

Minutes of GEECT regional meeting
CILECT conference, Buenos Aires, 19 September 2013

The GEECT executive members who gathered over dinner for a board meeting on the previous evening agreed that the following issues should be addressed :

- up-coming conferences in 2014 and 2015
- elections of the board in 2014
- future proposals for student meetings
- initial training within the European Union
- research paper on the financing of film schools
- combined meeting of CILECT executive with executive of other regional associations

1. Reminder of GEECT activities :

a) Up-coming conferences :

The conference in Denmark on the Writing of TV Series has been confirmed and dated on 28-29 November 2013. It will allow members to share information and ideas on this topic with other schools. A lot of schools have recently started to teach TV series, such as La Fémis in Paris, DFFB in Berlin involved in a continuous training programme with LFS in London, ifs in Cologne, UCLA in Los Angeles... As it was suggested in Cape Town, it seemed important and relevant to organise a conference on this particular theme.

More information will be provided later directly from the organiser of the conference, the Danish Film School in Copenhagen.

The conference on Teaching Documentary in Cardiff, organised by Newport in partnership with Zelig has been dated on 9-11 April 2014. John Burgan who could not attend Buenos Aires has sent out further information on the conference and more will come in due course.

In the second half of 2014, the biennial Congress of CILECT will take place at Chapman University in California. The dates penciled in are 12-17 October. If these dates are confirmed, no second GEECT conference will be envisaged in 2014.

Donald Taylor Black, in the name of IADT, has proposed a conference on Production Design. This should be the first GEECT conference in 2015 and more information will be provided at a later stage.

In autumn 2015 will also take place the next CILECT conference in Munich. Depending on the dates, maybe a second conference can be planned. The topic of the Munich conference has not been decided yet, because it needs to be discussed and approved by the CILECT board.

La Femis will organise their yearly conference in spring 2014. Here again topic and dates will be confirmed early next year.

Angel Blaso, in the name of Escuela de Artes Visuales from Spain has proposed a conference on

Directing TV Series after the one on Writing TV Series. This topic, closely related to the one in Copenhagen could also be discussed there.

It is time that new proposals come in. They can be made by mail so we make sure that information does circulate.

b) Student meetings

After the first two, one in Albania with Marubi, and one in Slovakia with VSMU, no further proposals were made. If we realise that this support does not work, then we should cancel it and put the money elsewhere.

This support was designed to help students meet, not necessarily on an official basis with their teachers, but on their own to develop personal contacts, to get to know each other and understand the way they work. And later on of course with a view to coproduce films together. This support is for a total amount of 2000 euros per event.

c) Contact with the European Union

In Berlin, when we met the Head of the training support at the Agency in charge of all MEDIA funding, it was clear that initial training will not be part of Creative Europe, while continuous training will. Initial training will join Erasmus and Erasmus itself will change. This is what we were told so the plan is to go to Brussels and meet the Erasmus executives and explain how much this support for initial training is essential and needed for films schools. Members will get informed of any new developments on this front.

Robin MacPherson of Napier mentions the possibility of a pilot project that Creative Europe would launch end of 2013 or beginning of 2014 for initial training specifically. This information should be checked so members know what to do.

Robin also asks if the seminar that the Femis organises every year with the support of MEDIA for initial training will continue as it is ? For the moment, the next one in 2014 has been approved. From 2015 onward, no news yet.

d) Research papers

What is happening with the survey on the financing of film schools ? Unfortunately not much...

When the survey was launched, only 17 schools (among 75 members) finally responded and sent back the completed form. Then the student who was hired for this job had to leave and nothing more was done. We tried to find other students from film schools, or business schools, who could be interested in the topic for their thesis programme, but no one could actually be found.

We understand that it is difficult sometimes to give away financial data, mainly for privacy reasons, but also because of the structure of the organisation. When the school is part of a bigger entity, then it is even more complex to come up with the correct financial answers.

And contrary to what could be expected, very little comprehensive information is available on the website of most film schools.

Marc suggests that information is given, even if it is not fully complete because it is better to get some answer instead of none at all.

Bert explains that this information is also important for the school itself so it feels stronger when it can better understand the finances of its proper organisation.

Simone explains that something similar was done in Germany with German films schools about five years ago. Could be useful to have a copy of this document regarding the financing of

German film schools.

2. Elections of the GEECT board in 2014

3 positions will become available, Marc Nicolas', Nik Powell's, and Bert Beyens'. While we check the statutes, members should reflect on this and apply for candidacies.

3. GEECT within CILECT

Marc Nicolas, always in favor of a new CILECT - more active, more transparent, more open - continues to focus on these needs in all CILECT executive meetings and discussions.

CILECT has improved a lot over the years but one element still remains unsatisfactory. For various reasons, all regions are not as active as they could be and it creates a gap among them. So GEECT should push the other regions to become more active.

CILECT executive meetings are improving, thanks to Stan and to the fact that there are now less members and decisions can be made more rapidly.

4. Comments and questions

Members are asked for questions, comments, ideas, suggestions.

This leads to questions and comments on the current conference in Buenos Aires and some members suggest that conferences should be evaluated. Two main aspects are then discussed.

a) On the evaluation aspect, a number of questions are raised. Does it make sense to evaluate conferences ? Should it be a written evaluation sent to all members after the conference ? Should it be an open discussion with the members during their regional meeting ? Are the answers satisfactory so they can allow the improvement of future conferences ? Have the questions the right focus so the answers can make sense and changes can be made ? Most members agree that organisers and then the moderators should be more directive so panelists keep their focus on the main topic and hence allow more time for questions and discussions with the participants. This leads to the second aspect of the debate.

b) What are these conferences meant for ? Two trends seem to co-exist. Some believe that they should be more academic and concentrate on teaching content with teachers and students involved in the panels. Others argue that they should be more focused on teaching methods, similar to the best-kept secrets ones, where members can share their best practices, their ideas and their tricks so they can take them back « home » and use them in their own schools. Marc is personally in favor of sharing teaching methods and had the feeling that most members attending the meeting were also of that opinion. How we teach vs what we teach ? How we teach what we teach ? A majority of the attendees agreed with his position.