



UNIVERSEUM

Ordinary General Assembly MINUTES

Amsterdam, 11 June 2016

President, Sofia Talas

Vice-President, Roland Wittje

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Participants: 38 individual voting members; 10 institutional voting members

1. Annual report 2015 (from GA 2015 to GA 2016)

- **Executive Committee (EC) meeting**

To discuss Universeum ongoing and future activities, the EC met for 2 days at the University of Lisbon on 7-8 December 2015

- **European Academic Heritage Day**

The 2015 theme proposed by the Executive Committee and voted by the General Assembly in Hamburg (14 June 2014) was *Light*, in relation with the international year of light established by UNESCO for 2014. The events organised on this day are available on Universeum website (see also the announcement at http://universeum.it/heritage_day2015.html). 12 universities from 8 different countries participated with various events. Various nice activities were proposed and the number of involved universities slightly increased with respect of last years, we hope the trend will continue.

The 2016 theme was voted at the GA in Athens. The theme is “Heritage at war”. A first Call for events was sent in June 2015. We will send a 2nd call right after Amsterdam Meeting.

The EC discussed a new theme for 2017, which will be proposed for approval at the 2016 GA.

- **UNIVERSEUM Website:** The website has been transformed with a new section devoted to UNIVERSEUM training opportunities. We asked Simonetta Capparotto for data about the “visitors” of the website (see the attached documents). Such documents would need a thorough analysis but, first of all, it appears clearly that the number of unique visitors has increased of 30% from 2014 to 2015 (5673 unique visitors in 2014 and 7461 visitors in 2015). According to the first months of 2016, the trend is still positive. The data also indicate that the resources provided are widely used (selection criteria document, etc).

- **Interactions of Universeum with networks and other institutions:**

Outside Europe, representatives of Universeum S. Talas and S. Soubiran were invited to present talks respectively at the University of Cordoba, Argentina (10 November 2105), La Habana, Cuba (February 2016) and Manilla (2015 UMAC meeting).

Sofia Talas has been asked to collaborate to the organization of UMAC 2016, in Milan (she is Chair of the Review Committee and member of the LOC).

From last year, Facebook and Twitter profiles are under the responsibility of Esther Boeles. A special “thank you” to Esther for her work.

We asked Esther for a report on posts, comments, likes, and other kind of statistical data available from the Facebook and Twitter profile. Here are the data: 205 likes on Facebook, Twitter: 500 followers, Instagram: 15 followers only but it is new. Facebook seems to be the most convenient, especially around events.

Suggestion from the room: to create a hash tag # for the Universeum meeting to allow people to participate and react live on Twitter, and to share with other communities. Last year Esther established a hash tag for the conference but it was not used at all, probably due to lack of communication.

- **New Universeum flyers**

New flyers have been designed by Véronique Champy, who is the graphic designer working in Strasbourg with S. Soubiran. 100 copies will be printed, available for members and for wide distribution.

- **Next Meeting**

First steps have been carried up for the organisation of the next Universeum Annual Meeting, which could be held in Belgrade, June 2017 (trip by Sébastien and Sofia to Belgrade in April 2016).

- **Memberships**

There are currently 49 registered individual members (fees 2015/2016 paid); 18 institutional members (fees 2015/2016 paid); 5 students members (fees 2015/2016 paid)

The annual report was approved by the GA.

2. Financial report 2015

The accounts of Universeum were expertised by the two auditors, Nathalie Nyst, Université Libre de Bruxelles, and Steph Scholten, University of Amsterdam.

Incomes 2015	1800
Expenses	1020,09
2015 balance sheet	779,91
Balance sheet total	6317,16

The financial report was approved by the GA.

3. Report by Universeum Workings Groups

The Working Group on Recent Heritage of Science has made available on Universeum website (as new resources) 2 documents:

- “Checklist for the Preservation and Access of Recent Heritage of Science” (January 2016)

- Literature on Recent Heritage of Science (January 2016)

The new Working Group set up to discuss issues related to databases and portals is now in charge of Frank Meijer, Dutch Academic Heritage Foundation, and Delphine Issenmann, Jardin des science-University of Strasbourg. A meeting was held in Strasbourg in March 2015, the WG was transformed and renamed to “Digital Initiatives WG”.

Both, the Digital Initiatives WG and the Recent Heritage of Science WG held workshops, the day before, 10 June, in Utrecht. The discussions were presented in a general session afterwards. The following issues were raised:

- We need more time for group discussions, the workshops have to be longer to facilitate this, maybe 3 hrs. 30 min, one hour longer
- Recent Heritage: we will try to organize a session around buildings as / and university heritage for the Belgrade meeting
- The workshops had a very positive response and the participants want more working groups and workshops: we are open to suggestions, please contact the board if you want to start a new working group and organize a workshop

4. New format for Universeum Annual Meetings

To deepen and enhance discussions, a new format for Universeum Annual Meetings was set up by the Executive committee in collaboration with the Scientific Committee. This new format was proposed for the first time at the Athens Annual meeting in June 2015.

An evaluation sheet has been set up by the EC and submitted to the participants. Feedbacks from questionnaires: The new format is better; chaired poster sessions: better; enough in-depth session debate: ok; more workshops and training sessions required.

An evaluation of the meetings will be carried out every two years.

5. Proceedings of Universeum Annual Meetings

- The EC will buy 20 copies of the proceedings of the 2013 Valencia Meeting published by Cambridge Scholars Publishers, editor Pedro Ruiz-Castell. As approved by the GA Athens.
- The proceedings of the 2014 Hamburg meeting are ready in a PDF format only for the moment, as Gudrun Wolfschmidt has had some delay. But they will be printed by the end of June. A pdf version will be available for free for all members.

Title of the volume:

Wolfschmidt, Gudrun (ed.): Enhancing University Heritage-Based Research. Proceedings of the XV Universeum Network Meeting, Hamburg, 12–14 June 2014. Hamburg: tradition (Nuncius Hamburgensis – Beiträge zur Geschichte der Naturwissenschaften; Band 33) 2016. ISBN 978-3-7345-2751-7 (Paperback), 978-3-7345-2752-4 (Hardcover)

- The proceedings of Athens will be published as an e-book, with a contribution of 1000 euros from Universeum to the University of Athens (Marlen). They should be ready by November 2016
- The proceedings of previous meetings are available from Universeum secretary, S. Soubiran (details on the website)
- Proceedings of Amsterdam meeting: to be discussed with the Local Organising Committee

6. Theme for the 2017 European Academic Heritage Day

The Executive Committee proposed the following theme *Colonisers and colonised*:

"For 18 November 2017, Universeum encourages reflection and the development of initiatives around the theme "colonisers and colonised" in its broadest sense, opening up for a wide range of possibilities for public engagement.

Artefacts and documents in collections, if not entire collections and museums relate directly or indirectly to colonial enterprises. The accumulation, organisation and study of artefacts, narratives, data and representations from the colonies were central to projects to exploit and dominate the colonies intellectually, politically and economically. In the colonised regions, the establishment of universities, museums and archives became part of the colonising mission and the colonial state. As much as these collections and institutions meant to represent a colonial order, they developed a life of their own. The circulation and transformation of objects and knowledge systems frequently challenged and even contradicted the hierarchies between colonisers and colonised that they were built upon."

The theme was approved by the GA.

7. Universeum Training Workshops

The first Training Workshop *Revealing University Objects: From the Attics to the Public* was held at the University of Strasbourg, 23-27 May 2016.

- 12 participants: 9 professionals from university museums and 3 students, all Universeum members.
- The workshop was entirely financed by the university of Strasbourg as an « excellency initiative » of the « Investissement d'avenir »
- The participants worked in groups on selected objects, made the connection between layers of information and proposed a project for dissemination. The training workshop was a great success.

Other training workshops to be developed in the next years, probably to be proposed in connection with Universeum Annual Meetings

8. Honorary memberships

The Executive Committee proposed Steven de Clercq, one of Universeum founding fathers and one of the supporters of Universeum being transformed into a European Association, as new Honorary Member.

The GA approved the proposal (with enthusiasm!).

9. Survey on European University Heritage

The Survey was launched by Marta Lourenço. There was a delay, but it will go on. The survey will be made of 3 questionnaires (see <http://universeum.it/resources.html>) A study team is composed by Marta: contact her to be part of it. The first questionnaire about the professionals is ready and will be sent around soon. A budget was voted at GA in Athens to pay a student who will work on the Survey.

10. Report on national heritage networks

Poland: Marek Bukowski presented the association which is now actively working, with 60 participants, 26 university museums, conferences, website etc. The association is very active and looking for international collaborations

Germany: the past 2015 meeting was in Freiberg and the next one, coming up in July, will be in Hamburg. It is a very stable network now.

Scotland: annual grant by the Ministry, new and fruitful reflection, focus on students engagement

Netherlands: a great interest for the archives set up by professors.

Flanders: network project on medical collections.

11. Provisional budget 2016-2017

- Provisional budget 2016

Income

Institutional fees: 1800 euros

Individuals fees: 900 euros

Expenses

New Universeum flyers, 1000 euros

Contribution to Athens proceedings e-volume: 1000 euros

The Survey on European University Heritage, 1500 euros

Student travel grants 200 euros

- Provisional budget 2017

Income

Institutional fees: 2000 euros

Individuals fees: 1000 euros

Expenses

Contribution to Belgrade meeting 1000 euros

Student travel grants 800 euros (4 students)

Training Workshop 1000 euros

12. Future meetings

The Executive Committee proposed that the 2017 Annual meeting would be held at the University of Belgrade (June 8-10). The GA approved.

- Suggestion to give some space in the program to discover the city and how the University grew in the city
- Due to the large number of papers presented, the program of the Annual meetings is more and more dense. Maybe we should have meetings of 4 days instead of 3?

David Gaimster proposed Glasgow for the 2018 meeting. To be voted next year

13. Ongoing and future projects none

14. AOB none

The President, Sofia TALAS

The Vice-President, Roland WITTJE

