

MINUTES REGIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERS MEETING

GEECT

HFF, MUNICH – 19 NOVEMBER 2015 AT 9AM

Present:

Bert Beyens (RITCS, Belgium – Chair);
Donald Taylor Black (NFS/IADT, Ireland – Vice-Chair);
Assc. Prof. Manuel José Damásio (ULHT, Portugal);
Vinca Wiedemann (DDF, Denmark)

And a total of approximately 50 members

Apology:

Pavel Jech (FAMU, Czech Republic – Treasurer)

In Attendance:

Dr. Stanislav Semerdjiev (Executive Director, CILECT)

1. Introduction:

Bert Beyens (BB) welcomed members and gave greetings from Pavel Jech, the treasurer (transmitting briefly the information that GEECT is in good financial health) .

BB explained that the first item on the agenda would be an update on Creative Europe from Manuel José (MJD) because he was unable to stay for the whole meeting, owing to his having to depart for the airport.

2. Creative Europe Report:

MJD said that, as members were aware, there had been problems for member schools since Creative Europe took over from MEDIA. As Erasmus Plus was now an educational initiative, with different priorities, it has made things extremely difficult, particularly with regard to Initial Training, which had previously been very successful in encouraging and funding joint projects between film schools, mainly GEECT members. The GEECT Board has therefore decided to ask for a personal meeting in Brussels as soon as possible with Lucia Recalde Langarica, Head of the MEDIA Unit in the DG for Education and Culture, and members will be informed of the outcome. (MJD then left the meeting).

3. Report on GEECT Activities:

BB stated that, since the last Members Meeting at the CILECT Congress in Los Angeles in October 2014, GEECT had co-funded three very successful conferences: Documentary in Cardiff (USW) in November 2014, Production Design in Dublin (NFS/IADT) in March 2015 and Alumni in Jerusalem (Sam Spiegel) in July 2015; there had also been an EU-financed conference on Research, hosted by La Fémis in Paris last April.

According to BB, GEECT now had more than 80 schools as members, and he had written to all of them, with a questionnaire, in order to discover how frequently they have taken part in our activities. Perhaps the most noteworthy, but maybe a bit disappointing, piece of information that emerged was that more than 20 schools have not attended either a CILECT or GEECT event within the preceding twelve months. Obviously there were many changes in many schools and— on a positive note — many new contact names and addresses were now on the GEECT list, and communication has been re-established at least.

4. Decision GEECT Conference SPRING 2016:

In September the GEECT Board launched a 2nd call for Spring Conference 2016. We had asked schools to propose possible conferences for the next year and Donald (DTB) was asked to explain more about these proposals.

DTB said that the GEECT Board had received three interesting conference proposals for 2016:

- (1) 'Lights, Camera, Interaction!' on Cinematography/Virtual Reality from Aalto (Finland);
- (2) 'Artistic Research in Documentary' from SFE (Hungary); and
- (3) 'Student Filmmakers Facing the Audience' about making 'watchable' short films from TAFU (Georgia).

Given that the next CILECT Congress will be held in Australia, to which it will be expensive for Europeans to travel, the Board has decided that there should be only one GEECT conference next year.

After lengthy conversation the GEECT Board selected the Aalto proposal, principally because of the importance of the subject and clarity of the presentation.

The Conference in HELSINKI could take place from May 30th to 1st of June 2016 (definitive dates to be confirmed later).

5. More future events and initiatives from GEECT schools:

BB then gave the floor to the members to inform all colleagues about future events in their schools.

Thomas Stenderup (DNF, Norway) mentioned that there will soon be a digital version of the Training for Trainers books and that he intends to organise a related conference in Lillehammer in March 2017, 'From Artist to Film School Teacher'.

Dan Muggia (Beit Berl, Israel) said that there will be a symposium on shorts at the Tel Aviv International Student Film Festival in June. Caterina D'Amico (CSC, Italy) reminded the meeting of "Life is Short' I and II, for which Dick Ross wrote two books; separately, she also would like those schools with acting courses to contact her. Stanislav Semerdjiev (SS) stated that these books have been digitised and they will be circulated when Dick Ross has updated them.

Bart Römer (NFA, Netherlands) announced that his school will organize a conference about artistic research, in Amsterdam in Autumn 2017, which will complement the La Fémis event.

Guido Lukoschek (FABW, Germany) said that an interactive/trans-media storytelling conference is taking place in 2017.

6. Briefing on the next CILECT Congress in Brisbane Australia 2016:

BB informed the meeting that the next congress will take place in Brisbane from 20-24 November, hosted by the Griffith Film School and the theme will be "Ethics Aesthetics".

En route to Australia, there will be also an optional CAPA conference in Hong Kong.

Important to notice is also that elections will take place for the Presidency of CILECT as well as for the GEECT Board.

During the Congress the Biannual budget is presented and approved as well. A proposal about a raise of the GEECT FEE could be up for discussion and vote. Stan Semerdjiev, Executive Director CILECT, said that the Gala Evening of the Asia Pacific Screen Awards is taken place just after the Congress. This is a very large and prestigious event (the Asia Pacific Region includes 60% of the world's population!) and it would be interesting for participants to stay and be part of it.

7. Any Other Business:

John Burgan (USW, UK) stated that the 2014 GEECT Documentary Conference was recorded/transcribed and that proceedings will be made available shortly. Bart Römer asked Stan Semerdjiev about Nenad Puhovski's e-mail about a film that was accepted for the Moscow Film Festival and then rejected because of its gay content. Stan Semerdjiev replied that the Moscow festival had no alternative because it is against Russian law and that, unfortunately, there was nothing that CILECT could do about it. Nik Powell (NFTS, UK) suggested that Nenad should contact the European Film Academy about the issue.

The meeting ends at 10.00 a.m. (minutes based on notes by DTB)