

AEMI 2006

PROTOCOL OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF  
THE ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN MIGRATION INSTITUTIONS (AEMI)

TROGIR, CROATIA

28.09.03 – 30.10.03

THURSDAY 28.09.06

Conference members assembled at 9.00 am on board the Adriatic Paradise in the harbour of Trogir, near Split, which is a major heritage site, protected by UNESCO. This most unusual venue, and one most appropriate for the theme of migration, had been kindly organized for us by Dr Silva Meznaric, director of this year's host institution, IMIN (Institut za Migracije i Narodnosti), the Institute of Ethnic and Migration Studies, Zagreb. Silva welcomed those present and spoke briefly about the work of her Institute, which is financed by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports. Its activities include interdisciplinary research, communication of sciences, lectures and the organization of conferences such as this one, which are aimed at contributing to knowledge about socio-political conditions and consequences of migrations, ethnic development, ethnic relations and different forms of identity. The Institute publishes a journal, *Migracijske i etničke teme*, which deals with aspects of migration, ethnicity and identity, from the viewpoint of various social and humanistic disciplines: sociology, anthropology, history, demography, human geography, psychology, political science, economics, law, linguistics, etc. Being an international journal, its sphere of interest truly covers the entire world: papers are published mainly in four languages (Croatian, English, French and Russian).

On behalf of the Association, the Chairman, Dr Brian Lambkin, thanked Silva and her colleagues for their kind welcome. He referred to messages received from members unable to attend this year's meeting, including Knut Djupedal, Wolfgang Grams and Sarah Clément and regretted that Michel Thomas-Penette and Sorina Capp from the Institute of European Cultural Routes, Luxembourg, had been prevented at the last moment from attending. He also reminded members of previous occasions on which AEMI had taken to the sea in this way, which include the meeting in Portoroz, Slovenia in 1999, the meeting in Stavanger, Norway in 2002, and the legendary meeting that took place in 1994 on the Queen Elizabeth II, en route for New York. It was hoped that this meeting would also have the effect of promoting empathy with earlier migrants and encouraging good communication between those present as members of a floating community.

Silva Meznaric then introduced the theme of this year's conference, 'Cultural and Economic Links in Diaspora: Comparative Studies' and the programme for the day, which was as follows:

Thursday 28 September

10.00-12.30

Session One: Cultural and Economic Links: Croatian Diaspora. Panel.

Topics: Diachronic and synchronic overview of diaspora from contemporary territory of Croatia; demographic, statistical, political and economic features of Croatian diaspora; economic migration and consequences, 1965-1975. Independent Croatia and economic/cultural links with diaspora. Return flows: motives, flaws, policies.

Panelists:

Boris Skvorc (Croatian Studies Centre, Macquarie University, Sidney, Australia)

Silva Meznaric (IMIN, Zagreb),

Ruzica Cicak Chand (IMIN, Zagreb), 'Croatian ethnic parishes in Canada: their significance in preserving Croatian identity'

Marina Peric (IMIN, Zagreb), 'Croatian Immigrants in Chile'

Simona Kuti (IMIN, Zagreb).

Panel facilitator: Sasa Bozic (IMIN, Zagreb)

Lunch: on board

14.00-16.30

Session Two: Transnational Identities: Cultural Links in Comparative Perspectives

Topics: Is "transnationality" a viable option for building up communities and links in diaspora? Theories, case studies, perspectives.

Panelists: Sasa Bozic (IMIN, Zagreb), 'Defining "Diaspora" and "Transnational"'

Adam Walaszek (Jagiellonian University, Krakow);

Maria Beatriz Rocha-Trindade (Centro de Estudos da Migrações e das Relações Interculturais/ CEMRI, Lisbon,

Portugal), 'Cultural Issues in the Portuguese Diaspora : Tokens of Identity'  
Jure Gombac (SAZU, Slovenia),  
Kristina Toplak (Slovenia), 'Slovenes in Argentina and Transnational Art Worlds'  
Panel facilitator: Olavi Koivukangas (Finland).

16.30-18.00

Guided tour of the town of Trogir, including the Church of St Dominic, the Cathedral with its magnificent west door and the convent of St Nicholas with its 'Kairos' art collection.

19.00-21.00

Reception at Trogir Civic Museum, hosted by the Director on behalf of the Mayor, Mr Vedran Rozic

Friday 29 September

9.00-11.00

Session Three: Technology, Science, Economics and Diaspora Links. Comparative cases

Topics: Diaspora of Populations – diaspora of Knowledge and Technologies? Case studies and comparisons:

Slovenia, Nordic Countries, Ireland, Croatia, Germany,

Basque Country, Luxembourg, Finland.

Jernej Mlekuz (SAZU, Slovenia), 'Symbolic aspects of immigrant material culture: burek and "Slovene" ethno-national discourse'

Henning Bender (HVB, Denmark), 'Migration Search Databases on the Internet'

Benan Oregi (Basque Government, Relations with Basque Communities Abroad), 'From an Ethno-Diaspora to a Techno-Diaspora: the Basque Case'

Olavi Koivukangas (Finland), 'Challenges of Present Migrations in Europe and Finland between West and East'

Panel facilitator: Brian Lambkin (CMS, Northern Ireland)

11.00 – 18.00

Voyage from Trogir to the island of Vis

18.15-19.30

Komiza Town Hall, Vis

Session Four: Presentation of Causes and Consequences of an Insular Emigration; Island of Vis

Speaker: Josko Bozanic (University of Split)

Professor Bozanic spoke particularly about the remarkable Croatian contribution to the world fishing industry and about the research project he has been involved in to preserve the oral history of the fishermen of Vis and their distinctive vessel, the gaeta falkusa, which is rowed by four men standing facing the captain, who also rows, in similar fashion to Venetian gondoliers, but in the open sea.

20.00 Conference Banquet

This delightful meal took place in the courtyard of the house of Professor Bozanic's sister. The after-dinner entertainment included a recitation by Professor Bozanic of a poem in the lingua franca of Mediterranean sailors that struck a particular chord of recognition with the Basque delegates, a range of operatic arias performed by the captain of the Adriatic Paradise, as well as spirited contributions by representatives of every country represented at the table, including some long-standing AEMI members who revealed hitherto hidden talents.

Saturday 30 September

Komiza Town Hall

10.00-12.00

Session Five: Cultural Roots, Museums and Diaspora

Topics: Departures, arrivals, links – memories, archives, roots.

Presentations – virtual archives, contemporary museology. Innovations and

Fresh ideas.

Panelists:

Steffen Wiegmann (German Emigration Center, Bremerhaven), 'Current Research on German Emigration and Report on the First Year of Opening'

Ljerka Galic, (Croatian Heritage Foundation, Zagreb), 'The Work of the Croatian Heritage Foundation: Plans for the Future'

Lidija Nikocec, (Ethnographic Museum of Istria, Croatia), 'Representing Istrian Migration in the Museum'

Brian Lambkin, (Centre for Migration Studies, Northern Ireland), 'Studying European Migration in Comparative Perspective: the potential of the 'Art of European Migration' Virtual Archive'

Panel facilitator: Antoinette Reuter (Centre de Documentation sur les Migrations Humaines, Luxembourg)

15.00-21.30

Return voyage from Vis to Trogir

16.00-18.10

General Assembly of the Association of European Migration Institutions (AEMI)

Minutes of Meeting

The General Assembly of the Association of European Migration Institutions was convened on board the Adriatic Paradise, en route from Vis to Trogir, Croatia, and called to order at 16.00 by the Chairman, Brian Lambkin.

Present

The Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies, Zagreb, Croatia, represented by Dr Silva Meznaric

The Danish Emigration Archives, Aalborg, Denmark, represented by Dr Henning Bender

The Institute of Migration, Turku, Finland, represented by Professor Olavi Koivukangas

Génériques, Paris, France, represented by Mr Patrick Veglia and Ms Delphine Folliet

The German Emigration Museum, Bremerhaven, Germany, represented by Mr Steffen Wiegmann

The Centre for Documentation of Human Migration, Luxembourg, represented by Ms Antoinette Reuter

The Centre for Migration Studies at the Ulster-American Folk Park, Northern Ireland, represented by Dr Brian Lambkin

The Norwegian Emigration Center, Stavanger, Norway, represented by Mr Hans Storhaug

The Norwegian-American Collection, National Library of Norway, represented by Ms Dina Tølfesby

The Institute of Diaspora and Ethnic Studies, Krakow, Poland, represented by Professor Adam Walaszek

The Centre for the Study of Migration and Intercultural Relations, Lisbon, Portugal, represented by Professor Maria-Beatriz Rocha-Trindade

The Institute for Slovene Emigration Studies, Ljubljana, Slovenia, represented by Ms Kristina Toplack

The Swedish Emigrant Institute, Växjö, Sweden, represented by Dr Per Nordahl

The Åland Islands Emigrant Institute, Mariehamn, Finland, represented by Dr Eva Meyer

The following institution applying for membership was represented:

Croatian Heritage Foundation, Zagreb, Croatia, represented by Ms Ljerka Galic

Also in attendance were:

Directorate for Relations with Basque Communities Abroad, Basque Country (Spain), represented by Mr Benan Oregi and Mr Joseba Inaki Arregui

Ethnographic Museum of Istria, Croatia, represented by Dr Lidija Nikočević

Apologies

Written apologies were received from:

Norwegian Emigrant Museum, Ottestad, Norway, represented by Mr Knut Djupedal

Routes to the Routes, Oldenburg, Germany, represented by Dr Wolfgang Grams

The following member institutions were not represented:

Rozmberk Society, Czechia

Archives Department, Merseyside Maritime Museum, Liverpool, England, UK

North Frisian Emigrant Archive, Bredstedt, Germany

Research Center for German Emigrants in the USA, Oldenburg, Germany

Friends of the German Emigration Museum, Bremerhaven

Centro Italiano di Studi Sull'Emigrazione, Tramonti, Italy

County Archives, Sogn og Fjordane, Kaupanger, Norway

Museum of Emigration and Communities, Fafe, Portugal

San Marino Emigrant Museum and Study Center, San Marino

Museum of Scotland International, National Museums of Scotland, Edinburgh, UK

Scots Abroad, National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh, UK

Slovene Ethnographic Museum, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Kinship Center, Karlstad, Sweden

There were no representatives of associate members or personal members present.

Apologies were also received from: Dr Michel Thomas-Penette and Ms Sorina Capp, European Institute of Cultural Routes, Council of Europe, Luxembourg

#### 1. Election of presiding officer for the General Assembly

The Chairman moved that Professor Adam Walaszek be elected presiding officer of the business meeting. The motion was agreed and Professor Walaszek took the chair.

#### 2. Minutes of General Assembly 2005

The Minutes of the General Assembly 2005, held in the House of Europe, Paris on Saturday 1 October 2006, posted previously on the AEMI website, were approved.

#### 3. Chairman's Report for 2003-2004

The Chairman gave his report. The full text is given separately at the AEMI website.

The Presiding Officer moved the adoption of the Chairman's Report. The meeting adopted the motion.

#### 4. Secretary and Treasurer's Report: Financial Statement and Accounts, 2005-2006

The Secretary and Treasurer, Henning Bender presented the Financial Statement and Accounts for 2005-2006, as posted previously on the AEMI website. He reported that all members, with the exception of the National Museums of Scotland, had paid their subscriptions.

The Association's Auditor, Dr Eva Meyer, who was present, confirmed that she was satisfied with the Accounts for 2006 and had signed them.

The Presiding Officer thanked the Secretary Treasurer and moved the adoption of his report and of the Accounts. The meeting adopted the motion.

#### 5. Editor's Report

The Editor of the Association's Journal, Hans Storhaug, reported that unfortunately it had not been possible to produce the fourth issue, which is to include papers given at last year's Annual Meeting in Paris, in time for this year's Annual Meeting. He now aims to produce the fourth issue by Christmas, which will include articles from both the Paris meeting and the recent one in Trogir. Alternatively he is planning to publish a double publication with articles from the 2005 and 2006 meetings to be ready for the 2007 Annual meeting in Turku, Finland. He agreed to look into the practicality of a suggestion made by Professor Rocha-Trindade that any additional illustrative material provided by authors might be made available in CD-ROM format along with the Journal.

The Presiding Officer thanked the Editor for his continuing efforts on behalf of the Association.

#### 6. Admission of New Members

The Presiding Officer asked the Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer to speak to the admission of new members.

The Chairman referred to the presentation made in Session 5 by Ms Ljerka Galic on behalf of the Croatian Heritage Foundation and proposed its admission to membership. This was agreed by acclaim.

The Secretary/Treasurer reported that the Association pour la Maison de la Memoire de l'Emigration des Pyrenees et du Sud-Ouest, France, had requested to continue being designated as 'applying for membership'. This was agreed.

The Secretary/Treasurer reported that CISEI (Centro Internazionale Studi Emigrazione Italiana), Genoa, Italy, who had been represented at the Annual Meeting in Lisbon in 2003, had been in communication with him through its representative Silvia Martini. Unfortunately she had been unable to travel to Croatia but requested that her institution be admitted to membership. This was agreed.

The Secretary/Treasurer reported that he had received a communication from Ms Ursula Wöst on behalf of BallinStadt, Hamburg, requesting to be admitted to membership of the Association. This is a new emigration museum located in Hamburg, Germany which is due to open in July 2007. Hamburg was one of the most important European Emigration Ports in the beginning of the 20th century. About 5 million people left Europe via Hamburg.

The Hamburg State Archives holds original Passenger Lists from 1850 – 1934.

BallinStadt will offer family research, based on the information given in these lists (most important the hometown of the passengers). On the original place of the emigration halls, built by Albert Ballin / HAPAG around 1900, BallinStadt will present an innovative exhibition on emigration as well as a reconstruction of parts of the historical emigration halls. BallinStadt is a public-private-partnership between the City of Hamburg and a small enterprise, Leisure Work Group (see [www.ballinstadt.de](http://www.ballinstadt.de)). It was agreed to admit this institution to membership.

The Chairman referred to the presentation made in Session Three by Benan Oregi on behalf of the Directorate on Relations with Basque Communities Abroad and invited him to explain more about the development plans of his institution. Mr Oregi concluded by saying that it would be necessary for him to consult further with colleagues about applying for membership. The Chairman proposed that the Association would welcome an application for membership from his institution. This was agreed.

The Secretary/Treasurer reported that he had received a communication from Ms Ana Maria da Costa Leitão Viera on behalf of Memorial do Imigrante, Brazil with the request to be admitted to associate membership. This was agreed.

The Secretary/Treasurer reported that the Immigrant Institute, Boras, Sweden, had paid its subscription arrears and requested to be readmitted to membership. This was agreed.

It was noted that although the new Cité nationale de l'histoire de l'immigration had been designated as 'applying for membership' at last year's meeting, following a presentation by Dr Marie Poinot, no representative of the institution was present at this year's meeting.

#### 7. Proposed Budget for 2006-07

The Secretary and Treasurer spoke to the proposed budget for 2006-07, posted previously on the AEMI website. He explained how this represented the most prudent use of resources, given that no significant increase in subscriptions could be contemplated in the medium term, and warned again (as he had the previous year) that unless additional funding was obtained, the Association would be unable to maintain its current level of activities beyond 2007.

The Presiding Officer moved the adoption of the proposed budget and the meeting accepted the motion.

#### 8. Appointment of Auditor

The Presiding Officer asked the Association's Auditor, Dr Eva Meyer, if she would be willing to continue serving as Auditor for the coming year and she confirmed that she was.

The Presiding Officer thanked Dr Meyer on behalf of the Association.

#### 9. Venue of Annual Meeting 2006

The Chairman reminded members of the procedure by which the venue is chosen for the Annual Meeting. The Association relies on member institutions coming forward and offering to act as host. In the event of more than one offer being received in a given year, consideration is given to desirability of moving the location of the Annual Meeting around Europe as inclusively as possible. Thus over the last four years the meeting has alternated between north and south (Norway 2002, Portugal 2003, Sweden 2004, France 2005, Croatia 2006).

The Chairman reminded the meeting that, at the Paris meeting in 2005, Professor Olavi Koivukangas had expressed his strong desire, as a founder member of the Association, that his institution should host the Annual Meeting once more in Finland, before he retires in a few years time, preferably in 2007. Professor Koivukangas confirmed that his offer still stood. The Chairman proposed that the Association accept this offer and the meeting did so by acclaim.

The Annual Meeting of the Association in 2007 will therefore take place in Turku, Finland, 26-30 September. Professor Koivagangas said he would aim to confirm the theme of the conference as soon as possible and circulate information a preliminary programme along with information about accommodation and travel early in the new year. If members are interested in contributing to next year's programme, they are asked to contact Professor Koivagangas as soon as possible.

As to further future venues, the Chairman reminded the meeting that in Paris Dr Erik Gustavson (Sweden) and Dr

Simone Eick (Germany) had both expressed interest in hosting future meetings. Further expressions of interest were gratefully received from Henning Bender (Denmark) and Silvia Martini (Italy).

A decision on the venue of the Annual Meeting in 2008 will be made at the next Annual Meeting in Finland in 2007.

## 10. Members Projects

(a) Antoinette Reuter reported on the role of the Centre des Documentations in a project on migrant biographies that is part of Luxembourg's European Capital of Culture programme in 2007. A further seminar on Migration Archives took place May 26-7, 2006. She also reported on the work involved in producing the European Week of Migration Heritage poster and programme 2006. The idea is that members should make use of the poster year on year, adapting it to their own situation, and that they should contribute information about their 'events' in good time for inclusion in the programme. Antoinette was congratulated by members on what she and her colleagues had achieved this year. The Chairman thanked her for being willing to continue the work of co-ordination in the year ahead.

Antoinette reported as follows. Since 2003 and the presentation of the first outlines of an 'Migration heritage route' to the staff of the European Institute of Cultural Routes, a Council of Europe's agency, in Luxembourg (autumn 2003) and to the board of the advisors of the Cultural Committee of the Council of Europe by AEMI (beginning of 2004) several steps were achieved.

- The Cultural Committee agreed the idea as a valuable one and made the route an "elected theme" (May 2004). Evidence of this and more details can be found at [www.culture-routes.lu](http://www.culture-routes.lu) by clicking first top left on "atlas of cultural routes" and by choosing second top right "migration heritage routes"
  - This means, first, that you have now through the commitment of the European Institute of Cultural Routes a showcase where all the information you send in during last year's and this year's "Heritage week" is archived. Moreover you can make use of this site when ever you like by sending in information of your activities to either [sorinacapp@culture-routes.lu](mailto:sorinacapp@culture-routes.lu) or [institute@culture-routes.lu](mailto:institute@culture-routes.lu) , your information by this being displayed on the top page of the site to a large group of visitors from all over the world. Additionally the information is gathered in a special newsletter "migration" sent out several times a year by the Institute. Second, you can put the logo of the Council of Europe and the mention "in the framework of the "European Migration Heritage Route" on your activities, a detail which may help you to gather national money. In fact each of the 46 member states of the Council of Europe has a cultural agreement with this institution. In this agreement is money dedicated to cultural activities.
  - Various workshops, conferences and meetings were held to get a better understanding of what the design of a "European Migration Heritage Route" could be and also a clearer designation of "migration heritage". This process is still ongoing. Institutions willing to be more closely involved in this questioning should let me know, so that representatives can be invited to the possible next meetings. As a result of these discussions the following points were made. The AEMI-network is by itself an itinerary, but still migrants did and do walk physical routes, so we should try to have some local, regional, national, trans-national routes which could be also sorted by themes. As this year's migration heritage week shown a range of good examples is already working. The very successful and now well supported "Jewish Heritage Route" is a good example of what thinking global and acting local could be in our case. As you can see on [www.culture-routes.lu](http://www.culture-routes.lu) some very interesting potential partners could be found outside of AEMI : the "Diaspora" (history) laboratory of the University of Toulouse which through the various interests of its members brings in some museums and "lieux de mémoire" linked to migration, the "Erase" (history and social sciences) which could help us through "cultural management studies" with students running the design and practical work of the "Migration Heritage Route" within their curriculum, two Berlin museums in Neucölln and Kreuzberg largely involved in migration topics, a young researchers network "Migration Europa" having good connections to the German "Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung", the in-migration agency of the German "Land Nordrhein-Westfalen" and several initiatives in Antwerp (the latest showing by the way interest to ask for AEMI-membership in Turku). A scout team out of AEMI and these partners will have to discuss in the next months the future organisational (working groups within AEMI?) and financial (serious opportunities for European money) issues of these developments.
  - On an institutional level we are waiting for the decision of the Cultural Committee to designate us "Elected Route of the Council of Europe". This mention would give us more reconnaissance through an official election ceremony and the handling over of a charter by Council of Europe officials
  - I prepared dossiers of the Route programme for the European Institute's stand at the International Paris heritage fair (October 9th to 12th) . Perhaps this may be a way to gather new membership.
- The 2007 "Migration Heritage Week" will be October 7th to 14th. The topic proposed is "Food and Migration" (for instance dishes, ethnic restaurants, vegetables, cooking books, vegetables and fruit etc.). Allow me to explain for the new members once more the idea of the week in order to invite more institutions to get involved. The principle is to

display the various activities of the membership during the week in order to show the potential and the richness of our holdings and/or skills in the field of migration. The “week” is to be understood very widely. It can be the “month” or the “season”. In the same way, the yearly topic is a suggestion, but it is not mandatory that all institutions stick to it. Just report on what you are doing. The poster is to underline the common ground. For the moment I am under negotiation with Aurelio Giordano from the Tramonti institution to give him commission to realize next year’s poster. I will ask him to have the template ready by the end of January 2007 to leave us more time for promoting the weak. By the way I ask those institutions having images on food, restaurants, etc. to share, to send them to [reuteran@pt.lu](mailto:reuteran@pt.lu) as soon as possible in a printable quality (300dpi).

(b) Hans Storhaug gave an update on the Youth and Migration Project which is part of the Stavanger European Capital of Culture 2008 programme, including a demonstration of the on-line attitude questionnaire which has been developed for the project.

(c) Per Nordahl gave an update on the re-structuring which is currently in process at the Swedish Emigrant Institute, which is to be re-named the Swedish Migration Institute.

#### 11.0 Any Other Business

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked Professor Walaszek for acting as Presiding Officer and the General Assembly concluded at 18.10.

The Annual Meeting was formally closed when the Adriatic Paradise reached harbour once more on the Croatian mainland at 21.30. A small presentation was made to Silva Meznaric and her colleagues as a token of the thanks of the Association for all their hard work and kind hospitality.

BL  
20/11/06