

**Minutes of the ICOS Board Meeting**

**Zoom, 13 December 2023, 3 pm CET**

<https://tuni.zoom.us/j/66373258717?pwd=cmZ3RXlnNTB2RVlPZjcrTHB6SWtRQT09>

**Present:** Katalin Reszegi (KR, chair), Yolanda Guillermina López Franco (YGLF, Vice-President), Peter Jordan (PJ, Vice-President), Vladislav Alpatov (VA, Secretary), Alexandra Petrulevich (AP, Treasurer), Daniel Solling (DS, Vice-Treasurer), Eugen Schochenmaier (ES, Assistant Secretary and Web Officer), Fatemeh Akbari (FA), Artur Gałkowski (AG), Lasse Hämäläinen (LH), Márcia Sipavicius Seide (MSS),

# Welcome and Apologies

KR welcomed everyone present.

Brittnee Leysen (BL, Postgraduate Representative), Oliviu Felecan (OF, Editor-in-Chief of *Onoma*)excused themselves for absence.

# Minutes of the previous meeting (Zoom, 9 February 2023)

The minutes were approved for publication by the Board.

# Confirmation of the agenda

The following agenda was confirmed:

[1. Welcome and Apologies 1](#_Toc157103303)

[2. Minutes of the previous meeting (Zoom, 9 February 2023) 1](#_Toc157103304)

[3. Confirmation of the agenda 1](#_Toc157103305)

[4. Treasurer’s report 1](#_Toc157103306)

[5. HumSpatial project 3](#_Toc157103307)

[6. ICOS Congress 2024 3](#_Toc157103308)

[7. ICOS Congress 2027 5](#_Toc157103309)

[8. New board members 7](#_Toc157103310)

[9. Organizations affiliated with ICOS 7](#_Toc157103311)

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[13. Any other business 10](#_Toc157103315)

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# Treasurer’s report

Treasurer’s report can be found in a separate document.

The report was received by the Board.

Treasurer’s posterior comments are below:

AP: Comparing the 2023 report and the updated 2021–2024 report, we can see that we are spending more than we get – although the balance is much better than the one we had budgeted for. There are some trends visible in the numbers that allow to propose some recommendations to be discussed and noted down to be handed to the next Board at the Helsinki Congress.

**Trends:**

* We are spending money in the proper manner i.e. more than 80 % of the income over the 5 year period (in accordance with the Swedish Tax agency requirements) and the trend is consistent from 2022 to 2024. However, we are spending too much and should be aiming at bringing the income in line with expenditure.
* There are difficulties in collecting membership fees. It is important to note that the number of members has not decreased between 2022 and 2023 (the Congress year 2021 – 218, 2022 – 193, 2023 – 196) but the amount of the income has diminished (e.g. some members pay for several years ahead so we get a large sum one year and then nothing the following years). Increasing membership is a desired trend.
* Onoma sales have dropped more than 50 % as expected. In 2021 and 2022 we had a big income from Onoma sales because the subscribers had “missed” on several issues and then caught up, i.e. the orders were for 4–5 issues per subscriber at a time. However, now that the subscribers have eliminated the Onoma gaps, the sales have dropped because we only sell one issue per year.
* Bank costs are rising. In 2023 we paid more than 300 EUR for banking costs compared to 271 the year before.
* The organisation of the ICOS Summer School 2023 was more expensive than we budgeted for, 4 560 EUR (we budgeted 4 000 EUR)

**Recommendations:**

* Raise the cost per Onoma issue (done from 2024 but the next Board should discuss if further adjustments are necessary).
* Raise the membership fee from 2025 (to be suggested to the next Board). Important: the issue of the fee rise has to be handled via the website/STRIPE as well. The next Board should attend to this issue.
* Make use of the interest from the savings account by transferring it to the SEK account (done from 2024): this is necessary because we have difficulties in filling up the SEK account (from where the bank collects its fees) because many of the Swedish and Nordic members who paid via bank transfer in SEK before switched to STRIPE or EUR payments.
* Websites (ICOS + Onoma) + Stripe: the present Board has not managed to solve the problem of necessary technical updates to the ICOS website. Moreover, these websites are “person linked”, i.e. Unni Leino pays for the ICOS website (and sometimes forgets to ask for reimbursement as was the case for 2023) while Oliviu Felecan pays for the Onoma website. At least when it comes to the ICOS website and the STRIPE server, we or the next Board should aim at changing the server to a less expensive one with documentation in English (right now it is in Finnish). We have not succeeded in recruiting anyone to help us out with the websites. As can be seen from the report submitted, we no longer have any “extra money” to spend. We are already spending more than we earn.

 Although the balance is much better than expected, and the organization is performing relatively well in general, the next Board should take steps in order to raise the income so that we earn/spend approximately the same amount of money.

# HumSpatial project

AP: In my role as a project leader of the HumSpatial project (under development) I would like to seek ICOS support for an EU application. At the moment, the project is supported by national and international experts on geography, i.e. by EuroGeographics and United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management: Europe (UN-GGIM: Europe). However, it is essential for the project to have ICOS support because this Research & Innovation project deals with novel approaches to model spatiotemporal data including place-names. The purposes of the project (phrased as recommendations 1-3 in the publication) can be accessed through this publication: [https://urn.kb.se/resolve?urn=urn:nbn:se:uu:diva-510590](https://urn.kb.se/resolve?urn=urn:nbn:se:uu:diva-510590" \t "_blank) Below is the list of the HumSpatial consortium partners.

From the current ICOS Board, there are two members involved in the project – FA and AP. If ICOS grants its support we would need a representative for the Advisory Board (Peter Jordan?) and a short letter of support. ICOS participation means the project will invite the representative of the ICOS Board to its meetings and distribute information on any activities to the ICOS members – as well as partake in ICOS activities such as Congresses to inform ICOS members about the progress of the project.

**Organization name                    Short name     Type Country**

(U=research uni, I=research institute, A=industry-led association)

Uppsala University                   UU                     U                       Sweden

Open Geospatial Consortium OGC                   A                      Belgium

International Information Centre for Terminology  Infoterm         A                        Austria

King's College London              KCL                    U                    UK

University of Helsinki               UH                U                       Finland

Institute of the Estonian Language              EKI                     I                          Estonia

Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities DARIAH   I                      France

University of Bergen                UiB                    U                       Norway

Austrian Academy of Sciences (Austrian Centre for Digital

Humanities and Cultural Heritage&Institute for Medieval Studies)  ÖAW                I                          Austria

Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences     IHPAN               I                          Poland

Institute of the Polish Language of the Polish Academy of Sciences  IJPPAN              I                        Poland

University of Iceland (Centre for Digital Humanities and Arts)  CDHA                     U                      Iceland

PJ expressed his support for this project.

The initiative was supported by the Board.

# ICOS Congress 2024

The Organizing Committee’s report is below.



LH: The ***meeting schedule*** has been drafted, with an updated congress programme including time slots for the meetings of the working groups, etc. There might still be some changes, as the exact times for the evening events have not been confirmed yet. The Student Network and Terminology Group meetings are happening at the same time as it seems that there are no people who are active members of both these groups.

***Congress proceedings***. KR suggested that the congress proceedings could be published as special issues of the publication series Onomastica Uralica, in a similar fashion as the ICOS 2017 proceedings. The articles would be thematically divided into several volumes, and each of those volumes would have a couple of guest editors. There should also be editors who manage the whole process (recruiting editors, sending the call for articles, dividing the articles into volumes, etc.).

LH: For us organizers, this seems to be a reasonable solution, as the editing workload would be spread on a larger group of people. The University of Helsinki is a co-publisher of Onomastica Uralica, the main publisher being the University of Debrecen. Onomastica Uralica scores relatively well in the Finnish ranking system of scientific publications.

MSS sent in a suggestion that the proceedings could be possibly spread into special issues of several different onomastic journals. This idea was worth considering as well. However, the problem might be that those journals have somewhat different scopes, audiences, author instructions, rankings, etc. It might be difficult to the proceedings editors to decide which articles would be placed to which journal, and the article authors would probably have their own preferences as well. Consequently, I would suggest that if such special issues are published after the congress, their calls would be arranged independently, without involving the organizers.

In my previous report, we asked about possible financial support from ICOS for the editorial work. In the Board, there are doubts whether ICOS has enough money for that.

The report was received by the Board.

AP: The Proceedings editorial work is difficult and, unfortunately, it has always been unpaid by ICOS. The Board should be aware that if we allow support for the editorial team this time, it will create a precedent. We could take a somewhat liberal position to allow that a certain sum within the budget of any Congress can be spent by the editorial committee in any way they like provided it is Congress-related: either printing the proceedings, or supporting the editorial work or any other purpose. So far, it cannot be definitively said whether ICOS can support the Congress proceedings editorial work. Also, the requested 3 000 EUR would not make a lot of difference for the editorial team as it is little money in terms of wages.

LH, KR, PJ all suggested dividing the editorial work among volunteers and arranging for several volumes, each edited by a different person. The unity of editorship would be maintained by an umbrella editor, and LH volunteered as the umbrella editor.

# ICOS Congress 2027

The Board received from Professor Theo Du Plessis a proposal to host the ICOS Congress in 2027 in Bloemfontein, South Africa.

**Bid for hosting ICOS 2027**

1) Name, address and institutional affiliation of the person responsible for the bid

Hosted by the Departement of South African Sign Language & Deaf Studies, University of the Free State (UFS), Bloemfontein, South Africa. We are awaiting confirmation from the Durban University of Technology (DUT), Durban, South Africa on them joining us as co-host.

Responsible persons: Proff. Theo du Plessis dplesslt@ufs.ac.za. Should DUT join in, Prof Maleshoane Rapeane-Mathonsi maleshoaner@dut.ac.za will join as co-host.

2) Place in which the Congress is to be held

Main Campus of the UFS in Bloemfontein.

3) Period in which the Congress could be held

23-27 August 2027

4) Thematic orientation of the Congres

Proposed theme: Names and naming in transforming societies

5) Background, motivation and relevance of the bid

Hosting an international conference on "Names and Naming in Transforming Societies" holds significant relevance in today's dynamic world for several reasons.

On the one hand, names and naming practices are deeply rooted in cultural conventions worldwide. They hold immense significance, reflecting traditions, histories, and societal values. On the other hand, with increased globalization and interconnectedness, societies experience transformations that impact naming conventions. Migration, cultural exchanges, and societal shifts contribute to evolving naming patterns. The world is faced with a whole range of challenges rgarding traditional names and naming practices.

Exploring how names evolve in transforming societies can shed light on issues of identity, multiculturalism, and inclusivity. Understanding how names change and adapt within evolving linguistic landscapes therefore helps in comprehending social dynamics. At the same time we also need to consider technological advancements, social media, and digital platforms influence naming trends. Exploring the impact of technology on naming practices has therefore also become crucial in contemporary society.

By examining naming practices, the conference can foster understanding and appreciation of diverse identities and cultural conventions, promoting social cohesion in multicultural societies. Discussions on naming conventions can address issues such as naming laws, personal rights, and cultural sensitivities. The conference can serve as a platform for scholars, linguists, sociologists, and anthropologists to share research findings, exchange ideas, and develop educational resources on names and naming practices.

Overall, this conference provides a unique opportunity to delve into the complexities of names and naming in a rapidly changing world. It aims to bridge gaps, celebrate diversity, and contribute to a deeper understanding of the cultural, societal, and linguistic aspects intertwined with names in the 21st cemtury.

6) Institutes, associations engaged in the organization of the Congress

We could liaise with the NSSA (<http://namessociety.za.org/>) to become partner to the Bloemfontien conference.

7) Availiabilty of lecture halls, classrooms, residence rooms etc.

The UFS has a policy of not making class room facilities available for conference during the academic term. As the indicated dates fall within our academic term, we have managed to secure adequate suitable venues that are used for classroom purposes.

8) Approximate costs for participants (estimated conference fee, travel, food and housing costs, etc.)

Our estimated conference fees (as per attached budget estimate) are as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Conference fees** | **ICOS2027 (subject to sponshorship)** | **ICOS2027 (without sponshorship)** |
|  | **ZAR** | **Euro** | **ZAR** | **Euro** |
| Sponsered participants | - | - | - | - |
| *Early Bird* | *R5 230,70* | *256* | *R9 438,98* | *462* |
| Late fee | R8 107,58 | 397 | R14 630,41 | 716 |
| Late fee (Non-member) | R9 049,11 | 443 | R16 329,43 | 799 |

These proposed fees are subject to us securing additional funding. No provisional is made for sponsored registratoins at this point in time.

9) Possible financial contributions for the organizers (Universities, foundations, national agencies etc.)

We shall try and secure a sponsorship from South Africa’s Convention Burea., our National Research Foundation and the Academy of Multilingualism of the UFS. Howevre, we shall require help from ICOS for publishing the conference proceedings, whcih incidentally will be done in e-format. Unfortunately we can only apply much later for these funding opportunities.

10) Conference planning timeline

Announced by 30 June 2025

Abstracts T.b.a.

Registration T.b.a.

Bid prepared by Prof. Theo du Plessis

Date 2023/12/06

Bloemfontein.

The bid was gratefully received by the Board

PJ, who mediated the proposal, described the process of searching for the venue, the advantages and the disadvantages of the currently proposed venue (travel, security).

LH hailed the move outside Europe and proposed to remind everyone that the floor for other bids is still open.

YGLF mentioned that she and MSS had wanted to volunteer to host the next congress but described the difficulties involved and expressed hope that one day it would become possible.

KR warmly thanked PJ for his initiative and mediation in obtaining the venue in Bloemfontein, highlighted the value of this achievement and outlined the enormous volume of work undertaken by PJ to find it.

Among the Board members questions were raised about the high cost of flight and possible issues with security. The advantages and disadvantages of the hybrid format were discussed (global time convenience, a different feel of in-person meeting, less on-site participation due to the remote location).

# New board members

KR read the appropriate section of the Statutes about rotation of Board members after the Congress.

PJ asked to plead with the GA to change article 11 of the Statutes to allow President to be re-elected and provided some grounding for this (consistence, experience, bigger input). Until the change, though, the Statutes stand as they are. DS supported, including possibly extending the terms of the other members of the Board as well.

Considerations were expressed by the Board members about candidates for the next ICOS President and about succession of Board members

The idea of writing an open call for nominations for President and Board was not appreciated by a majority. PJ proposes addressing potential candidates for President personally and will do this related to Staffan Nyström and Richard Coates. A majority supports this idea

Of the current board members, AP, ES and AG cannot be re-elected because they have already served two terms. PJ says that he will run for a second term as Vice-President, but will not be available for President.

# Organizations affiliated with ICOS

PJ acquainted the Board with an updated list of links to the affiliated organizations as it presents itself after PJ’s survey earlier this year. The list comprises active organisations with their President, their liaison officer with ICOS (who will provide ICOS with an annual report), their main activities, fields of cooperation with ICOS and also their proposals to and expectations form ICOS. Some organizations figuring in an earlier list don’t exist anymore.

PJ believes that ICOS should try to intensify first cooperation with the institutions/organizations on this list before we look for additional partners. Some of them mentioned opportunities for additional common activities.

Cooperation with ISO is under way, in 3 subcommittees, dedicated to language and technology. ICOS Terminology group is especially involved, agreements are already in place and a roadmap of cooperation has been drafted.

# ICOS Working Group on Toponymy

It was decided to establish an ICOS Working Group on Toponymy with the task to promote research on toponymy with a holistic approach, i.e. from the perspectives of all sciences engaged and relevant in onomastics. In detail, the Working Group will have the following tasks: (1) Propose and organize sessions on place names in the framework of relevant conferences and congresses; (2) Organize symposia on toponymy in cooperation with local host institutions; (3) Develop, support and cooperate in toponymic research and book projects; (4) Cultivate international cooperation with relevant global organizations like the International Cartographic Association (ICA) and the International Geographical Union (IGU) represented by the Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy, as well as the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN). The Working Group will have a registered membership, a chair and a vice-chair. Its members are members of ICOS or will gradually assume ICOS membership.

PJ was nominated first chair of the Working Group.

YGLP volunteered for setting up an Anthroponomastics WG.

AG proposed changing the Statutes rule that the Head of a WG must be a Board Member; he also proposed a Chrematonomastics WG.

# Onoma report

OF submitted the Report of the Editor-in-Chief of *Onoma*

**Report of the Editor-in-Chief of *Onoma***

Volume 58/2023: ***Place Names as a Part of Cultural Heritage***

Guest-editor: **Peter Jordan** (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Urban and Regional Research, Austria; University of the Free State, Faculty of Humanities, South Africa)

* an edited preface, 12 themed articles, a report, 3 non-themed papers, 15 book reviews (more than 400 pages in total). The authors’ institutional affiliations are diverse: they represent many countries/continents;
* this large issue should appear online by the end of the year, and in print in January.

Volume 59/2024: ***Onomastics in America***

* 18 themed papers accepted + non-themed papers and book reviews.

Guest-editors: **Grant W. Smith** (Eastern Washington University, USA), **Yolanda G. López Franco** (National Autonomous University of Mexico, FES Acatlán, Mexico), **Márcia Sipavicius Seide** (Universidade Estadual do Oeste do Paraná, Brazil)

Volume 60/2025: ***War and Neotoponymy***

This specific and accurate title is aimed at attracting original paper proposals on the following topics:

* battlefield neotoponymy;
* the commemoration of war in neotoponymy;
* the naming of disputed territories;
* claims concerning transliterated exonym changes (e.g. Kyiv/Kyev).

Guest-editor: **Frédéric Giraut** (University of Geneva, Switzerland).

Other matters:

1. We are receiving more and more paper submissions. On certain occasions, the articles deal with rare, highly specific topics, and it is very difficult to find peer-reviewers. For instance, we have received a paper on Old Iranian names. I have tried to find a suitable reviewer, but I am still not sure whether I have succeeded (I am waiting for an answer from Iran). If you happen to know a potential reviewer for this paper, I would be very grateful for the recommendation.

2. We are periodically sending parcels with *Onoma* volumes to ICOS members and subscribers.

3. We are working on the journal’s website as well, to meet all the requirements for indexing *Onoma* in two important data bases: ISI Web of Science and Scopus.

4. Due to the increasing inflation and the increase in printing and shipping prices, we may have to modify the fee per volume starting with 2024: 35 Euros/issue instead of 30 Euros (for non-members of ICOS). If you agree to that, we will modify the price on the 3rd cover of the journal (<https://onomajournal.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Onoma-57-6.00-Back-cover-inside.pdf>), and Daniel will have to notify the subscribers.

5. The visibility of the journal’s website is increasing every month. We are proud to have more than 52.400 pageviews (see <https://onomajournal.org>).

Baia Mare

5.12.2023 Oliviu Felecan

 Editor-in-Chief of *Onoma*

The report was received by the Board.

FA proposed to change the name of Volume 60/2025 to “Political Movements and Names”

VA also proposed to change the wording of the subtopics or the set of the subtopics themselves:

* battlefield neotoponymy; - *eliminate*
* the commemoration of war in neotoponymy; - *the commemoration of political movements in neotoponymy*
* the naming of disputed territories - *eliminate*;
* claims concerning transliterated exonym changes (e.g. Kyiv/Kyev) – *eliminate*.

VA pointed out that despite apparent contemporary relevance, this is a sensitive issue, and, as it stands, the topic of the volume perpetuates current war divisions and human grief; apart from foregrounding potentially inflammatory and inevitably politically-biased content in the present day, it may prove to be counterproductive in the long run when, regardless of the outcomes of any military conflict, every effort is needed to bring the conflicting parties together and heal the wounds inflicted by the war. This title risks attracting contributions that would draw scholarly battle lines in addition to real-life ones and could alienate researchers on either side of current conflicts in Russia, Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Near and Middle East, Africa and elsewhere.

“War and Neotoponymy” necessarily wades into political linguistics, which is a sphere of research in its own right, but when it deals with currently hot topics it risks compromising academic integrity for personally defined political good.

Several Board members prefer not to intervene into the proposal of the guest editor Frédéric Giraut, Onoma’s editor-in-chief and the Editorial Board regarding title and contents of Onoma No. 60/2025.

# Onomastics Online

* February: Frédéric Giraut
* March: Alexandra Petrulevich
* June: Gábor Gercsák: Principles of place naming in the new national atlas of Hungary (later re-scheduled for 4 April)

# Any other business

FA raised again the issue of digitizing Onoma, DS: big legal question. Rewrite the rules.

# Next board meeting

Next Board meeting has been set for 9 April 2024, 3 pm CEST.

KR thanked everyone for participation and adjourned the meeting at 5.30 pm.

♣♣♣

Vladislav Alpatov

Secretary

(25 January 2024)