

General Secretary's report 2022

Dear EASR officers, dear delegates, thank you all for participating in this meeting. I would like to start by specially thanking the organizers of this conference, and particularly Jenny Butler and James Kapalo and their team at University College Cork for facilitating our meeting in the best possible way.

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 27th of March. 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 final call and agenda for the EC was sent on 17th of June. The final call and agenda for the meeting of the GA have been sent on 23rd of June. The minutes of the previous EC and GA meetings in Pisa 2021 and a number of annexes to this meeting was also attached, so that EC officers and delegates could read in advance some of the documents that will be discussed during the meeting.

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

As General Secretary I keep in contact with organizers of future conferences. Due to my own time constraints, I did not make an actual site visit to University College Cork. Instead, I had an online meeting with Jenny Butler and James Kapalo on the 16th of February where we went through the site visit check list and discussed the scheduling of our meetings, and other practical matters concerning this conference. It has been exciting to see how the conference has developed and I am truly impressed by your work.

On 18th of November, I had an online meeting with the Ukrainian Association of Researchers of Religion as well as former convenors of EASR conferences to share experiences and discuss the 2023 conference in Kyiv. It was a productive meeting where our Ukrainian colleagues also presented some of their plans for the conference. In late February Russia invaded Ukraine. As the president mentioned the EASR officers met and formulated a condemnation of the war and to express support of Ukrainian people and the Ukrainian Association.

I kept in contact with members of the Ukrainian Association. It soon turned out that planning a EASR conference was unfortunately not realistic. On the 28th of April I met with members of the Ukrainian association to discuss different options for the 2023 meeting. Representatives of the Lithuanian association took part since they generously had offered to host the 2023 meeting. After the meeting The

Ukrainian Association sent a formal letter to the officers of EASR with a proposal on how to organize the 2023 conference in a safe. They proposed an online with the theme Religion & War event **or** a having another association taking over the 2023 conference. The officers met to discuss the proposals and decided to support the idea to organize an online event on **but also** to ask the Lithuanian association if they could organize an onsite conference in 2023. Both these events will be presented later in this meeting.

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 I have already received queries from different national associations about 2026 and 2027. Decision on who will host these conferences will be taken next year.

We have neither received new applications for membership from any national associations nor individual members this year.

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
Saint-Vincent, It, 25th of June 2022.