Report of the Chair of the EADH Executive Committee

Report period: 7/2015 – 7/2016

This report focuses on major activities and developments during the report period, as well as on strategic items that were identified and discussed during the report period and identified for further attention. For detailed information on operative matters such as finances, membership development, awarding of grants etc. kindly refer to the relevant officer reports.

General

The EADH exec held a very productive mid-term meeting in Leuven on 2 December 2015; our thanks go to our local host Barbara Bordalejo.

Following the resignation of John Nerbonne as ADHO Steering Committee chair, EADH's president Karina van Dalen-Oskam was elected as interim SC chair. Karina consequently stepped down from her office as EADH president in January 2016. My sincere thanks go to John Nerbonne for serving as ADHO SC Chair, and to his successor Karina for serving as EADH president until January as well as interim SC Chair since then.

I.   **Major activities and developments**

        EADH identity and public relations

   a.   EADH's website and the work of our social media correspondents have benefitted greatly from the services of its website & communications coordinator Antonio Rojas Castro.[1]
   d.   EADH will continue to employ Social Media Correspondents. However, we are currently looking into integrating this function more closely with that of the website editor.
   e.   The EADH website now features a slider-based overview of projects initiated and lead by EADH affiliated researchers. This presentation has attracted significant attention.
   f.   Analysis of web traffic has shown that http://eadh.org/education is one of the most sought-after subpages on the EADH website. In order to meet the increasing demand for information on DH courses and curricula the page has therefore been amended with a link to the DARIAH-EU registry.

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[1] Please note the poster presentation titled "Curating Community: Building a Communication Strategy for the European Association for Digital Humanities" on these activities which Antonio, together with Eliza Papaki and James O'Sullivan, is presenting at DH2016.

Associate Organization (AO) sub-structure

a. DHN – Digital Humanities in the Nordic Countries has officially become the third EADH-AO as of July 2015.

b. The AO mechanism has further boosted the number of EADH members. At current this stands at over 920 including the "Joint membership of all ADHO associations" category; of these approx. 750 individuals are actually based in the European region. EADH and its AOs therefore now account for roughly 80% (920 of a total of 1150) of individuals who are members of an ADHO constituent organization.

c. DH Benelux was accepted as EADH's first Partner Organization in November 2015 – we welcome our Benelux colleagues!

d. After an exploratory visit by exec member Claire Clivaz in September 2015 and negotiations led by the EADH exec chair at the Siberian Federal University in April 2016 the newly founded alliance of Russian DH initiatives submitted a formal application to become an EADH Partner Organization in June 2016. At its meeting on 11 July 2016 the EADH exec accepted DH Russia's application – we welcome our Russian colleagues into the EADH community as our second Partner Organization!

e. Various other DH organizations across Europe have contacted EADH and are presently investigating whether the AO or PO models might be of interest to them.

f. Under ADHO's current financial distribution EADH receives a net credit for every individual who is a member of EADH or one of its Associate Organization. The EADH exec decided that AOs should receive 40% of EADH's net income generated by AO members. The rest of the income from AOs is earmarked for EADH investment as general contingency fund (20%) and other specific strategic activities (40%). It was further decided that the internal distribution of funds flowing back to the AOs should be decided by the AO forum.

II.   **Strategic initiatives**

EADH days
Two very successful EADH days were held at

- the 2nd conference of the Asociación de Humanidades Digitales Hispánicas, Madrid, 5-7 October 2015
- the third conference of DHd, Leipzig University, 7-11 March 2016

The next EADH day is scheduled to take place in Rome in conjunction with the forthcoming conference of AIUCD.

Small Grants Scheme

The exec decided to re-activate EADH's successful small grants scheme for early career scholars. In the forthcoming budget year we anticipate allocating up to 5.000 EUR to this initiative which will be announced among our members soon.

Advocacy

- EADH was represented in the EASSH (European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities) initiative by Arianna Ciula and Elena Gonzalez-Blanco.
- Karina Van Dalen-Oskam represented EADH at the „9th UIA Associations Round Table Europe" in Brussels, 13 November 2015.

ADHO re-alignment

The re-alignment of ADHO's internal organizational structures as well as that of its funding and disbursement policies is ongoing. At its meetings on 10th and 12th July the Steering Committee adopted two framework proposals, one outlining a new disbursement formula for funds among Constituent Organizations (which will effectively increase the financial resources available for EADH) and a second which results in a leaner and less top-heavy ADHO governance structure that simplifies ADHO's administration while at the same time strengthening the autonomy of constituent organizations like EADH.

III. Closing remarks

During the past three years EADH has seen a phenomenal growth. The introduction of the organizational model of so-called Associate Organizations in 2013 has been the major contributing factor to this success. Indeed, the AO-model has more than trebled our membership numbers! While such rapid growth does of course also pose considerable administrative challenges it has at the same time enabled us to invest into new and exciting ventures, such as the EADH days now held in conjunction with regional AO conferences. More will follow, including an EADH conference that will be held in years where the international DH conference takes place outside Europe and in locations that are not easily reachable for members based in Europe.

Since my term of office as EADH exec chair comes to a close at DH 2016 this is my final report in this capacity. I would therefore like to use this opportunity to thank everybody for their continued support: our partners in the AOs, in ADHO, and last not least Oxford University Press. To my colleagues on the EADH executive committee I am grateful for their trust.

More than just thanks go to the EADH exec secretary, Arianna Ciula. With her diligence, efficiency and friendly, yet persistent communication skills Arianna has supported me more than anybody else throughout my term of office.

Unfortunately some points that ranked high on my to-do list could not be brought to a successful conclusion as yet. Among these are the restructuring of EADH's membership and financial administration routines, which is long overdue. A second, strategic as well as political challenge results from the increasing complexity of our global alliance of DH associations. I believe that EADH will continuously have to reflect its role within ADHO in the light of its own mission and objectives in as much as ADHO is currently redefining its own.

However, these challenges are surely "nice problems to have" – and the incoming exec members, chair and president of EADH are the right people to tackle them (the names will be announced at the AGM on 13 July 2016 in Krakow). I wish them every success.

Jan Christoph Meister
Chair of the EADH Executive Committee
5 July 2016