



**Minutes from**  
**CIRCLE 2006 Annual General Meeting**

**held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2006 at the Cable Factory in Helsinki**

**Present:**

Jordi Balta, Simona Bodo, Danielle Cliche, Jean-Cedric Delvainquiere, Christopher Gordon, Dorota Ilczuk, Peter Inkei, Anna Kanerva, Magdalena Kulikowska, Matko Mestrovic, Elly Moga, Adriana Popp, Kirill Razlogov, Minna Ruusuvirta, Pasi Saukkonen, Janos Szabo Zoltan.

**Item 1: Opening by the President**

The meeting was opened by CIRCLE President Dorota Ilczuk. At the beginning of the meeting she presented the current situation of CIRCLE. She underlined the importance of the CIRCLE/Pro Cultura Foundation publication "Metropolises of Europe. Diversity in urban cultural life". The book, as the whole CIRCLE project, was highly acknowledged by the European Commission and chosen as one of the 20 best practices in the field of intercultural dialogue.

Dorota Ilczuk went on to the 2006 project within which the RT in Helsinki was organised. She acknowledged the input of the Boekman Foundation and of Cupore and thanked the latter for their effort to organise the conference.

Afterwards the new surrounding in which CIRCLE is at present was presented. In this context it has been pointed out that now, not like during the first years of its functioning, CIRCLE is one among numerous other networks with which it has to compete with. This is especially important when it comes to financing. It has been underlined that despite the competition, thanks to the successful application for core funding, which was granted to CIRCLE in 2006, it was possible to: organise the Helsinki round table, set a permanent secretariat, have a contracted financial assistant. Receiving that grant not only made it possible for CIRCLE to keep going but also gives it a better chance of receiving a grant for 2007.

Before the floor was given to others, Dorota Ilczuk stated that in 2007 her presidential mandate will terminate. She therefore gave a short summary of how things were during her presidency. She said that when she agreed to take the post it was impossible to predict how difficult times CIRCLE will face (termination of CoE funding, the unfortunate motion to transform Circle into a foundation, the termination of the Dutch funding for secretariat). In consequence, the President's role and actions had to concentrate on a survival strategy. Despite financial constrains and thanks to huge efforts the RT's took place every year, publications appeared nearly every year, and in 2005 CIRCLE finally started to have a new dynamic board.

Of course there are still things that need to be done. Circle should rebuild its membership (especially among young researchers) and CIRCLE's visibility should be better. This would be a major task for the new president, board and secretariat.

At the end Dorota Ilczuk strongly stated that Circle is still unique and necessary. Therefore the discussion on the future - which was reflected in the letters of Carla Bodo, Christopher Gordon and Dragan Klaic - is crucial, just as the careful and dynamic preparation for the 2007 presidential elections.

## Item 2: Report on CIRCLE's financial situation by the Treasurer

Peter Inkei, as CIRCLE Treasurer gave a presentation on CIRCLE's finances in 2006.

1 December, 2006

| <b>INCOME</b>                                    |                  |
|--|------------------|
| <b>BALANCE FROM 2005</b>                         | <b>21 948,92</b> |
| Membership fee                                   | 70,00            |
| Ecf final instalment (2379)                      | 8 955,51         |
| Ecf final instalment (2379)                      | 2 700,00         |
| EU DG EAC final instalment of Metropolis Project | 24 340,00        |
| EU DG EAC first instalment of 2006 project       | 23 717,20        |
| <b>INCOME TOTAL</b>                              | <b>81 731,63</b> |

| <b>EXPENSES</b>                                 |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Metropolis of Europe payments                   | 56 650,00        |
| Operation and Helsinki RT payments              | 6 640,00         |
| Administrative costs (bank fee, accountant fee) | 1 217,96         |
| <b>COSTS TOTAL</b>                              | <b>64 507,96</b> |

| <b>BALANCE</b>                     |                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>BALANCE ON 1 DECEMBER, 2006</b> | <b>17 223,67</b> |

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| <b>EXPECTED EXPENSES FOR 2006</b>              | <b>23 000,00</b> |
| <b>EXPECTED INCOME FOR DG EAC 2006 project</b> | <b>6 707,80</b>  |
| <b>EXPECTED BALANCE ON 31 DECEMBER</b>         | <b>931,47</b>    |

Peter Inkei sees the needs to review the financial approach, enormous difficulties in collecting fees, etc.

## Item 3: Presentation of CIRCLE's activities

The presentation of CIRCLE's activities in 2006 was given by Magdalena Kulikowska, who in light of the 2006 core funding agreement with the EC, took the post of CIRCLE co-ordinator in September 2006.

During the official 3 months working period the following things were done:

- setting up a small working space in the Pro Cultura Foundation office, which made it possible for the co-ordinator to devote 1 – 2 days per week strictly to CIRCLE matters;
- location and transfer of CIRCLE documents and materials from different locations;
- transfer, after some problems, of the CIRCLE web-site domain to the secretariat and installation of a new efficient software. This enables a quick and easy access to the site. In consequence the site's content was updated and information are being added on a current basis. The graphic design of the site was not changed (as originally planned) due to financial restrains;

- CIRCLE documents are being updated. This includes i.a. sending official request to the appropriate office in Holland to update CIRCLE's registration documents. The evaluation process is currently pending;
- the CIRCLE members data-base was corrected, updated and verified;
- the members were regularly contacted – introduced to the new situation and informed on a current basis on things that are happening;
- current issues were handled – e.g. information dissemination, contact with UNESCO and EC, piloting and submitting necessary documents and materials to officials responsible for the “best practices in the field of intercultural dialogue” award, handling current correspondence, etc.;
- close cooperation with the local partner Cupore within the framework of the 2006 project;
- preparation, with the help of the board, of the application for the EC grant within the Conditional Call for Proposal EACEA n° 06/2006 *Support for bodies active at European level in the field of culture*.

Things that are still to be done were also presented. A strong campaign for membership fees has to be launched, CIRCLE has to become more visible, and new members should be reached. Additionally, if the financial situation proves to be more secure, it would be advisable to create a more modern and up-to-date image of CIRCLE in the virtual world and prepare a professional newsletter which would be distributed every 2 months.

#### **Item 4: Discussion on CIRCLE future activities and other issues**

The first thing that was brought forward was the urgent situation that Peter Inkei's mandate as CIRCLE Treasurer has expired. After a discussion on what to do in the situation it has been agreed that the best solution would be to choose a new treasurer during next year's presidential elections. Therefore, after considering the options, it has been said that the best and easiest thing to do, would be to keep the CIRCLE bank account as it was in Budapest, and so in consequence to have Janos Szabo Zoltan (from the Budapest Observatory) as a contracted financial assistant (as was the case during the last 2 years). As Janos Szabo Zoltan agreed to such a proposal, upon voting, it has been decided that that will be the solution maintained until the 2007 AGM.

All present acknowledged Peter Inkei's work during the years in which he held the post and thanked him sincerely.

As the number of board executives has therefore been reduced, and in light of a very active year ahead of the board, Jordi Balta was proposed for the post of vice-president. The motion was voted in his favour unanimously.

The issue of the 2007 elections was then discussed in detail. It has been agreed that they should be prepared carefully, that there should be more than one candidate and that the future president should be chosen on the basis of her or his programme.

It has also been agreed that the board should be more active during this year and regularly be in touch with each other, e.g. via skype teleconferences. The first was planned to take place in the first week of February.

CIRCLE's mission has been discussed. In the end it has been agreed that the mission in its current shape is adequate and still up to date.

There was a long discussion about CIRCLE's role for the future, its work in connecting research and the policy sector, its added value, etc. The issue, how CIRCLE can become more open, visible and dynamic, took an important part of the discussion.

All present were asked to think about and send proposals for the themes of research to be undertaken after 2007, when, that is if CIRCLE will receive funding from the EC, the research will be devoted to "Promoting Hubs of Intercultural Dialogue: Festival Policies of Public Authorities in Europe". Within this year long project an international comparative report will be prepared (on the basis of c.a. 20 country surveys submitted by correspondents). The research will be a part of the European Festival Research Project and the 2007 RT will be held in Budapest.

It has been decided that in order to raise CIRCLE's visibility a newsletter should be prepared and sent out every 2 months.

On behalf of Geoffrey Brown, Peter Inkei presented a proposal to include CIRCLE's work on the website prepared by EUCLID – [www.culture.info](http://www.culture.info) . It has been agreed that after further consultations with Geoffrey Brown, and others who it might concern directly, the cooperation should be undertaken.

It also has been pointed out that CIRCLE should search new partnerships, with organisations of similar interests and ways of functioning.

All present expressed the need of CIRCLE's existence and its importance. It was said that CIRCLE has to continue its work but in a new and fresh way. It has to become more open, more visible and dynamic.

At the end of the meeting all present were asked to pay their membership fees.