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IUPESM Administrative Committee

Ref: IUPESM – ICSU liaisons

Dear Colleagues,

I have attended the ICSU Extraordinary General Assembly (EGA) regarding ICSU/ISSC Merger, held in Oslo on 24 October 2016. Please find attached my report from the ICSU Extraordinary General Assembly (EGA). At the EGA, I have supported the Merger, following the vote within IUPESM AC. I believe that all of IUPESM AC members, as well as members at large agree that collaboration between scientists all over the world is not only a need, but also mission of scientists. However, in addition to some of the arguments for the Merger, I have pointed out some of dilemmas that are related to the process of the Merge and I would like to point out that IUPESM AC should review the Merger documents once they are presented for discussion. This time, i.e. before the EGA some of the documents were sent just a few days before the meeting which did not allow the ICSU members any discussion on them before the Assembly. I have requested that documents, primarily the Statutes of the new organization are sent to the member organizations of ICSU at least 3 months before the ICSU General Assembly in October 2017.

In continuation of the contacts I (re)established on behalf of the IUPESM during the ICSU EGA in Oslo, I would like to report on my contact with:

1) International Commission for Optics (ICO)

International Commission for Optics (ICO) asked for support from IUPESM in order to change the status of ICO from ICSU affiliate to ICSU Union. The President of ICO sent a letter of request to IUPESM. In the ballot organized by IUPESM SG, the IUPESM AC decided to endorse the change of the status of ICO within ICSU. ICO has also expressed their interest to join the Biocluster since (I quote: "ICO is especially active in supporting biomedical optics and its use in developing countries. After the information we received in Oslo on the future development of ICSU and ISSC it is obvious that ICO as an ICSU Union will concentrate on joining and creating interdisciplinary clusters of ICSU Unions. One key topic will be biophotonics. Here we have actually an impressive example of successful interdisciplinary activities ie. the Nobel prize of Stefan Hell in Chemistry for his development of a new pure optical technology for nanoscopic imaging in biomedical research").

2) International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publication (INASP).

There is a lot of activities our Unions have in common, e.g. Women in MP & BME TG and the Education and Training Committee. The activities of the INASP are listed below, as presented in the message from Ms. Bottomley:

From: Ruth Bottomley [<mailto:RBottomley@inasp.info>]
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2016 3:19 PM
To: Ratko Magjarević <Ratko.Magjarevic@fer.hr>
Subject: INASP Gender work

Dear Professor Ratko,

I believe you met my colleague from INASP, Julie Brittain, at the ICSU event recently and she informed me that you were interested in our gender work. So I thought I would write to give you an overview of what we have been doing to see if there are any possibilities for collaboration between INASP and your federation.

We have really started to increase our focus on gender in the last two years. We have included a strong focus on gender in our strategy, which is available at <http://strategy.inasp.info/>, and we have recently conducted a gender audit of our programme work and set up a gender working group which will be responsible for ensuring that the gender work is progressed within the organisation. We have also supported some pilot gender work with partners as follows:

- We supported five female researchers from partner institutions in Ghana and Tanzania to attend the fifth **Gender Summit in Cape Town**, South Africa in April 2015.
- We supported the **University of Dodoma in Tanzania to run a gender sensitization workshop** to explore the gender issues at their institution, in response to concerns about gender imbalances that disadvantage female academics in terms of publication and promotion opportunities. They have since conducted a baseline study using focus groups, and plan to develop a gender and sexual harassment policy for the university. From the Dodoma workshop we have developed a **gender toolkit for higher education**, which is intended for other universities and institutions to use to analyse the gender issues – we now have printed copies of this and we will soon (in about a week) have an online version which I will be able to direct you to if you are interested.
- We have experimented with running **women only online courses** in research writing and have had some discussions with the Organization for Supporting Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD) regarding collaboration on **mentoring approaches for career development for women** on our AuthorAID website.
- We have run two rounds of **gender grants (travel and workshop grants)** open to academics and researchers who either want to present on gendered research at conferences or to run a gender workshop at their institution. The grants were awarded to a range of institutions from Kenya, Somalia, Uganda, Pakistan, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Ghana. In this current round of grants we are supporting 3 of the previous winners to develop their gender work further.
- Through our Evidence Informed Policy Making project small grants we support the Gender Centre for Research and Training in Sudan to develop a capacity building project for government decision makers in the Ministries of Labour and Education to bring a gendered perspective to policy development and decision making.
- We are currently working with the **Somali Institute for Development and Research Analysis (SIDRA)** to hold a **knowledge exchange event on women in research and academia** in the Somali regions. The event will be held next week and will result in a policy paper, a network of female academics, and some actions to address the barriers women are facing in their academic and research careers.

We are looking to develop our gender work more throughout our existing work but also for new projects and funding. We are also looking to develop contacts with people and institutions interested in working on gender issues, so any suggestions you have would be very helpful.

I hope you find this information useful and I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Ruth

Ruth Bottomley • Senior Programme Manager, Research Development and Support • INASP
Research knowledge at the heart of development

INASP has a vision of research and knowledge at the heart of development. Read more in our new strategy: www.inasp.info/strategy.

Ms. Brittain mentioned a program of distant mentoring of African PhD students, which I find attractive for mentors of MP and BME students and I also think that within the IUPESM through IFMBE and IOMP it is feasible to find a (large) number of mentors – volunteers.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ratko Magjarevic', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ratko Magjarevic