



# ICARUS-Meeting #16

## Executive Board Meeting

### MINUTES

**Venue:** Bildungshaus St. Hippolyt, Eybnerstraße 5, 3100 St. Pölten (AT) – Seminar room II  
**Date:** 23 November 2015  
**Time:** 13.00 – 14.30

Attendants: Thomas Aigner (TA), Jitka Křečková (JK), Patricia Engel (PE), Csaba T. Reisz (CR), Antonella Ambrosio (AA), Žarko Vujošević (ZV), Dominique Stutzmann (DS), Andreas Nestl (AN), Francesco Roberg (FR), Vlatka Lemić VL), Zlatko Draganović (ZD) Karl Heinz (KH)

Opening of the Assembly and welcome by TA, who gives a brief introduction into the topic of the evening lecture (*War and cultural heritage in the Middle East*)

### Agenda

#### 1) Report on past activities

Major points:

- Publishing of the new *Insights* magazine
- ICARUS received a *Letter of Appreciation* from the Croatian State Archive at the Croatian Archival Day on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015 due to the excellent cooperation and help in the years from 2009 on.
- The ENArC project came to an end successfully. Three weeks ago the accounting was transferred to the European Commission and was accepted after sending a few additionally required information. The last payment is expected in the near future.

#### 2) New members - decision on admission

The *Archivschule Marburg* and the *German Association of Genealogical Societies (DAGV)* have been accepted as new members unanimously.





The Association as a roof organisation of the German speaking genealogist groups is very important to get in contact with the genealogically active people in order to inform them about the friend-association Icarus4all.

### 3) Election

Julian Holzapfl left the ICARUS-board as the representative of the Generaldirektion der Staatlichen Archive Bayerns. As his successor Andreas Nestl (AN) has been proposed and accepted unanimously.

AN studied history of law, graduated at the Bavarian Archive School and started work at the State Archive Munich, where he did classical archival work, dealing with records of charters and old documents. In 2014 he switched to the Generaldirektion, where he is responsible amongst others for international relations.

### 4) Icarus4all

The Friends-Association was founded 1,5 years ago in order to integrate the user communities the archives are working for and give them the opportunity to support the network and its work. It is an independent association and the president of ICARUS is ex officio member of the board, too. The majority of members are genealogist.

- **Insights**

The *Insights* magazine developed to be a forum to publish the activities within ICARUS and Icarus4all. The content is not only scientific but is addressed to interested laypersons, too

- **Late-summer feast**

This event took place on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at the Abbey of Geras with app. 110 participants.

Excellent cooperation with the abbey. The whole building was to the disposal of the event. Organisation of workgroups with experts and information stands for current research projects, books etc., which are mostly based on online offers of ICARUS (Matricula, Monasterium)

The end of the event was a get-together framed by genuine Viennese songs.

- **PR activities**

- Presence at the German Genealogist Day in Gotha at the beginning of October 2015 - ICARUS-stand, lecture by TA



- Cooperation with the Association for Computer Genealogy regarding place names and person names registers as possible external resources for the Monasterium database

Realisation of two excursions

- a) Moravian provincial Archives in Brno on 18./19. May 2015
- b) Archive in Třeboň on 14./15. October 2015

Both excursions have been financed by the excursion grant from the coop-project. The idea was proposed to use this grant to organise excursions all over Europe.

In total Icarus4all has app. 400 members. The majority is from Austria, on second place are the members from Germany. Only few members are from various other countries.

This is not surprising for all PR-activity was focused almost exclusively on Eastern Austria and Bavaria. The already planned PR-activities are targeted on A, D and partly CZ, because the majority of the offered digital content is related to these countries. Everybody agreed in the necessity to widen the PR-activities to other parts of Europe, too.

- Basic question: How can the number of members be enlarged?

The goal should be to win at least 1000 members, which would grant a solid basic-funding for ICARUS apart from the uncertain EU-project funding.

Another possibility to raise the income of the network is to increase the number of Category B-members

- **Proposals**

AN: Only few people in Bavaria know about ICARUS and its achievements. So more public activities (flyers, meetings etc.) are proposed.

TA: Concrete addresses are needed to provide with info material.

CR: Since 2011 the Hungarian Genealogist Association (MACSE) is existing and built up a huge and very popular database with app. 8 Million names, done by retired people, genealogists etc. Free access is available only for members - at the beginning the fee was 7,- Euro per year, now it is 17,- Euro.

TA: This would contradict the basic philosophy of ICARUS. Another idea might be to integrate additional functions to Matricula (e.g. download-function) open only for members of Icarus4all in order to raise the attractiveness of membership.

VL: Translation of information material into Croatian should be done, and the material should be distributed. Waiting for any kind of feedback.

TA: Potential user groups are needed - the ideas need to be sent to ICARUS within the next two weeks!!





## 5) Miscellaneous

- Upcoming events

1) FR: Convention in Marburg (coop-Meeting) on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016

The State Archive Marburg is participating also in the REED-project (Recognition and Enrichment of Archival Data) as an Associate Partner. It seems to make sense to combine the REED kick-off event with the coop convention, because the institutions/persons of the REED project could be of very precious complementary impact to the aims of ICARUS.

2) FR will provide a short report on the activities of Qidenus in Marburg/within the co:op project at the next Executive Board Meeting.

3) DS: Project for automatic indexing in France with development of a search tool with a very high level of accuracy - in this context fonds of the National Archive of France are to be digitised. Idea of integration of the material into Monasterium and by this involve more French institutions in ICARUS

4) VL: 2<sup>nd</sup> ICARUS-Day in Croatia in Dubrovnik on 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Part of the programme will be the presentation of the coop project by FR and of the Venice Time Machine project by Frederic Kaplan.

5) VL: Invitation to the upcoming Summer School in Zadar in October 2016.

There will be a public call for lectures to the topic "*Memory Studies and Digitisation*"  
Forum for students, professors and Ph.D. students.

6) DS: The archives of Colmar and Strasbourg were both part of the Project Archivum Rhenanum but still are no ICARUS members. DS will get in contact with the archives in order to plumb the position of the mentioned institutions in this question.

7) DS: Question about the status of the negotiations with Quidenus

TA: No further activities - first a new contract draft need to be developed that fits the demands of all partners. At the next meeting in Sweden in June 2016 a concrete draft will be discussed.

Closing of the General Assembly at 14: 41

K.H.