



**MINUTES OF THE ICOS BOARD MEETING
HELD ONLINE, VIA SLACK, ON 14 APRIL 2020**

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

1. Opening of the meeting and apologies

The meeting was called to order at 14:00 Helsinki summer time (12:00 GMT).

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. ICOS General Assembly, the 27th ICOS Congress in Kraków and the COVID-19 pandemic

The executive committee of the ICOS Board have discussed by e-mail (from 25 to 28 March) about the effects of the global COVID-19 crisis on ICOS. Three separate but interrelated questions needed to be addressed:

- 1) Should the Kraków Congress be postponed?
- 2) Will the General Assembly still reunite if the Congress is postponed?
- 3) If both the Congress and the General Assembly get delayed, what is the position of the current Board of Directors of ICOS, whose term of office expires in August 2020?
- 4) In this context, will ICOS 28 be postponed as well?

The discussions resulted in the conclusions below:

- 1) In light of the spread of COVID-19 throughout the world, the Congress organisers suggested that ICOS 27 be postponed until 22–27 August 2021. The Board members agreed that it is the most sensible solution. Moreover, it was agreed that ICOS would help with the costs caused by the postponement.
- 2) In agreement with the ICOS Statutes, it was decided that the General Assembly would be arranged during the Kraków Congress. Thus, it would only be held in 2021.
- 3) Since the Board of Directors is elected by the General Assembly, the term of office of the current Board will be extended until 2021.
- 4) A single bid was received for ICOS 28. It was submitted by the University of Helsinki. The plans will be presented before the General Assembly in 2021. Since ICOS 27 has been postponed, it was settled that ICOS 28 would also be delayed a year, until 2024.

4. Next meeting

The following meeting will be held on 25 May 2020, online, via Slack.

5. Closing

PS thanked everyone for the fruitful discussion and closed the meeting at 16:30 Helsinki summer time (14:30 GMT).

Alina Bugheşiu
Secretary of ICOS
(June 2021)