

Dear SICI members

I am happy to invite you to the general assembly of our organization which will be held this year in Paris on November 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 2020.

Due to the long-lasting sanitary crisis and the lockdown which a number of countries, including France, are living through, the GA will be held entirely online.

The meeting will use TEAMS: please make sure that you can use this tool and be connected.

The link to the meeting will be sent to you a few days before the meeting.

The programme had to be adjusted due to the latest evolution of the crisis in France: it will start at 9 am on November 19<sup>th</sup> and will be mostly concentrated on that day. The national coordinators will hold their annual meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup> and will receive information from Erik De Bou in a separate message.

The business meeting will be held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> between 2.45 pm and 4 pm. The EC will report on the progress made in the implementation of the strategic plan adopted in Oslo in 2016, present the results of activities in 2020 and launch the new strategic plan for the next 4 years on which you have all been consulted.

The EC has worked hard in spite of the difficult circumstances to send you the Business meeting presentation **which is attached to this letter**. Although this document might still be subject to some changes between then and the actual meeting, you have the necessary information two weeks ahead so that you have time for internal discussion and preparation.

**The main points for discussion and vote will be the following:**

- The budget for 2021: we decided two years ago to present a balanced budget structured around a different set of categories. We will continue in the same line with your approval.
- The membership fee from 2021 onwards: due to the sanitary crisis, the increase of the fee to 3 300 euros which was voted last year will be postponed until 2022. This delay will not affect the balance of the budget since the expenses have also decreased due to fewer workshops and cooperation activities between members.
- Election of EC members: as you know, two EC members, Petr DRABEK and myself are leaving the organization this year. Following the call for candidates which you received on September 18<sup>th</sup> three candidates are now officially declared: **Janie Mc Manus**, from Scotland; **Hille Voolaid** from Estonia and **Herman Franssen** from the Netherlands. The

EC has decided to support all three candidates: they are all very active members of SICI; their participation in the workshops has always been very constructive; they represent different parts of Europe and the geographical balance within the EC will reflect the diversity of SICI. The EC would then be composed of 6 members, which is made possible now by our stable financial situation and the reduction of operational costs we have made in the last four years.

- The thematic priority theme of 2021 will be the Internal Quality Assurance since the crisis did not allow us to complete our reflection this year.
- The validation of new members who are joining SICI: The Independent Schools Inspectorate and Slovenia in 2020 and Uzbekistan in 2021;
- The location of the General assemblies in 2022 and 2023. We would be happy to have some proposals from members willing to host.

**What we need from you by November 15<sup>th</sup>:**

**The SICI secretariat will need to have the name of the voting delegate at the business meeting.** I remind you that it is important that delegates from all member countries attending the GA are authorized to vote on behalf of their Inspectorate. **This is particularly important this year since the vote will be held online and we will need to clearly identify the voting members in order to facilitate the count.**

I am looking forward to this event and wish you all the best until then.

Chantal Manes-Bonnisseau

President of SICI