

Minutes of the GHILM business meeting in Lyon (June 20, 2013)

1. Report on membership development since 2011

Thomas Stolz reported on the membership development: the number of members stagnated in the last years. Some members left, while others joined. The number of members stood at 66 at the time of the meeting. In the meantime, two new members have joined the association, leaving the present member count at 68. The presidential board encourages the members to advertise more in order to increase membership.

2. Malta Centre

a. Structure, positions

Right now only one 50% position is filled at the Malta Centre (Benjamin Saade). There were difficulties to find a Maltese candidate for the second position. A suggestion to remedy this situation is to use half of the Malta Centre funds to invite visiting lecturers for blocked classes (10 day maximum). In the next weeks, the Malta Centre will draw up the exact conditions (salary, time and subjects of classes etc.) under which researches will be able to come to Bremen.

b. Tasks, projects

It is agreed that the Malta Centre will co-organize any future conferences of the association.

The Malta Centre has the task to prepare applications for joint projects which will then be used to apply to the DFG (Deutsche Forschungsgesellschaft) for additional funding (including additional positions for other researchers).

Martine Vanhove suggests that a very rewarding and necessary first project for the Malta Centre would be an Archive of Spoken Maltese: the collection of spoken Maltese data (Martine Vanhove alone is in possession of 40 hours of audio material). The first step would be the collection and the digitalisation of the audio materials. There is general consensus from the members to pursue this project. The MPI in Nijmegen with its Language Archive should be contacted

for possible support and/or collaboration. The transcription of the data and the eventual creation of a Corpus of Spoken Maltese should follow as a second project.

c. Maltese as part of the MA program in Bremen

With the new Master program in Linguistics at the University of Bremen starting this fall, one obligatory class in Maltese is introduced for all students.

3. Financial matters

The collection of the membership fees has been discontinued 2 years ago in order to replace the fee with an obligatory subscription to our journal ILSIENNA. There were some problems with “poor payment habits” of the members. Some members refused to pay for the journal.

Nonetheless, regarding the discussions around the new Journal of Maltese Linguistics (see point 4 below) we decided to keep the subscription arrangement in modified form and will be clearer about the membership.

Vote: The membership fee should include both subscription fee + a 10% addition. Reductions should apply to students and unemployed linguists and married couples.

Results:

in favour: all

against: 0

abstentions: 0

Additionally, we will try to make payment easier for international members (Credit card payment).

4. Journal

a. Ilsienna and Il-Lingwa Taghna

The journal Ilsienna is not going well, only 2 issues have been published in 4 years. That is why we are looking into alternative solutions (see point 4b below)

b. New Journal of Maltese Linguistics

In order to make the journal of GHILM more attractive for contributors and interested researchers alike, GHILM will pursue the launch of a new journal called Journal of Maltese Linguistics.

There are 2 main requirements for the new journal:

- The new journal should be peer-reviewed
- It should be published by a major publishing house

Thomas Stolz is in negotiations with the Akademie-Verlag which was recently bought by Mouton de Gruyter.

Vote: Should GHILM continue negotiations as to the new journal with Mouton de Gruyter if the latter are interested?

Results:

in favour: all

against: 0

abstentions: 0

Details: A journal needs to have at least 2 issues ready for publication before it can be launched. In order to fulfil this requirement, we agree that from now on the proceedings of our conferences will not be published independently but as SELECTED (peer-reviewed) papers in the new journal.

Side note: the publication of the proceedings for the 2011 conference in Malta is on its way.

5. Venues of GHILM 2015 and 2017

Beth Hume proposed Christchurch, New Zealand as a possible venue for the next conference in 2015. As the travel costs will be higher than usual, additional funding has to be acquired. Thomas Stolz will try to obtain funding from the Thyssen foundation.

For the application, the Thyssen foundation will need a provisional conference programme including speakers and provisional titles quite soon (2-3 months). We will write a reminder to all members concerning the deadlines for title submission when Thomas Stolz has had first informal talks with the foundation. We agreed that, if we are able to acquire external funding, New Zealand will be our first option for 2015. The date of the conference should be around Easter 2015.

Additional venue proposals for 2015 or 2017:

Bratislava, Slovakia (Slavomír Čéplö)

Tucson, Arizona, USA (Adam Ussishkin, same need for external funding applies here)

Torino, Italy (Mauro Tosco)

As a fall-back option: Gozo (Malta), if we will not be able to find another venue for 2015.

For 2017 only:

Beirut, Lebanon (David Wilmsen)

Members present (16):

Thomas Stolz (president), Martine Vanhove (vice-president), Bernard Comrie (vice-president), Beth Hume (vice-president), Ray Fabri (vice-president), Gilbert Puech, Fernande Krier, George Farrugia, Mario Cassar, Michael Spagnol, Marie Alexander, Elgar-Paul Magro, Mauro Tosco, John J. Camilleri, Olvin Vella, Benjamin Saade

Guests present (13):

Stavros Assimakopoulos, Joseph Vella, Leanne Ellul, Sarah Agius, Luke Galea, Carolin Ahrens, Darcy Rose, Leonie Lübker, Marieke Preußner, Isabel Motzkeit, David Wilmsen, Andrei Avram, Michael Cooperson