

CIRCAP FRIENDS ASSOCIATION
Minutes meeting 3rd year, 2009-10

On 16th October 2009, at 16.15 the third annual meeting of *CIRCaP Friends Association* has taken place.

Members of the Association present at the meeting: 25.

Present Members of the Board 4 (*Nicolò Conti, Maurizio Cotta, Angela Movileanu and Filippo Tronconi*).

Opening of the meeting

The meeting starts with the welcome speech of the President of the Association, Nicolò Conti.

Nicolò Conti makes a brief résumé for the Association's activity for the last year.

He mentions:

- participation in research projects funded by national and international bodies;
- the launch of the POLICHANGE newsletter,
- dissemination of research activities;
- implementation of the contacts database of the Association.

In particular, the Association participated directly offering logistic and human support in the following projects:

- research project on Italian Public Opinion and Foreign Policy funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- research project on Public Opinion and Humanitarian Aid in collaboration with the University of Siena, funded by the World Food Program

The president of the Association presented the budget for the last year.

- *Income*- In the period between 8th October 2008 and 1 October 2010 the Association received 20,000 € in research grants and 3,043 € of donations..
- *Expenses* – in the same period, the costs for research activities were 21,740 €, support for the CIRCaP Tuesday seminar was 652 €, printing and dissemination of Blondel distinguished Lecture was 230 € and administrative costs were 375 €
- By the 8th of October the Savings amounted to 1,602 €

Revenues of the last year' budget come from Alumni donations and funds from the projects in which the Association was involved.

No membership fee was asked from the members.

Debate and questions from the audience:

Aline Sierp and Stefano Braghiroli asked if there is any possibility for the Association to set among the next year's goals to provide some travel/conference funding for PhD students.

Nicolò Conti answered that by the time being such a funding is not possible and more fund raising is needed to achieve such a goal.

Prof. Cotta intervened by saying that so far the main two goals of the Association were 1) to create a communication link among CIRCaP Alumni and 2) support the activities of CIRCaP (which was done by helping to finance the Jean Blondel Tuesday Seminar and offering the possibility for prestigious speakers to give talks for the Alumni - e.g. Stefano Bartolini in 2008, Yves Meny in 2009). Still, these goals may be now further developed and we should take further steps for fund raising to cover financially the new activities. He mentions that Alumni associations are not frequent phenomenon in Italian culture and so we should not expect too much, but still it is worth asking for money when there is a good cause.

The further discussion went on the strategy of fund raising.

Prof. Isernia proposes to link the two problems – travel/conference funding for PhD students and fund raising – by asking donations explicitly for *mobility funding*. A minimum of €10 might be a reasonable donation.

Federico Russo brings the idea of making special campaigns for fund raising.

Francesco Carnesecchi suggests to make an equivalent for the money donated, e.g. 10€ equals 10 minutes of a PhD seminar etc.

Prof. Bellucci recalls the importance of the newsletter that reminds Alumni of the importance of their contributions.

Celine Vivier agrees with prof. Bellucci as saying that in her experience of being Alumna of other institutions, printed newsletters are motivating and create the feeling of belonging to the Association/university.

The same idea is supported by *Lamis El Muhtaseb (a PhD student)* who mentions her experience at Johns Hopkins university: the program director sends her postcards one a while, asking for money by the way.

Nicolò Conti recalls the costs that a printed newsletter might have.

Alumni Networking

Stefano Braghiroli says he is now administrator of the CIRCaP-group on Facebook and he is dedicated to improve the communication via virtual social -networking.

Cristina Barbieri (a guest professor) asks if being member of the Association gives access to CIRCaP datasets.

Nicolò Conti said 'no'. = “We make available dissemination products such as occasional papers of the Association, but CIRCaP is a different entity and the CIRCaP data is not accessible via the Association”.

Martino Rubal (a PhD student) asked if it is possible to know exactly who the members of the Alumni are and how can we get in touch with each other.

Nicolò Conti answers that so far there is the list of the Alumni is accessible via the Association website and the contacts can be provided by request where they are not available on-line. There is info on almost everybody but there is still a lot of work to be done to up-date the current positions of the Alumni.

Prof. Bellucci mentioned that it would be desirable to have a virtual map of institutions/or links to the places our Alumni work; a shortcut to each place with the contacts we have in place.

Diego Garzia (a PhD student) advances the idea of using an Internet tool like online form or database accessible by the Alumni that could be completed with updated info by each.

The president of the Association calls for next formal steps of the meeting

1. approving the budgets by the present members of the association. The members voted unanimously to approve the budgets of last year and next year (22 votes).
2. election of the Board.

Prof. Cotta who kindly accepted last year to be the honorary member of the Board with the portfolio of 'Alumni institutional relations' agrees to keep the portfolio for another year.

The Board was elected two years ago, in the 2007 meeting. Beyond *Prof. Cotta* who confirms his availability for the next year, the actual team (Marco Brunazzo, Nicolo Conti, Francesco Marangoni, Angela Movileanu, Filippo Tronconi and Christopher Roux) proposes itself to volunteer for the next biennium.

With unanimous vote the Board was renewed its mandate.

Goal setting for the next year:

Prof. Cotta says that more ambitious goals may be set for the next year.

Nicolò Conti asserts that by now the 3 goals would be:

- To support the Tuesday Seminar at CIRCaP.
- To set a budget of about 500 € for CIRCaP student mobility.
- To participate in research projects.

Both the amount of travel fund and system of allocation will be decided by the Board in a later moment.

The meeting finished happily with two bottles of champagne kindly offered by the professors of CIRCaP.