

## EUROPEAN REGIONAL MEETING

**Bologna, 31st March 2015**

Present: Sabine Fuchs (Austria), Eva Devos (Belgium: Flemish Branch), Vagn Plenge (Denmark), Ilona Kivirähk (Estonia), Krista Kumberg (Estonia), Mare Mürsepp (Estonia), Hasmig Chahinian (France), Doris Breitmoser (Germany), Zoltán Jeney (Hungary), Zoltán Pompor (Hungary), Federica Azzanutto (Italy), Ludmilla Chizhova (Russia), Timotea Vrablova (Slovakia), Reina Duarte (Spain), Anita Muller (Switzerland), Gülçin Alpöge (Turkey), Serpil Ural (Turkey), Tülin Kozikoğlu (Turkey), Ann Lazim (UK), Ferelith Hordon (UK), Pam Dix (UK)

The meeting opened by welcoming IBBY Hungary, represented by Zoltán Jeney and Zoltán Pompor. Best wishes were sent to Bosnia & Herzegovina; we hope we will see you at the next meeting.

### **1. Website:**

Hasmig Chahinian reported on the Europe Website and the database of books in national languages.

Statistics - healthy numbers logging in, but average time spent very short. Majority of hits mainly via PCs (more than mobile devices) and accessing own language items. Suggests use at the workplace, possibly just to check that national selection has appeared.

VP queried length of time spent looking at the books, also that few return. Is this a problem?

What do we want from the stats? They suggest website not visible enough and needs to keep content fresh.

Austria still to add books; will be doing so very soon. Will then circulate information to publishers/authors etc.

Selection of books to be left to Sections to interpret individually. Titles must be fiction - this was queried, but at present will remain the rule - and only one title per author/illustrator.

Please put a link on your website to this site.

If books could be added more frequently, it would be easier to promote

Agreed that Sections could update their choices every year with up to five titles. Out of print items should be removed. The year would be March - March (in effect Bologna - Bologna).

Also agreed that all sections could add books in more than one language (max 10) e.g. IBBY Spain: Catalan/Castilian/Galician /Basque.

The problem of acquiring the books was raised - often books in other languages can be difficult to find. European Bookshop (online) was mentioned as a possible source.

The meeting was reminded that the collection of the International Youth Library was another resource for identifying books in other languages

It was also suggested that a copy of each title be sent to IJB (International Youth Library, Munich), perhaps with a particular logo on a sticker. Publishers might then like to use this logo to highlight these titles.

## **2. Newsletter:**

Deadline imminent. FH said she would hope to alert Sections of future deadlines earlier. Please encourage members to record all events, but in brief, and identify any photos submitted.

We will contact Bosnia & Herzegovina to ask for news items for the next issue.

Hungary prepared to send news.

Please, add a link from your website.

## **3. Facebook:**

At present most posts from Wally.

Don't forget - you may post yourself, or send the information to Wally or Hasmig.

Some National Sections have their own Facebook pages. Please share this information and like/follow.

## **4. Regional Conference:**

HC proposed that the time was right for the European Region to consider our own Conference. She suggested it should not be in a Congress year and not before 2017.

Suggestion: cooperation with other Conferences and the Reading Association of Austria.

While there was general approval, questions were raised:

Venue? - Bologna?

Finance? - From the EU?

It was agreed the first step would be to ensure approval of the EC; to advocate ideas through the newsletter and emails to all Sections.

Agreed that approval and formation of a working party should be settled by the EC meeting in Bratislava.

## 5. News:

Short items of news were exchanged.

a) Spain - organising an exhibition to showcase Spanish authors who have been translated. Reina will send information to the NS.

b) Germany - Translators Workshop - translators from German have until 2nd May to apply for inclusion in this workshop

<https://www.facebook.com/IBBY.Europe/posts/282205535193052>

The meeting was reminded that the German Youth Literature Award includes translations.

c) Italy - Silent Books Project - collection now travelling round the world

d) UK - Pam Dix, Chair of IBBY UK has been shortlisted for a LBF (London Book Fair) International Excellence Award for her work in helping promote Mexican publishers of childrens' books

Daniel Hahn has been awarded a grant to enquire into the state of translation within the UK publishing scene.

See you all in Bratislava.

Ferelith Hordon