



Minutes of the General Assembly meeting of the EASR held in Vilnius on 7th of September 2023

The President, Kim Knott, presiding. The General Secretary, Jenny Berglund taking the minutes.

1. The President welcomes all persons present and officially opens the meeting. The General Secretary reminds the Assembly about regulations on right to attend and right of vote.
2. The President proposes to approve the agenda. The Assembly agrees.
3. The President presents her report (see annex 1 below).
4. The General Secretary reads her report (see annex 2 below).
5. The Deputy Treasurer, reads his report about the financial situation. The report concludes that the financial situation of the EASR is stable, that most associations have paid their fees.

Financial report 2022-2023			
Income	Amount	Expenditure	Amount
Membership dues	3867,00	Website	115,65
		Bursaries	5232,97
		EASSH membership	125,00
		Bank account + transfer costs	256,26
Total income	3867,00	Total expenditures	5729,88
Net income	-1862,88		

6. The Audit Committee presents their report and thanks the Treasurers for all information and concludes that the finances are in good condition.
7. The Budget for the next financial year is presented and approved.



Budget proposal 2023-2024	
Amount	Expenditure
€3,600	9 bursaries €400 each
€300	website
€125	membership fee to be paid to the EASSH
€250	Bank account and transfer costs
€350	General Secretary's site visit

- a. A budget suggestion for 2025 is presented: That the EASR should allocate some money for a celebration of the association's 25th anniversary at the IAHR congress in Krakow. The suggestion is approved by the GA and leaves to the officers to work out the details.
8. Reports from other designated officers and members:
 - a. The Membership secretary is not present, Jenny Berglund reads the report by Anne Kubai. Only one individual member has responded to her requests on confirming individual membership.
 - b. The Women Scholars Network reports on their activities over the year. The present coordinators are Amy L. Allovvo and Milda Ališauskienė. 2020 they successfully introduced a series of WSN webinars. Since then, they have organized a total of seven webinars. Between 30 and 60 scholars participated live in each webinar. Recordings of the seminars are available on the IAHR official Youtube channel. On average, they have each attracted nearly 60 views. The IAHR WSN has organized a successful reception during this conference.
 - c. Karna Kjeldsen reports that the Working Group on Religion in Secular Education has resumed activity and that they have had a meeting in March in Roskilde, Denmark.
 - d. The Internet Officer, since Carmen Becker is not present, Jenny Berglund reads her report. Website: is regularly updated. All representatives of national member associations are asked to check the information about their associations on the EASR website and communicate all necessary changes to Carmen Becker. Six EASR mailing lists: code of conduct for the EASR mailing lists is implemented. It can be found on the website, following its adoption by the Executive Committee last year in Cork. Mailing list subscription numbers have been stable in the last year. Facebook group is moderated by Jenny Berglund, Jenny Butler and Carmen Becker. The content needs to be approved by one of the moderators. We have noticed that some subscribers regularly promote their lecture series, YouTube channels and podcasts. While it is fine to do that once, we have decided to reject repetitive postings. Membership is increasing. The group has currently 4.500 members.



- e. The publication officer, Jenny Butler reports on publication issues. She explains why the *Journal of Religion in Europe* is not suitable as an EASR specific publication. Update on what was discussed in Cork.
9. The Honorary Membership Committee has nominated Professor Einar Thomassen as Honorary Member of EASR. Marco Pasi reads the nomination. The General Assembly confirms the nomination gives a full hand of applause to Professor Thomassen.
10. The president reminds of the Codes of Conducts that are now implemented and published on the website.
11. Future Conferences:
 - 2024: EASR will take place in Gothenburg, Sweden.
 - 2025: IAHR Congress in Krakow, Poland.
 - 2026: The Romanian Association presents their bid.
 - 2027: The Dutch Association presents their bid.
 - 2028: The EASR officers suggest Ukraine.The two bids and the suggestion for Ukraine are supported by the GA.
12. No other business and the meeting is closed.



Annex 1: President's Report

EASR President's Report, September 2023

In 2023 the European Association for the Study of Religion (EASR) reaches the milestone of its twentieth annual conference. EASR was founded at an inaugural meeting in Kraków in 2000, and will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2025. Since its foundation, we have welcomed twenty-four national associations into membership, as well as a number of individuals.

Many of you will remember that we expected to hold the 2023 conference in Kiev, but Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 led to a necessary change of plans. On the anniversary of the invasion, in late February this year, unable to host us in person, our colleagues in the Ukrainian Association of Researchers of Religion (UARR) held a successful online seminar over two days on **The Impact of War on Religious Life: A Focus on Ukraine**, with support from the EASR as well as several Ukrainian academic institutions. Furthermore – working with the Ukrainian Association – the Lithuanian Society for the Study of Religions stepped up at very short notice to hold the EASR annual conference here in Vilnius. We all know how much time and effort it takes to organise and run a large conference. Thus, it is with enormous gratitude and admiration that we applaud what the Lithuanian Society has been able to achieve in just one year. Thank you for taking on the burden, risks and sheer hard work of planning, fund-raising, organising and now hosting this twentieth conference of the EASR.

This has been the first year of a new triennium for the EASR Committee. I will leave the General Secretary, Jenny Berglund, to report on its work, suffice it to say 'thank you' to her and other members for their work, and to note also that during the year a new Honorary Membership Committee was appointed, chaired by Professor Marco Pasi. Since the last conference, we heard the sad news of the death of Albertina Nugteren, EASR Treasurer from 2014-2019. Professor Pasi prepared an obituary for Tineke, as she was known, which can be found on the EASR website. On a happier note, we celebrated the success of Jenny Butler, our Publications Officer and co-organiser of the 2022 EASR Conference in Cork, Ireland, who received two Cork Convention Bureau awards (as Conference Ambassador and winner of the overall category of Association Conference Award). As EASR President, I had the pleasure of commending and congratulating Jenny in a short video, which was aired at the Award ceremony. Jenny's success was testament to the contribution that large conferences like ours can make to the local economy and its reputation.

In terms of our wider European relationships, the President is tasked with representing EASR on the European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities. EASSH is the



largest advocacy and science policy organisation for the social and human sciences in Europe, with 70 member associations. Last year the Alliance met in person in Brussels in December, although I joined the proceedings online. Key take-aways from the annual meeting: EASSH identified its European Research Area (ERA) priorities; it set out a timeline for 2023, for events and report publication; and it updated colleagues on progress and results for Social Sciences and the Humanities in Horizon Europe (Cluster 2 and beyond). More information about EASSH and participation in its webinars can be found on the website, [EASSH - European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities - EASSH](#).

Finally, a reminder about our adopted Codes of Conduct, for both the EASR e-lists, and conferences and meetings. These Codes state our expected standards of behaviour, and provide details about how to report any issues or violations. EASR continues to employ these Codes of Conduct as required in our routine business online and in-person. They can be found on the EASR website, [Code of Conduct for EASR conferences – EASR](#), and [Provisional code of conduct for the EASR e-lists – EASR](#).

Kim Knott, EASR President

Lancaster, UK, 1 September 2023



Annex 2 General Secretary's report

General Secretary's report 2023

Dear EASR officers, dear delegates, thank you all for participating in this meeting. I would like to start by especially thanking the organizers of this conference, and particularly Rasa Pranskevičiūtė-Amoson and her team who has made a fantastic job organizing this conference.

The calls for the meetings of the Executive Committee and of the General Assembly were sent via email to EASR officers, national delegates, and contact members on the 5th of June. This is within the timeframe stipulated by the Constitution (90 days for the GA in case of electronic notification, and 30 days for the EC meeting).

The EASR officers have met regularly online over the year. On these meetings we have received updates on this very conference here in Vilnius from the organizers, discussed future conference matters, publishing possibilities and finances. The designated officers will report more specifically on these matters.

When it became clear that it would not be possible to organize the 2023 conference in Kiev the Ukrainian association proposed an online seminar with the theme **The Impact of the War on Religious Life: A Focus on Ukraine**. In preparation for this seminar I met regularly with members of the Ukrainian association to discuss practical issues. This online seminar was held over two days from February 24-25, 2023, and included both plenary lectures and panel sessions. The seminar was a success with as many as a hundred participants at the most. Topics ranged from The Influence of Religion on the War. Myth, Ideology, Propaganda

The Response of Different Denominations to the War. Competition vs Collaboration to Religious organizations and clergymen under the attack.

I want to thank the Ukrainian association for this very interesting and successful event.

When 2023 began we had a new committee of officers. Anne Kubai has joined as membership secretary and Kim Knibbe as treasurer. In our committee we now have two Kims with surnames beginning Kn and two Jenny with Surnames beginning with B, what is the probability for that?

As General Secretary I keep in contact with organizers of future conferences. I visited Vilnius twice: in October 2022 and in June this year. On both these occasions I met with Rasa Pranskevičiūtė-Amoson. On both occasions, we visited the conference venue, this hotel and



discussed practical matters concerning this conference. It has been exciting to see how the conference has developed and I am truly impressed by your work. Since my first visit was part of a conference and the second paid by GoVilnius, I did not have to use the money from EASR that was allocated for site visits.

In terms of future conferences, I am happy to see that hosting EASR conferences is popular. I have been in discussion with Göran Larsson who, together with a team, is hosting the 2024 conference in Gothenburg and we have received bids from different national associations about 2026 and 2027 which will be presented later.

Something that we have started to discuss is how to celebrate the upcoming 25th anniversary of the EASR. One idea, that I will come back to, is to sponsor a keynote lecture at the IAHR congress in Krakow, but also arrange a birthday reception.

Last but not least I want to thank my fellow officers for their wise input and work over the year. We do not always agree, but have in a collegiate manner managed to work our way towards decisions and suggestions that you will hear more about during this meeting.

Jenny Berglund, EASR General Secretary