

Minutes

SIETAR Board Meeting, Budapest, October 6 – 8, 2006

Participants

Maria Jicheva	MJ
Alexander Scheitza	AS
Ildiko Polyak	IP
Magdalena Berecki	MB
Marianne van Eldik Thieme	ME
David Walsh	DW
Jonathan Levy	JL

Absent

Ferhan Alesi
George Simons

Friday, October 6, 2006

17 – 19.00

Reports on National SIETARS

All National SIETARs should use the online calendar to reserve important dates.

SIETAR Österreich – MB

About 30 members, mainly practitioners

Main activities are:

Culture Talks – regular presentations and discussions on topics from the intercultural field in the widest sense, open to both SIETAR members and the interested public. Has proved to be a good means to recruit new members, and to promote network activities between existing members.

Train-the-trainer Workshops:

Attended by non-members and members at a reduced rate.

Information activities about current events

SIETAR France – JL

70 – 80 members, high percentage originating from outside France. Groups with differing interests (business, social, medical)

SF is facing a period of transition, changing its structure from project-based to member-based, focusing on transparency and communication.

Main activities are:

Saturday workshops, that have been renewed and regionalised, the café interculturel, intended as a discussion platform in an informal atmosphere to facilitate debate, an autumn social event (cocktail), an NGO project and a train the trainer project. Moreover, JL reported that SF is faced with a discussion with the EU on the finances of the research project on gypsies.

SIETAR Deutschland – AS

About 500 members, mainly Germans, majority trainers, with efforts to increase humanitarian/social sector

SD is sharing the vision of a diverse organisation, now developing into a mission statement. There is now continuity on the board.

Main activities are:

Planning for next event (congress or symposium: 28.2. – 1.3.2008)

Planning events with other organisations (universities, NGOs, etc.)

Lately more and more governmental organizations are approaching SD to give presentations and trainings, which leads to increasing visibility of SIETAR in Germany.

There are plans to produce a publication as a follow-up of the Symposium, maybe also in English.

Other associations for interculturalists are currently forming in Germany.

MJ states at this point that it is important to involve migrant communities, JL stresses that SIETAR should form strategic partnerships.

SIETAR Netherlands - ME)

Members (80-100 members) work mainly in the social sector, working as trainer and/or coach. Sietar NL has a few academics and some more business oriented members.

Migrant members are increasing.

Main activities are:

Workshops basically every 2 months, attendance is quite high (sometimes 25 %) ; open for non- members

Website with information for members is kept up-to-date.

The Congress scheduled for November 2006 is cancelled.

Sietar NL developed a new Sietar LOGO and house style which was presented during the board meeting. The logo is already to be seen on the Sietar NL website www.sietar.nl

SIETAR UK – MJ

More than 200 members, London-centred, not a lot of diversity

Rob Johnson has followed Stephan Dahl as President

Main activities:

Successful event in September at Middlesex Universtiy with 65 participants

Four events each year, trying to balance interests (academic/pragmatic)

1. Spring: Business and Culture event, inviting important personalities from the intercultural field (Hofstede, Trompenaars, etc.)
2. Summer: networking barbeque
3. Autumn: conference for academics
4. Winter: "End of the Year" recruiting event (this year Kate Fox will be invited for a Q&A session)

There are plans to organise events also in other regions of the UK.

SIETAR Espana - MJ

MJ reported on the meeting in Valencia with Assunta, where she invited the board to send a representative to the board meeting. Unfortunately, no representative of SIETAR Spain was able to attend it.

SIETAR Ireland – DW

Restarted one year ago, statutes ready for review. There are contacts with the Dublin Institute of Technology.

Saturday, October 7, 2006

9 – 12.00

General Information

The Board welcomes back Christine Longé. She works 5hrs for SF, 10hrs for SE. Mirka Lachka will work on congress tasks, Vanessa is working on the website.

Reports by Board Members on their areas of responsibility

DW – External Relations

SIETAR Pakistan

After initial contact and inquiries about the possibilities for financial support communication stopped and situation is unclear.

SIETAR Armenia

There is commitment by Nara and Narine to start formal procedures to establish SIETAR Armenia. The Board agrees that efforts should be made to include it in the board. DW to contact them to involve them in sponsorship activities and invite a representative to the board meeting in April in Sofia, at the same time offering a reduced congress fee.

Global Council

Until now, there is no formal structure for the Global Council, decisions are taken informally. Objectives, areas of responsibility and structure need to be defined more clearly. Structures should be set up for new SIETARs to contact the Global Council. At the moment, most new SIETAR initiatives contact SIETAR Europa. There is a mailing list including SIETAR Middle East, India, Japan, US, Young SIETAR and SIETAR Europa.

SIETAR Newsflash – MB, IP

The board agrees that a Newsflash on current SIETAR events and developments should be sent out once a month. MB will contact Richard Farkas to adopt a suitable procedure for the Newsflash – Information from National SIETARs should be sent directly to MB, Richard Farkas shall be responsible for the technical part. Urgent news should be sent via the SIETAR office.

New SIETARs

AS is currently reviewing the statutes of SIETAR Spain and Ireland

SIETAR Strategy

Three main areas of the SIETAR Strategy were identified that need continuous action:
1. Be the top organisation for interculturalists: serve our members better, expand and become more diverse – action: communication and events.

2. Serve society through projects in places and situations where we are needed and can make a difference – action: NGO projects, events
3. Ensure stronger European and global presence – action: working together with SUSANA, YS and other professional organisations.

The following areas need action/improvement:

- **Virtual General Assembly:** is to be continued – IP will research best practices for VGAs.
- **Newsflash:** as one of the main means of communication with the members it should be sent out on a regular basis
- **SIETAR Magazine:** works very well with Karina Holm from YS, should also be offered as a printed version. IP and Svetlana Aladjem should research production costs in Hungary and Bulgaria, and AS will inform about the costs for the SIETAR Germany Journal.
- **Events:** follow-up of events is important and needs to be improved
SE should focus on cooperating with other (also national) SIETARs and with other professional organisations and get involved in joint events to get more visibility, e.g.:
 - conference with SIETAR UK: “Beliefs, Attitudes and Intercultural Communication and Interaction” - 9-10 September, London, Middlesex University – to attract more people from the social sector (MJ)
 - Salon de Paix in France – positioning SE as an active NGO (JL)
- **Young SIETAR:** MJ reports that SE has officially registered as a YS partner to apply for EU funding. SE will also be partner for their training events in November 2006. GS and MJ have volunteered to deliver training programmes in Rotterdam. The relationship between SIETAR Europa and YS needs to be defined, and therefore MJ will discuss a transition plan for YS members to SE.
- **Global Council:** It needs to be clarified how virtual members should be handled where there is no national or regional SIETAR (e.g. Australia), materials should be collected for the website.
- **Promotion material:** SE needs a leaflet/brochure to be distributed at congresses, events, etc., and to send out to national SIETARs

15.30 – 17.00

Meeting with the Archabbot of Pannonhalma, discussing possible involvement as a keynote speaker at the Congress 2007 in Sofia

Sunday, October 8, 2006

9 – 15.00

NGO project

JL reported on the NGO project in France, a cooperation with “Enfants du Monde”. As a first step, an intercultural workshop will be provided for the office in Paris, free of charge. Sharaf Mouli, the General Delegate of “Enfants du Monde”, will be invited to participate in the congress 2007, SE will cover travelling costs, congress fee and accommodation.

Voluntary work offered by SIETAR is an issue still to be discussed (Should SIETAR offer its services free of charge, if so, to which kind of organisations? Should there be a solidarity fund implemented?) Partners for the NGO project need to be selected very carefully – to this end, guidelines need to be specified (incl. questions about funding, other partners, etc.) The Board agreed that each national SIETAR should be asked to nominate a board member as a contact person for the NGO project.

Budget

The Board reviewed the financial report 2005 and discussed the Budget 2007.

The Board agreed that the substantial revenue gained from the Congress 2005 in La Colle Sur Loupe should be used for additional activities, incl. the production of promotion material, exhibition participation, printed version of the magazine.

IP and AS to prepare a VGA for an approval of the financial report 2005 and the planned budget for 2007.

Reminders for money transfer by National SIETARs necessary.

SIETAR Magazine – printed version

Kartina Holm, editor of the online version, is ready to develop a printed version. A possible way to distribute a printed version is to offer members the possibility to subscribe – paying a higher membership fee. At the same time, there should be an online version, too.

SIETAR Logo

The Board supports a global logo. SUSA and SIETAR Netherlands recently developed new logos. SUSA's logo has already been implemented in the US, Japan and India. The Board votes for implementing the SUSA logo for SE, under the condition that it can be used independently without any costs or other provisions. SUSA will be asked to confirm this in writing. SE will offer it to the national SIETARs, which are free to decide about adopting it.

Member's database

The Board decides to adopt a member's database with memberclicks.com, an off-the-shelf-solution.

Estimated costs:

Project budget: app. 5000 EUR (launch and fee for 2006)

Licence costs: app. 2500 EUR/year

Maintenance costs: 0 – 2500 EUR/year

Banking costs: app. 4% plus small set-up fee

The Board is informed that Richard Farkas has announced to stay involved until the Congress 2007.

Board continuity and election

IP is appointed new Treasurer to the Board.

The Board agrees that DW will contact Ferhan Alesi and ask her to review her position on the Board.

New representatives of the direct membership are to be elected next spring and shall be in place for the next GA in Sofia. MJ wishes to step down from presidency, but is willing to consider a transition period with a co-presidency.
A clearer division and definition of tasks on the Board is necessary.

Congress 2007

Communication with Svetlana Aladjem needs to be improved. Mirka Lachka will travel to Sofia to discuss a project plan. Volunteers are needed for the sponsorship committee.