



UNIVERSEUM

Ordinary General Assembly MINUTES

Athens, 13 June 2015

President, Sofia Talas

Secretary, Sébastien Soubiran

1. Annual report 2014
2. Financial report 2014
3. Proceedings of Universeum annual meetings
4. Report by Universeum Workings Groups
5. New format for Universeum annual meetings
6. Report on national heritage networks
7. Theme for the 2016 European Academic Heritage Day.
8. Survey on European University heritage
9. EU Call
10. Provisional budget 2015
11. Elections of Universeum new scientific committee
12. Future meetings
13. Ongoing and future projects
14. AOB

Participants: 44

23 individual voting members

10 institutional voting members

1. Annual report 2014

- **Executive Committee (EC) meeting**

To discuss Universeum ongoing and future activities, the EC met for 2 days at the University of Marseille on 22-23 January 2015

- **European Academic Heritage Day**

The 2014 theme proposed by the Executive Committee and voted by the General Assembly in Hamburg (14 June 2014) was ***Patterns of Arts and Science***, in relation with the international year of crystallography established for 2014. The events organised on this day are available on the Universeum website (see also the announcement at http://universeum.it/heritage_day2014.html). 10 universities from 8 different countries participated with various events. As last years, not so many, but we announced the theme in June for November, so that not much time was left.

The 2015 theme was also voted at the GA in Hamburg. A first Call for events was sent in June 2014 and a 2nd call was sent in April 2015. We hope these earlier calls will stimulate more universities to participate.

- **Website**

The website has been transformed with a new section specifically devoted to the European Academic Heritage Day. The latter was in the News section as of now, and it was difficult to find and not promoted enough.

- **Interactions of Universeum with networks and other institutions:** Sofia Talas was invited to present a talk as president of Universeum at:

- University of Naples – Conference *La Meraviglia e la Passione. 1760-1860: un secolo di scienze della natura nel Mezzogiorno* - 6-17 October 2014
- University of Genova - Conference *Raising Awareness of Universities' Heritage: a Focus on Art and Architecture* - 20 November 2014
- Rio de Janeiro - International Seminar on Material Culture and Cultural Heritage of Science and Technology, MAST (Museu de Astronomia e Ciências Afins) - 24-27 November 2014
- University of Havana, Cuba - First Seminar on University Cultural Heritage - March 18-20, 2015.

Sébastien Soubiran, special panel dedicated to academic heritage networks, UMAC-conference, 11th-14th May 2015, University of Santo Thomas, Manila, Philippines

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

- **Memberships**

There are currently 81 registered individual members (52 paid in 2014, 4 students); 23 institutional members registered (13 paid in 2014)

- **Working Groups**

The Working Group on Recent Heritage of Science has made the document on “Minimum Requirements for Preservation and Access of Recent Heritage of Science (RHS)” available on the Universeum website.

A new Working Group has been set up to discuss issues related to databases and portals, it is organised by Esther Boeles, Dutch Academic Heritage Foundation, and Delphine Issenmann, Jardin des sciences-University of Strasbourg, and has been launched in June 2015 in Athens.

- **Elections of the Scientific Committee 2015-2018**

The Executive Committee has contacted a certain number of people, in order to propose them to the GA as members of the new Scientific Committee (SC). The new SC will be elected by the GA in Athens (see below).

- **Next Meeting**

First steps have been carried out for the organisation of the next Universeum Annual Meeting, which will be held in Amsterdam (June 2016).

The annual report 2014 was approved by all individual and institutional members at the AGM.

2 Financial report 2014

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

Incomes 2014	2300 euros
Expenses	163,73 euros
2014 balance sheet	2136, 27 euros
Balance sheet total	5537,25 euros

The Financial report 2014 was approved by all individual and institutional members at the AGM.

3. Proceedings of Universeum annual meetings

The proceedings of the 2013 Valencia Meeting have been published by Cambridge Scholars Publishers, editor Pedro Ruiz-Castell. They are on sale at the price £41.99 [The book is £41.99, but you can get a 40% discount (-£16.80) if you buy it at <http://www.cambridgescholars.com/> introducing the code `authordiscount40%`]

- The proceedings of the 2014 Hamburg meeting are in preparation, authors will be contacted for the last corrections.
- The proceedings of previous meetings are available from the Universeum secretary, S. Soubiran (details on the website)

4. Report by Universeum Workings Groups

Both working groups had successful meetings, a written report will be circulated on the Universeum mailing list.

First meeting of the database working group, coordinated by Esther Boeles, Stichting Academisch Erfgoed, and Delphine Issenmann, University of Strasbourg.

New working groups should be created.

5. New format for Universeum annual meetings

To deepen and enhance discussions, a new format for Universeum Annual Meetings has been set up by the Executive Committee in collaboration with the Scientific Committee. This new format is proposed for the first time at the Athens meeting. An evaluation sheet has been set up by the EC.

The results will be circulated on the Universeum mailing list.

6. Report on national heritage networks

Dutch: Wikipedia project

German: Annual conferences, the next conferences will be in Dresden and Freiberg in September.

Flamish Belgium network: project on microscope, multidisciplinary approach to enhance a comparative approach to U-collections

French network: no step further

A Polish network was created in 2014

Norway network: maintenance and mediation about university architecture

7. Theme for the 2016 European Academic Heritage Day

“University Heritage at war”

2016 is located in the middle of the centenary commemoration of World War I in which many museums and universities are involved. This anniversary provides a context for a broader debate about universities, heritage and war through history. Current wars remind us that issues of heritage and war are not only of the past but equally important in the present.

For the European University Heritage Day of 2016, Universeum encourages reflection around the multifaceted theme of heritage and war, which includes issues such as

collections used in and resulting from warfare, universities and university personnel and students involved in warfare and in peacekeeping, material evidence of war, war damage, commemoration of war at universities, collections and objects as war booty, war reparations, military surplus material, repatriation of heritage, and preservation of heritage in countries currently at war

The theme proposed “University Heritage at war” was approved by all voting members of the AGM.

8. Survey on European University heritage

A survey on European University heritage will be started in autumn 2015. The aim is to know better about the people, the collections, the professionals who work on U-heritage ; priority will be given to the people because we know very few.

The objective is to profile the community concerned/involved in U-heritage at EU scale. It will be relevant for our daily activities but also politically (lobbying activities) It will start with a questionnaire to be sent around.

The call will be sent for 2 levels of collaboration

- response to the questionnaire
- being involved as a partner

Marta Lourenco, VP of Universeum, University of Lisbon, will coordinate the survey. A scholarship paid by Universeum will be offered to a student to work with Marta.

9. EU PROJECT

Information will be sent on Universeum mailing list about EU project calls. The Board is expecting the next creative Europe call

10. Provisional budget 2015

All voting members of the AGM approved the provisional budget of 2016 which include the following expenses:

- New Universeum flyers, 1000 euros
- The Survey on European University Heritage, 1500 euros
- Student travel grants 200 euros
-

11. Elections of Universeum's new scientific committee

The following scientific committee was approved by all voting members of the AGM.

Silke Ackermann, Museum of the History of Science, University of Oxford (UK)

Anne Barrett, Imperial College, London (UK)

Paolo Brenni, Fondazione Scienza e Tecnica, Florence (Italy)

Hugues Dreyssé, Jardin des Sciences, University of Strasbourg (France)

Isabel Maria Garcia Fernandez, Universidad Complutense, Madrid (Spain)

Reet Mägi, Natural History Museum, University of Tartu (Estonia)

Thomas Schnalke, Museum of Medical History at the Charité- Universitätsmedizin Berlin (Germany)

Steph Scholten, University of Amsterdam (Netherlands)

12 Future meetings

The 2016 Universeum meeting will be held in Holland both in Amsterdam and Utrecht. The dates and call will be sent by the end of this year.

Contacts were taken to organise the 2017 Universeum meeting in Bulgaria or Czech Republic. The President and the Treasurer of Universeum have planned to visit U-museum colleagues from these 2 countries.

13 Ongoing and future projects

/

14. AOB

/

The President, Sofia TALAS

The Secretary, Sébastien SOUBIRAN

