



**MINUTES OF THE ICOS BOARD MEETING
UPPSALA, 5–6 JUNE 2019**

Board members: Paula Sjöblom (PS, chair), Alina Bugheşiu (AB, secretary), Emilia Aldrin (EA, treasurer), Urszula Bijak (UB), Alice Crook (AC), Artur Gałkowski (AG), Nobuhle Hlongwa (NH), Lasse Hämäläinen (LH), Adrian Koopman (AK), Alexandra Petrulevich (AP), Evgeny Shokhenmayer (ES), Valéria Tóth (VT).

Editor-in-Chief of *Onoma*: Oliviu Felecan (OF).

1. Opening of the meeting and apologies

The meeting was called to order on 5 June 2019, at 14:30 Sweden time.

2. Confirmation of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted without the addition of new items to the plan of discussions originally disseminated via e-mail by PS before the meeting.

3. Minutes of the previous meetings

The minutes of the meetings held online, via Slack, on 16 November 2018 and 14 January 2019 were approved by the Board members.

4. Matters arising

As nothing was noted under this heading, the meeting moved on to item 5 on the agenda.

5. President's report

The report presented by PS highlighted four aspects:

A) Since the previous online meeting in January 2019, the President's focus has been on solving several problems of *Onoma* together with the new elected editor-in-chief, the chair of the editorial board, the editorial secretary and the treasurer. The cooperation has been excellent, and we have produced good results.

B) The team planning the ICOS Summer School (Lasse Hämäläinen, prof. Terhi Ainiala and Paula Sjöblom) has been active and the program is almost complete.

C) There have not been any noteworthy signs of interest for organising ICOS congress in 2023 yet. The next Newsletter will include a call for bids with reworked guidelines (also found on the ICOS website) and a new deadline. Nevertheless, the President has also been discussing with Terhi Ainiala about the possibility to arrange the next congress in Finland, if there are no other candidates. ICOS wishes to encourage the organisation of its congresses on other continents as well. This is a task in which the future Board should be actively engaged.

D) VT announced that she is unable to continue her activity as a board member. She nominated Katalin Reszegi (University of Debrecen, Hungary) as her successor. The vote in her favour was passed unanimously.

6. Secretary's report

Three matters were at the centre of the Secretary's report:

A) The Board members were kindly asked to submit information that should be disseminated via the following Newsletter.

B) A new society, Polish Onomastics Society, was affiliated to ICOS in February 2019. It was formed in 2018 for the popularisation of the knowledge about proper names, bringing together researchers who deal with onomastics and enthusiasts interested in names.

C) ICOS received enquiries regarding potential grants issued by the organisation for students who cannot afford to participate in ICOS congresses. This issue was discussed only briefly on this occasion. The Board members decided that specific criteria need to be established to make sure that such a grant can really be supported from ICOS finances and to help pick out the best candidate to receive this grant.

7. The financial situation of ICOS (Treasurer's report)

EA noted that ICOS finances are overall in a good state. The rules of the Swedish Tax Agency require that ICOS spends 80% of the income over each five-year period; since the organisation has not done that in previous years, we need to spend more than the income at present to reach the requirements over a five-year period (and avoid tax penalties). During the period 2014–2018 only 44 % of the ICOS incomes were spent. In 2019, a number of investments will take place. These include supporting the ICOS Summer School in Helsinki, setting up a webpage for the digital publication of *Onoma*, creating a members' login and a membership payment module on the ICOS webpage and more. With these investments in mind, ICOS will spend 75% of the incomes over the period 2015–2019. However, as a result of these investments, the expenses during 2019 will exceed the incomes substantially. Looking at the next five-year period, 2016–2020, the prognosis indicates that we will be able to reach the goal of spending 80% of the income over the period. Notably, we will do that even though the present budget for 2020 only implies spending 55% of the estimated incomes during that year. It is therefore evident that, with the investments during 2019, ICOS will be “back on track” with respect to Swedish tax rules and can concentrate on a long-term goal of yearly expenses that do not exceed yearly incomes.

8. Membership payments

The Board has previously decided to change the procedure of membership payments to a more safe and easy one. Of the payment modules proposed, the Board members voted for Stripe, as it is a safe, credible and financially advantageous payment platform (members do not have to pay additional transaction fees).

9. Report of the Terminology Group

The List of Key Onomastic Terms in the three basic languages of ICOS (EN, GE, FR) has been inserted in an online Excel document, to which the members of the Terminology Group were given individual access,

with the possibility of editing it. The document has been supplemented with the terminological equivalents in Slovak, Polish, Hungarian, Italian, Byelorussian and Croatian. Subsequently, when the document was made available to certain members of the Group, the equivalents were also added in Finnish, Latvian and Estonian. AG noted that the work was going on in Russian, Spanish, Catalan and Swedish. It is possible to complete the register with languages not represented by the members of the Terminological Group by adding new columns to the Excel document.

The above-mentioned project can expand or develop the list by additional terms, even if their determination requires significant discussion. The English list remains the reference point of the adopted order in other languages. Thanks to the open concept of expanding the list, there are several dozen new terms (mainly in Polish and Latvian so far), which the Terminology Group will discuss and propose their definitions in English.

The result of this work can be presented in the form of a traditional or online publication (e.g. on the ICOS website). AG agreed with Oliviu Felecan that an extensive presentation of this project could be made in *Onoma*. The effects of this project should be advanced before the ICOS Congress in Krakow. The project will be presented during the Congress, but it would not be published until then, as the time is too short. AG suggested that the Board should discuss about formalising this project. This idea may qualify for submission to an international grant program. Any suggestions in this matter would be valuable.

AP advised that it would be better to publish the project as an online repository, given the fact that it is continuously evolving.

10. *Onoma* (Editor-in-Chief's report)

Since the appointment of the new Editor-in-Chief in January 2019 (see Slack Board Meeting, 15 January 2019), work on *Onoma* has advanced significantly. The website of the journal was launched in March, and vol. 50/2015 was published online in April. The editing of vol. 51/2016 (*Asian Onomastics*) and 52/2017 are well under way, and they will be published (online and in print, by Mega Publishing House, Romania).

OF raised the issue of the length of the articles submitted for publication. The Board decided that *Onoma* should accept articles that have between 5000 and 8000 words, including abstract, keywords and references.

At the same time, OF was asked to discuss with the Editorial Board of *Onoma* the possibility of imposing a one-year embargo on up-to-date volumes of the journal. In this way, members of ICOS would have access to the online articles as soon as they are published, whereas non-members of ICOS could only read them freely after one year or upon payment. The position of the Editorial Board would be conveyed to the Board of ICOS at a later point.

11. Language policy of ICOS

The three official languages of ICOS (English, French and German) either demand a lot of work from some voluntary members or cause expenses to ICOS. There are different needs for translations within *Onoma*, the newsletter and the web pages. The Board should decide in which cases – if any – we could use professional translators for help. This aspect should be discussed at the next General Assembly.

12. Summer School in Helsinki (Postgraduate representative's report)

ICOS will organise the first ICOS Summer School in August 2019 in Helsinki, Finland. There will be 25 students from 16 different countries joining the course. The programme of the course was already sent to the participants. It includes lectures, an excursion, a full-day text workshop, and making a 3-Minute-Thesis presentation.

Estimated costs are 5.545 € in total. The University of Helsinki supports the course with 2.000 €, so the share of ICOS would be 3.545 €. The Board approved this financial venture, as the Summer School is an important investment for ICOS future: almost 20 new members will join ICOS, and the text workshop on the course might produce several articles for *Onoma*.

13. The visibility and credibility of ICOS

The credibility of ICOS is based on many pillars. *Onoma* is obviously the most important way for ICOS to gain global scientific authority in onomastics, but there are other means in which the visibility of the organisation can increase, i.e. the ICOS web page and social media. The web page (see <https://icosweb.net>) is under development (see also sections 7 and 8 above), and it will be updated as soon as it is available. News about this will be disseminated via ICOS social media, the Newsletter and e-mail.

14. Report of the Bibliographical database group (ES)

ES announced that the survey regarding the usefulness of the activity of the Bibliographical Group recorded few responses. Thus, it was decided that the status of the Group would be discussed during the 27th ICOS Congress in Kraków, within the meeting of the General Assembly.

15. 27th ICOS Congress (2020, Kraków) (UB)

The organizational work for the next congress in Kraków is proceeding as planned. The organising committee has revised the budget since the costs have grown. The Board discussed aspects regarding the participation fees (for members/non-members of ICOS and students) and the publication of the proceedings. UB confirmed that all the matters pointed out would be published on the website of the Congress and disseminated to participants via e-mail as well.

16. Conference Proceedings (26th ICOS, 2017, Debrecen) (VT)

The Proceedings of the last ICOS conference in Debrecen were published in an exceptionally short period as 5 issues of *Onomastica Uralica*, with 12 guest-editors. All papers were peer-reviewed, and some articles were rejected. The 5 volumes include 113 articles, namely more than 1,600 pages. The Proceedings have already been sent to the contributors who requested the volumes in printed format, but they are also available online (<http://mnytud.arts.unideb.hu/onomural/>).

17. ICOS Personal Data Protection Policy

EA has suggested some changes to the ICOS Personal Data Protection Policy, which were approved by the Board. The updated document will be posted on the ICOS website.

18. Next meeting

The following meeting will take place online, via Slack, towards the end of the year 2019. If any pressing matters appear, they will be discussed within the Executive Board via e-mail.

19. Any other business

The Board approved the creation of a new sub-section on the ICOS web page, under Links, for scientific events on onomastics (international conferences, workshops etc.).

20. Closing

PS thanked the members of the Board for the productive discussions and closed the meeting on Thursday, 6 June 2019, at 11:45 Sweden time.

Alina Bugheșiu
Secretary of ICOS
(June 2021)