

ECSB Country VPs meeting,

Portugal, Covilhã, Thursday November 20th

Present:

Friederike Welter, President of ECSB
Thomas Cooney, President-Elect of ECSB
Ayman El Tarabishy, Executive Director, ICSB
Charles H. Matthews, President of ICSB

Olivier Torres, Country VP for France
Eddy Laveren, Country VP for Belgium
Mario Raffa, Country VP for Italy
Mario Raposo, Country VP for Portugal
Christian Serarols, Country VP for Spain
Wojciech Dyduch, Country VP for Poland
Sascha Kraus, Country VP for Liechtenstein
Einar Rasmussen, Country VP for Norway
Zoltán Román, Country VP for Hungary
Sari Stenvall-Virtanen (secretary)

1. Introductions

The meeting began with each person introducing themselves as the participants included a number of people who were attending for the first time as they had been appointed Country VP during 2008.

2. Enhancing the Work of ECSB Through the Country VP System

The President of ECSB emphasized the importance of Country VP system and its representatives for ECSB. The President also highlighted the many initiatives currently taking place in ECSB and how Country VPs could support them. The meeting then discussed how Country VPs could help grow the number of members that it has in each country. To achieve this will first of all require an up-dating of the membership database. With the up-to-date database it will be more efficient to try to reach new potential members in member countries and to organize local events, workshops and other activities.

ACTIONS

- The ECSB secretariat will organize its existing database of names into three categories: Present Members, Past Members, and Potential Members. The names of people in each of these categories will be generated for each country and then distributed with templates of letters for each category. The templates will be ready to be distributed by the end of January 2009.
- Every Country VP will then send an email to each person on their list about the benefits of ECSB using the appropriate template letter. This stage will be completed by the end of February.

3. Country Events

In the meeting each Country VP was given a possibility to express their expectations to ECSB local country events and workshops. Every attendee was interested in organizing a local event in their country

and saw the possibilities to gain new members in the long run by this kind of actions. In the discussions two possible ways to organize a local event came up: to organize a local event by an individual member country or to organize the local event by several countries or by a network. The Scandinavian countries came up as an example where this kind of joint event could take place. Local case study workshops and other initiatives were widely discussed as possibilities to organize as local country events. The President-Elect told about his own case study workshop which has now been organized in many countries. According to the general discussion on how to develop the current events locally, the most important issues raised were:

1. To use the existing ECSB network in order to reach key-note speakers etc.
2. to use the ECSB organization to support and market the local events
3. to organize joint research networks through ECSB
4. to write the marketing letters also in local languages in order to engage the country organizations and to use the ECSB and possible other member countries as go-signers in these promotional letters

ACTION

- Each Country VP is to organise at least one event in their country during 2009.

4. Website Development

The renewed ECSB website was launched on 19th November (www.ecsb.org). The new material to the site should be updated frequently. It was strongly stated that the ECSB secretary needs help from each Country VP to be able to offer real-time web pages. The Country VPs should distribute essential material to the ECSB secretariat by email. Regarding this matter, co-operation between the ECSB and ICSB was also stressed. The web pages should be better linked together in order to gain added value for both organizations.

5. Suggestions / Issues of Country VPs for the Board meeting

Beyond the comments already highlighted, there were no further suggestions that the Country VPs wanted to bring to the Board meeting.

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

November 30th, 2008,
Sari Stenvall-Virtanen