

# ***EUROCLIO General Assembly 2011***

## ***Membership Fees 2012 (Agenda Point 15)***

### ***Introduction***

In preparation for the EUROCLIO Annual General Assembly, the Board has assessed the membership fee system that member associations abide by, and has made a proposal that addresses the need to discuss the increase of membership fee, the changing of the way the fee is defined, the way the votes in the GA are related, the rationale behind the new approach and the benefits of EUROCLIO membership.

We propose to follow the steps below in terms of facilitating discussion and reaching a common decision.

### ***The Current Situation. Where are we?***

- For already 6 years the fees have not been increased.
- A substantial part of the members are not able and/or willing to pay (in 2010 only 36 % of total fees has been received; only 27 % of the members did pay).
- There are various membership fees deviating from the fee table.
- The fee system is not fair, because the financial situation of teachers in Europe is very different in the various countries.

### **➔ So there is an urgency for change.**

### ***Why are membership fees important for EUROCLIO?***

- It has proven to be very important that EUROCLIO can present itself as a membership organization representing a very important pan-European community of history educators. Being a representative organization really helps in getting funds; Several important donor-schemes have made this mandatory, like the European Support for Association working in Education and Training on a European Level , also known as the EU Operating Grant.
- The financial challenges EUROCLIO has to deal with require a more broad view on fundraising. So we will aim on a broader portfolio of donors, including the market of private donations, and also aim on closer ties with the members.
- Since the Association and the Foundation have combined their operational activities, the membership fee is now an integrated part of EUROCLIO's revenues.

### **What do Members get for their fee?**

EUROCLIO encourages Associations and Organizations of History, Heritage and Citizenship Educators to become a member in order to:

- Network intensively with Associations in 46 other countries in Europe and abroad, representing a community of 25.000 Practitioners
- Explore the possibilities to collaborate in local, transnational, regional and international development projects, for instance to develop new educational materials.
- Join and influence the democratic organization that is EUROCLIO- the European Association of History Educators.

In return for payment of the membership fee, member associations are obtaining:

- Access to the large community of History, Heritage and Citizenship Educators
- Support from a professional and dedicated secretariat that can provide assistance, guidance, contacts, partnership proposals and more
- Support for participation in international training events
- Affiliation with the wider EUROCLIO Mission and Vision

### **What does the Board propose?**

1. We propose to split the represented countries into two categories, based on the EU standard fee per day for teachers in the different countries.<sup>1</sup>

Starting the financial year 2012, we propose two categories:

- a. Category A: countries with an index below € 300,=
- b. Category B: countries with an index above € 300,=

2. We propose to reduce the number of scale-based categories as follows:

#### **PRESENT SYSTEM**

<b>Members</b>	1-99	100-299	300-499	500-999	1000-1299	1300-1599	1600-1999	2000+
<b>Votes</b>	1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3

#### **PROPOSED SYSTEM**

<b>Members</b>	0	200	500	1000+
	199	499	999	
<b>Votes</b>	1	2	3	4

<sup>1</sup> On the website of the European Commission's Executive Agency for Education and Training, this list can be found online by downloading any of the EXCEL files under "reporting documents". In the EXCEL files, please look into the tab 'ceilings' and the column D "Research, Teacher, Trainer". The website location is:

[http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/llp/beneficiaries/2010/reporting\\_lifelong\\_learning\\_2010\\_en.php](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/llp/beneficiaries/2010/reporting_lifelong_learning_2010_en.php)

3. For the members in the **Category A countries** we do propose the following fees starting 2012:

members cat A	1-99	100-299	300-499	500-999	1000-1299	1300-1599	1600-1999	2000+
present system (€)	80	136	268	436	580	847	1.330	1.452
	1-199	200-499	500-999	1000+				
proposed system (€)	<b>100</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>400</b>				

4. For the members in the **Category B countries** we do propose the following fees starting 2012:

members cat B	1-99	100-299	300-499	500-999	1000-1299	1300-1599	1600-1999	2000+
present system	80	136	268	436	580	847	1.330	1.452
	1-199	200-499	500-999	1000+				
	<b>250</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>1000</b>				

5. For both smaller and mid-sized members the impact is significant. We therefore propose to adjust the increase in 3 years, with yearly steps of 33 %, starting in 2012.
6. For the large members (cat B) the fee would significantly decrease. This is hard to change, if we would maintain the logic of the system. We therefore insistently suggest the members involved to commit themselves to a yearly donation of the difference to Friends of EUROCLIO.
7. For a small number of the larger members the fee so far was based on a special condition. We do see that as complicated. So the Board proposes to adjust the special fees to the common level by negotiating directly with the members involved, taking into account a maximum period of three years.
8. For members who do foresee prohibitive problems with the level of their fee we propose the following waiver procedure:
- The member should apply in writing before April 1 of the year involved for a waiver of 25 %, 50 % or 75 %. Based on the grounds brought up the Board will decide within 1 month. Part of the decision can be a reduction of the number of votes.
  - If for a specific member a waiver is awarded in a row of years, the Board will have to consider the continuance of the membership. One of the considerations will be whether the waivers cumulate to more than 250 % in a five years time frame.
9. Collection policy:
- In the first 2 months of a year, a normal request will be sent to ask to pay the fee
  - After 3 months a reminder letter will be sent, asking for reasons of not paying

c. After another 3 months a second reminder letter will be sent, asking for reasons of not paying

10. Since situations could be delicate, the Board will not disclose either waivers or non-payments.
11. On a yearly basis the Board will account for both the waivers awarded and the non-payments to the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee will review the Board's explanations and report to the GA about its opinion on the monitoring and prudence of the Board.
12. On a yearly basis the Board will propose to the GA an inflation-based raise of the fees, starting for the year 2013 (GA 2012).
13. In figures:

soll position present fees	€ 16.343
fees 2010 actually received	€ 4.271

Fees members of countries A	present level	€ 6.930
impact of proposal sub 3		-/- € 120

Fees members of countries B	present level	€ 9.413
impact of increases due to proposal sub 4		+ € 3.497
impact of proposal sub 5		-/- € 2.331
net impact per year		+ € 1.166
impact of decreases due to proposal 4 (according to proposal 7 to be donated to Friends of EUROCLIO)		-/- € 2.110

*All figures under the restriction of waivers.*

14. As voting procedure we propose to vote as follows:
  - \* proposal 1 and 2 together;
  - \* proposal 3;
  - \* proposal 4 and 5 together (including a potential amendment for lower fees);
  - \* proposal 6;
  - \* proposal 7;
  - \* proposal 8;
  - \* proposal 9;
  - \* proposal 10;
  - \* proposal 11 and 12;
  - \* proposal 13;