural University (BE) and University College Gent (BE)

Quorum:

Partner institutions represented: 34

Total number of ICA members eligible to vote, those who had paid their membership subscriptions for 2009 or were elected in 2009 = 53. A quorum is achieved when one third of the ICA members eligible to vote are represented = 18

The meeting was quorate.

Minutes

	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Prof. dr. Ljiljana Pinter, Vice-Rector for Study Programmes and Quality Assurance at the University of Zagreb, welcomed everyone and opened the ICA General Assembly (GA). Voting cards were distributed to one representative of the ICA member institutions eligible to vote.</p>
<p>1</p>	<p>Minutes of the General Assembly held on Wednesday 10 June 2009</p> <p>The minutes of the GA 2009 had previously been circulated by email and were adopted.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>Election of ICA Board members Paper 7 Personal statement by nominees for ICA Board</p> <p>Agenda Item 7 (election of ICA Board members) was brought forward in order to have time for the election process, if required. Per Holten-Andersen explained that Irene Mueller and Martyn Warren would be stepping down from the ICA Board at this General Assembly leaving two vacant positions on the Board, one being the position as Treasurer.</p> <p>As Mika Rekola was the only candidate for the position of Treasurer, he was elected unopposed.</p> <p>This left one vacant position on the Board. However, ICA had received three nominations from: Lena Andersson-Eklund (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, SLU), Martin Gerzabek (Rector, BOKU) and Guido Van Huylenbroeck (Dean Faculty of Bioscience Engineering, Ghent University). The ICA Board had discussed the possibility to increase the number of Board members to allow all three candidates to join the Board. The ICA Statutes only set a minimum number of Board members, so there is the possibility to increase the number of Board members. The ICA Board proposed to increase the number of Board members to allow all three candidates to be elected as long as there were no objections from the General Assembly. The motion was put to the General Assembly to elect all three nominees to the ICA Board. A vote was held and there were no votes against the proposal of the ICA Board.</p> <p>Consequently, all three candidates were elected to the ICA Board. Per Holten-Andersen thanked the General Assembly and congratulated the new ICA Board members.</p>

Report of the President on behalf of the ICA Board
Paper 1 President's Report, tabled

Per Holten-Andersen presented his report outlining what has been achieved by ICA during his Presidency over the last two years. He emphasized that one of the top priorities had been to strengthen ICA as an umbrella organisation and improve cooperation with the Standing Committees. In 2009 the ICA Council was established as a forum for chairmen of the Standing Committees and the ICA Board to discuss to share information about current activities, develop joint activities and hence benefit from the synergy of the "ICA Umbrella". At this year's Council meeting, which was held earlier in the day, it had been suggested that chairmen of all Standing Committees should be represented on the ICA Board. The ICA Board will discuss further the possibilities of this at the coming Board meetings.

The ICA Week of Conferences is a way of increasing the synergies from conferences in an efficient manner and is another example of uniting the Standing Committees and ICA to create better networking possibilities and synergies of cooperation. The next ICA Week of Conferences will be held in 2012, but the location has not yet been decided. It will be announced on the ICA webpage as soon as the location has been identified.

Per Holten-Andersen also mentioned that ICA had signed an MoU with IROICA, one of the Standing Committees, and had agreed a workplan to support ICA's activities in return for a grant to IROICA. ICA had greatly benefited from this cooperation with IROICA. As an example, IROICA had identified an IROICA country contact in each IROICA member country to ICA's new membership campaign.

Per Holten-Andersen also welcomed the newly established **ICA Regional Network for Central and South Eastern Europe (CASEE)** as a Standing Committee of ICA. Full details are reported under minute 5.

In April 2010 ICA and APLU (Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities in the US) had celebrated 10 years of collaboration at the APLU-ICA Conference in Gent – doctoral and postdoctoral professional development in agriculture and the life sciences, challenges for the next decade. It has been agreed to sign a new Memorandum of Understanding and this time the Canadian Faculties of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine is included. It has been agreed that the alternation of the conferences between North America and Europe would continue, now the choice between holding the North American conference in the US or Canada. ICA will also develop other international links and this will be supported by the developments within GCHERA –reported by Philippe Choquet under minute 7.

The ICA Board had recognised that a top priority for ICA must be to increase the annual income of ICA. The ICA Board had decided that the reserves should not be reduced further in order to keep ICA on a financially stable basis. ICA has launched a sponsorship campaign as well as a new membership campaign. The sponsorship campaign has been initiated by Philippe Choquet, the Vice President. He had successfully attracted the first sponsor in 2009 and this is a top priority for ICA in the future. The new membership campaign has been initiated with assistance of IROICA. ICA will target 15 institutions which are already IROICA members and 15 out of 30 CASEE members who are not already members of ICA.

During the last two years ICA has led or sponsored four conferences, and is a partner in two Tempus projects. The Tempus projects are:

- SUNISP: 2006-09 Support network for improvement of strategic planning (Hohenheim and Zagreb)
- ENAGRA: 2010-13 Environmental curricula at agricultural universities (Warsaw University of Life Sciences)

In 2009 and 2010, 7 new members have joined ICA (Bila Tserkva National Agrarian University, Ukraine; Oulu University of Applied Sciences, Finland; Moscow State University of Applied Biotechnology, Russia; Russian State Agrarian University, Russia; Stavropol State Agrarian University, Russia; National University of Life and Environmental Sciences, Ukraine; University of Cordoba, Spain). Three of these members were to be ratified at this General Assembly, see minute 8.

ICA has also focused on an improved promotional policy. The new ICA website has been launched as a way of providing better information about ICA and attracting sponsors. Also, ICA had developed a promotional leaflet and a newsletter which is sent out 4 times pr year.

In summary Per Holten-Andersen stated that the ICA Board's ambitions for ICA in the coming years are for the:

- Execution of new projects, either leading or as a partner
- Representation of Life Sciences at the European level – develop a closer working relationship with EUA
- Development of regional and global networking activities
- Development of the ICA University – Enterprise Forum
- Support for the EAALS Board for the development of the European Accreditation Agency for the Life Sciences (EAALS)
- Development of a stronger economic foundation: promotional activities and sponsorships

Finally, Per Holten-Andersen reported that he would be stepping down as the ICA President at this General Assembly after two years of his Presidency. The ICA Board had agreed that Philippe Choquet, currently the Vice President, would take over as the President. Per Holten-Andersen congratulated the ICA Board on having Philippe Choquet as the new President as PC has all the visions needed for ICA. Per Holten-Andersen thanked Martyn Warren, Irene Mueller, Simon Heath and Ida Krogager for their work for ICA.

Philippe Choquet thanked Per Holten-Andersen for his work and achievements as the ICA President during the last two years.

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- Report of the ICA Treasurer – to be approved**
 - Paper 2 Treasurer's report Annual Accounts for 2009**
 - Paper 3 Budget 2010**
 - Paper 4 Auditors' report 2009**
 - Paper 5 Auditors' report 2010**

Martyn Warren briefly presented the economic situation of ICA as well as the accounts 2009. He explained that in general, the ICA Board has managed the budget with stricter control over the last two years which has resulted in ICA moving from significant deficits in previous years to a small deficit of 500 euro in 2009.

The accounts for the first two quarters of 2010 show a healthy position and meet the budget so far, even though sponsorship money is slow at coming in. However, by the end of the year, it is expected that the budget will be met, including the receipt of 25.000€ in sponsorships. The budget for 2010 predicts a deficit of around 11.000 € which will be covered by drawing on the reserves in excess of the minimum baseline of 80.000€ as agreed by the ICA Board.

The auditors' report from 2009 of the 2008 accounts was submitted to this year's General Assembly since only a verbal report was presented at the 2009 ICA General Assembly. All the comments from the 2009 auditors' report have been adopted except for the suggestion to raise the limit from 1000 to 2000 € for payments without counter signatures.

	<p>As regards the auditors' report 2010, Martyn Warren wanted to thank Mika Rekola and Henrik Zobbe for taking the time to audit ICA's accounts 2009 and for giving useful recommendations. Some of the recommendations have already been adopted, such as the renaming of the SILVA account as ICA is no longer involved in bookkeeping for SILVA. ICA had signed a new agreement with University of Eastern Finland as regards bookkeeping for the Erasmus Mundus programme in European Forestry, and therefore the name of the account has been changed accordingly. The possibilities of acquiring a double entry bookkeeping system will be discussed further by the ICA Board.</p> <p>The General Assembly adopted the Treasurer's report as well as the Auditors' report 2009 and the Auditors' report 2010.</p>
5	<p>Reports by the Standing Committees and Associated Networks</p> <p><u>AGRIMBA</u>: International Network for the MBA Agribusiness and Commerce Ivana Ticha explained that the network is open for anyone who is interested in delivering MBA programmes. Currently, MBA's are being delivered in Warsaw, Prague, Kiev and Nitra, and MBA's are being prepared in Debrecen, Zagreb and Belgrade. The two most important activities of the network are to deliver MBA programmes and to hold the biannual AGRIMBA congress. The next congress will be held June 22-24, 2011 in Wageningen and will have the theme "Dynamics of international cooperation in rural development and agribusiness". Everyone is invited to join. AGRIMBA also organises annual gatherings for MBA students giving them the possibility to work on real life case studies and to work in international teams.</p> <p><u>AGRINATURA</u>: European Alliance on Agricultural Knowledge for Development Didier Pillot explained that ICA and AGRINATURA have strengthened the cooperation over the last year and that AGRINATURA is looking forward to a closer link to ICA. Furthermore, AGRINATURA has been subject to institutional changes over the last year because of the merger between NATURA and ECART-EEIG. NATURA was an association of universities whereas ECART-EEIG was a research group called European Economic Interest Group. The merger was carried out in order to create more visibility within development collaboration as well as to increase legitimacy. AGRINATURA's activities include consultancy, development of post graduate courses and support to partners developing courses. The next meeting of AGRINATURA will be at the GCHERA conference 2011 in Beauvais and at the ICA Week of Conferences in 2012.</p> <p><u>CASEE</u>: ICA Regional Network for Central and South Eastern Europe Barbara Hinterstoiser introduced the CASEE network which was established at the Kick-Off meeting at BOKU in May. Rector Martin Gerzabek from BOKU was elected President. There are 30 founding members of CASEE of which 13 are already members of ICA. Members of CASEE have the option of being members of ICA too, and for the institutions who are members of both networks there will be a reduced fee of 900 euro for ICA and 900 euro for CASEE. The fee will be collected jointly by ICA from next year.</p> <p>The reason for creating the network is among other things to assure excellence in research, education and university management, and furthermore the network will create a better platform for meeting challenges to the life science area. The aims of the network are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To support the development (and later implementation) of the EU-Strategy for the Danube region which is an EU priority for 2011 ▪ To strengthen research, education and University development in this region ▪ To develop joint research, education and other projects (e.g. joint curricula, joint continuous educational offers, structural development, human resource development, QA, know-how-transfer (e.g. via e-plattform))

ECHAE: European Conference of Higher Agricultural Education

Jaume Lloveras explained that ECHAE has had some organisational difficulties during the past years which is now being dealt with by ECHAE and the ICA Board. ECHAE met in Lleida two years ago which had been followed up with two meetings in order to support the organisation of this year's conference in Zagreb. A meeting of the ECHAE Standing Committee would take place on Friday 18th June to discuss the future development of the ECHAE Standing Committee.

IROICA: European Network of International Relations Officers at Higher Education Institutes for Agricultural and Related Sciences

Margarita Calderon Peter gave a report of the ICTAS project which was launched by IROICA members in 2008. Six universities have joined the project: University of Copenhagen, Czech University of Life Sciences, Warsaw University of Life Sciences, BOKU, University of Lleida and University of Udine. The aim of the project has been to analyze existing procedures of internationalisation, and the project has mainly focused on IRO's and other administrative staff. Two external experts have been involved in the project: Jeanine Gregersen-Hermans and Peggy Pusch. The kick-off meeting was held in Vienna in 2008, and the closing conference was held in Copenhagen in October 2009. The best practice models which have been identified will be published in a manual, but due to illness of one of the external experts, the manual will not be ready until the end of the year.

SILVA: European Forest Science Academic Network

Gerhard Müller-Starck reported that SILVA had its last annual meeting in November 2009 in Thessaloniki, Greece. SILVA during the period 2008-2011 functions as a tandem with a President and a Secretary General working closely together, the executive team holding office for two years either from TU München (2010 and 2011) or from University of Freiburg (2008 and 2009). SILVA has published a series of proceedings, and publication number 5 and 6 are under way

IAAS: International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences

Emma Flemmig explained that the aim of IAAS is to promote the exchange of experience, knowledge and ideas within the life science area. IAAS is present in more than 40 countries and offers exchange programmes and farming internships. IAAS students all over the world work to facilitate possibilities of exchange. IAAS works with IFSA and the pharmaceutical association in Europe, and IAAS will hold its annual congress 2010 in Indonesia. In the fall, the annual Art and AG festival will be held in Russia and students are invited to join.

6 Report of the Chair of the EAALS Board (European Accreditation Agency for the Life Sciences)

Paper 6 EAALS Board Report – tabled and attached to these minutes

Andy Cobb, Chair of the EAALS Board, explained that EAALS was established in 2008 by the ICA General Assembly, and that the EAALS Board was elected at the ICA GA 2009. EAALS developed out of the Quality and AMEU projects which had been funded by the EU. A handbook of good practice for accreditation has been circulated and is also available on the website (www.eaals.eu). EAALS is an associate member of ENQA, the general European agency for the accreditation of accreditation agencies. This membership gives credibility to EAALS as an accreditation body.

Since EAALS still does not have the necessary financial means, the ICA Board has supported EAALS with the provision of a loan, to date 2250€ has been drawn. However, EAALS aims to be self sustainable from its activities within a couple of years. Andy Cobb invited all interested institutions to contact EAALS if they would like to have an accreditation of an international degree programme. EAALS provides the opportunity for international accreditation of degree

	<p>programmes, particularly from those which are delivered by two or more universities across national boundaries. To date EAALS has accredited the Erasmus Mundus International Master in Rural Development. Finally, Andy Cobb expressed his thanks to ICA General Assembly for the support in establishing EAALS.</p> <p>Philippe Choquet commented that there has been an interest from overseas countries to export the work of EAALS for international accreditation in the applied life sciences. He wished EAALS all success in developing its activities.</p>
7	<p>ICA and global networking Developing a network of regional networks Presentation of the GCHERA Conference 2011 sponsored by APLU and ICA, hosted by the Institut Polytechnique LaSalle Beauvais, France</p> <p>Philippe Choquet explained that an important goal for ICA is to get a more global approach which will be addressed through GCHERA (Global Consortium for Higher Education and Research in Agriculture). As he is currently the President of GCHERA, there is unique possibility for developing synergies and links between GCHERA and ICA. GCHERA was founded by National University of Life and Environmental Sciences, Ukraine, Humboldt University and Iowa State University, in 1998, and the Consortium held its first Conference in 1999 in Amsterdam. The Consortium holds a biannual conference. The Consortium has now existed for more than 10 years but has suffered from a weakness in its management through the GCHERA ExCo. It has been decided by the GCHERA ExCo to develop the Consortium as a confederation of regional higher education networks. Currently, the GCHERA secretariat in Beauvais is mapping regional networks all over the world. The GCHERA Secretariat is approaching an Indian association, Asian association and African associations amongst others with the objective of their involvement in the reformed GCHERA ExCo. The next GCHERA conference will be held together with ICA and APLU in Beauvais on June 27-29, 2011. At this time there will be a GCHERA General Assembly for the transformation of the Consortium into a confederation of regional higher education networks.</p>
8	<p>Ratification of new members of ICA - to be approved</p> <p>The General Assembly ratified the following institutions as new members of ICA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moscow State University of Applied Biotechnology, Russia - University of Cordoba, Spain - National University of Life and Environmental Sciences, Ukraine
9	<p>Ratification of suspension of members not paying subscriptions - to be approved To be presented at the General Assembly</p> <p>Four members are likely to be suspended at 31 December 2010 if they have not paid their membership subscription for three consecutive years: Higher Institute Charlemagne (BE), Università Degli Studi Di Tuscia Viterbo (IT), University of Warnia and Mazury (PL) and Akdeniz University (TR). The General Assembly agreed that the four members should be suspended if they have not paid their membership subscriptions by 31 December 2010.</p>
10	<p>Appointment of Auditors for the 2010 accounts – to be approved</p> <p>Mr. Henrik Zobbe, Director of Institute of Food and Resource Economics, University of Copenhagen and Mr. Philippe Caron, Head of International Office, LaSalle Beauvais have both accepted to be auditors for the ICA accounts 2010.</p>

	The General Assembly approved the adoption of the auditors for the ICA accounts 2010 .
11	<p>Presentation by Incoming President Philippe Choquet</p> <p>Philippe Choquet thanked the ICA Board for his nomination as the new ICA President, and he underlined that since he has been the Vice President of ICA for the last couple of years, he agrees with the previous decisions and activities which he will continue during his Presidency. He explained that the main goals for his Presidency will be to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continue to reinforce the structure of ICA, • facilitate networking between members, Standing Committees and enterprise stakeholders through the development of ICA universities-enterprise forum, and • create better visibility and better possibilities for lobbying, particularly at the EU level. <p>The principle of a controlled budget and secure reserves will also be continued in the coming years. The top priority for ICA in the coming years is to generate an increase in the annual income, as Per Holten-Andersen also explained. The ICA Board's long term objective is to generate sufficient funds to establish a Secretariat in Brussels. The possibility of sharing office facilities with EUA will be pursued further.</p> <p>Therefore, the sponsorship campaign and the membership campaign will be given top priority in the coming months. The ICA webpage is not only important for giving ICA a worldwide image but is a vital instrument for attracting new sponsors. It will be an important step to finalize the webpage as soon as possible.</p> <p>Furthermore, one of ICA's core purposes is to facilitate networking amongst our stakeholders; our members, Standing Committees and international organisations. It is vital for ICA to strengthen its visibility politically in Europe and towards international organisations in order to create a greater European dynamic within the field of life sciences. The current development of GCHERA will support the latter objective.</p>
12	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Martyn Warren thanked Per Holten-Andersen for giving ICA a clear direction during the past two years.</p>
13	Closure

Minutes approved at the ICA General Assembly held on 27 June 2011 at the Institut Polytechnique LaSalle Beauvais, Beauvais, France



Philippe Choquet
Chair



Dr Simon Heath
Secretary General