



**Fédération Européenne des Associations, Centres et Clubs UNESCO (FEACU)
European Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations (EFUCA)**

**3rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF UNESCO CLUBS,
CENTRES AND ASSOCIATIONS (EFUCA)
29 NOVEMBER TO 1 DECEMBER, 2012, BUCHAREST, ROMANIA**

DRAFT REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The Romanian Federation for UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations (FRACCU) in collaboration with the Romanian National Commission for UNESCO organized and hosted the 3rd General Assembly of the European Federation for UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations (EFUCA) in Bucharest, Romania from the 29th of November to the 1st of December 2012. General Assembly opened on 29th of November 2012 with the ceremony “A life dedicated to UNESCO”, which took place at the Romanian Parliament, an event that honored important representatives of the UNESCO movement who consecrated their life to the UNESCO ideals.

During this ceremony at the Parliament, the floor was taken by representatives of the Romanian Parliament and Government of Romania and UNESCO officials.

Before this international event, a round table took place on the theme “The cultural diversity - wealth of Europe” where representatives of UNESCO Clubs and other international NGO participated.

The General Assembly had the participation of representatives from twenty-five countries, UNESCO Clubs movement (EFUCA and WFUCA), of the Government of Romania, of the Romanian National Commission for UNESCO, and of other organizations and entities such as universities.

Representing the Director General of UNESCO, Mrs. Irina Bokova, Mr. Andrei Chevelev participated in the General Assembly.

The General Assembly focused on EFUCA’s future action plan based on proposals made by the delegates and taking into consideration WFUCA’s project on “Global Ethics” as well as UNESCO’s ideals and values.

PLENARY SESSION I (30 NOVEMBER 2012)

PLENARY SESSION I - OPENING CEREMONY

The opening session started with opening speeches and addresses by representatives of UNESCO, Romanian Government, Romanian National Commission, WFUCA, EFUCA and other representatives of the Civil Society. From the speakers we mention the following:

Mr. Andrei Chevelev, Representative of the UNESCO Director General, Mrs. Irina Bokova: Mr. Chevelev referred to the founding of EFUCA which was initiated by FRACCU in 2001 and that the movement represents the voice of the people. He mentioned that regular reports are requested in order to prevent the incorrect and illegal use of UNESCO's name and logo. He explained that ignorance is the main cause of conflicts and following Kyoto, youth and their education should be the focus of activities within the UNESCO Clubs movement.

Mrs. Daniela Popescu, President of the Romanian Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations (FRACCU): Mrs. Popescu welcomed all the participants and expressed her hopes that UNESCO will maintain its strong position.

Mrs. Christiane Gertrud Cosmatu, Department for Inter-Ethnic Relations, Government of Romania: Mrs. Cosmatu referred to diversity and the presence of the minorities living in Romania and said that many minority languages were recognized as official languages of Romania.

Mrs. Maria Paola Azzario, EFUCA President ad interim for the period 2011-2012: Mrs. Azzario expressed her wish that National Commissions should be more accessible and supportive towards the UNESCO Clubs movement. She referred to the questionnaire, which was circulated to the members of EFUCA in 2011 and mentioned that results differ between countries, expressing the richness of the existing diversity. In addition, she stated that fear, laziness and poverty must be defeated.

Mr. George On. Christophides, President of the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations (WFUCA): Mr. George Christophides expressed his wish that the UNESCO Clubs movement should become stronger in order to reach citizens all over the world. He referred to the meeting he had with the Director General (D.G.) of UNESCO, Mrs. Irina Bokova and stated that WFUCA has excellent and productive relations with the UNESCO D.G.

Mr. Eiji Hattori, Honorary President of WFUCA: Mr. Hattori referred to the "Global Ethics" project and quoting Paul Valery said that there is a real need for global ethics.

PROCEDURES: ELECTION OF THE OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

After the opening speeches, the nomination of candidates for the designation of the officials of the General Assembly took place.

Upon consensus of the delegations, the designation of the officials of the General Assembly had the following results:

- **President of the General Assembly:** Mrs. Daniela Popescu (Romania)
- **Vice Presidents of the General Assembly:** Mrs. Mihaela Varga (Romania) and Mr. Lionel Vinour (France)
- **Reporters of the General Assembly:** Ms. Olga Khabibulina (Belarus), Mr. Robert Pobitschka (Austria) and Mrs. Corrine Ziegler (Switzerland)

ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The draft agenda of the 3rd General Assembly of EFUCA was distributed to all the delegates and was adopted by consensus.

ELECTION OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The General Assembly designated Armenia (Ms. Astghik Sayadyan), Italy (Mr. Antonio Vernier) and France (Mr. Claude Vielix) as members of the Credentials Committee.

President of the Credential Committee Adeline Popescu, Romania in her quality of treasurer of EFUCA.

PLENARY SESSION II – “FUTURE AND MISSION OF EFUCA: ACTIONS AND PERSPECTIVES IN THE LIGHT OF EUROPEAN AND WORLD SITUATIONS AND OF GLOBAL ETHICS UNESCO PROGRAMME”

Reference was made to the outgoing Executive Board meeting of EFUCA, held on the 28 November 2012 and to the decisions regarding the addition of new members of EFUCA; the Portuguese Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Centres and the National Commission for UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations.

Ms. Adeline Popescu mentioned that only members who have paid their contributions could take part in the elections for the new Executive Board of EFUCA. The status of Armenia was discussed due to pending fees. The delegate from Armenia, Ms. Astghik Sayadyan read a letter written by the President of the Armenian Federation who referred to the reasons of the pending fees.

A decision was taken to allow new members and members who have not paid their fees to pay during the General Assembly. The deadline was set at 17.00 in the afternoon of the same day.

CANDIDATURES COMMITTEE

Mr. Lionel Vinour, one of the Vice Presidents of the General Assembly, raised an issue regarding the Candidatures Committee which is not mentioned in the statutes of EFUCA.

Mrs. Mihaela Varga also Vice President of the General Assembly and the President of WFUCA, Mr. George Christophides mentioned that there is a real need for addition of the internal rules and regulations in the statutes of EFUCA.

The designation of the Candidatures Committee was made by consensus.

Results of the designation of the Candidatures Committee: Monaco (Milène Escaras), Switzerland (Doris Neuenschwander, Greece (Yiannis Maronitis).

NEW MEMBERS OF EFUCA

Following the examination of the applications received by the Portuguese Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Centres as well as the USA National Commission for UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations, the General Assembly elected by absolute majority the above mentioned entities as new members of EFUCA.

Regarding the election of the Portuguese Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Centres, Mr. Lionel Vinour explained, upon election through the General Assembly of any new national federation follows an automatic replacement of any club that until then was representing the same country.

Mrs. Mihaela Varga referred to Austria's membership in EFUCA and to the absence of a national federation in Austria.

PLENARY SESSION III – EFUCA REPORTS BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF EFUCA

Due to the absence of the Executive Secretary of EFUCA, Mr. Silvio Matos, Mr. Lionel Vinour briefly referred to the following achievements of EFUCA during the period 2008-2012.

- New logo of EFUCA
- New website of EFUCA
- Dissemination of information through a circular letter regarding projects
- Promotion of UNESCO values
- Introduction to new regulations for UNESCO clubs
- Consolidation of financial situation
- Opening of a new bank account
- Strengthening of the relationship between EFUCA members
- EFUCA support of projects in Republic of Moldova, Romania, France, Spain, Portugal, Italy
- Increase of the regularity of the meetings with UNESCO officials
- Good relations with WFUCA: attendance in the Executive Board meetings of WFUCA in Alexandria, Beijing and Hanoi
- Attendance of celebrations related to UNESCO Clubs
- Participation in a youth competition in Republic of Moldova
- First meeting of the Spanish Confederation in Ceuta

Mr. Vinour also presented the results from the Intermediate Congress of EFUCA with theme “Human Rights and Cultural Diversity” held in Geneva, Switzerland in June 2011. All the participants received a relevant booklet containing all information regarding the said congress as well as an informative CD.

Mrs. Azzario presented the report for the period of 2011-2012 with reference to the Turin meeting in October 2011 and to the protection of the Cultural Heritage, to the report of the EFUCA Executive Board meeting in Minsk in December 2011 and the update of EFUCA’s website and to the EFUCA Executive Board meeting in Paris held in November 2011 at the UNESCO - WFUCA offices in Paris at Miollis building.

Mrs. Azzario proposed the creation of a newsletter on EFUCA’s website with information about each member of EFUCA in order to discover common projects to be launched.

Following the presentation of the activity report the General Assembly approved it by consensus and participants took the opportunity to comment on the reported information as well as on the all mentioned achievements during the period 2008-2012.

The representative of the UNESCO Director General, Mr. Chevelev proposed to strengthen the relationship between members of EFUCA and National Commission as well as with UNESCO in order to overcome financial difficulties.

FINANCIAL REPORT BY THE TREASURER OF EFUCA

The treasurer of EFUCA, Ms. Adeline Popescu presented the financial report to the General Assembly which was approved by the absolute majority of the General Assembly (one country was absent).

PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSALS FOR THE PROGRAMME AND THE BUDGET FOR THE NEXT YEARS

Delegates were invited to express their views and proposals for the next four years regarding EFUCA’s action plan.

The Belarusian delegation proposed to further develop communication between UNESCO Clubs and the civil society through the media promotion, relevant websites and social networks. A proposal was made to promote youth training through non-formal education. In addition, reference was made to the need to improve fund raising procedures.

Mrs. Marialuisa Stringa, Honorary President of EFUCA, spoke about the development of the efforts for funding since the establishment of EFUCA.

The Cyprus delegation proposed to improve the dissemination of information about the activities of EFUCA and its members through the creation of a social network page such as Facebook in order to provide the opportunity to members to post news regarding their activities.

Mr. George Christophides spoke about WFUCA’s “Global Ethics” project and invited all interested delegates to participate as observers in the meeting of WFUCA’s Executive Board, which was held after the end of first day of the General Assembly.

1 DECEMBER 2012

OPENING – CELEBRATION OF ROMANIA’S NATIONAL DAY

All participants met in the morning in the conference room in order to celebrate the national day of Romania. A music celebration took place and delegates waved Romanian flags while listening to the national anthem of Romania.

WORKSHOPS

Two workshops one in English and one in French were held on “Cultural diversity, cultural resource for Europe. Proposals for the future Programme of EFUCA”.

PLENARY SESSION IV

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

In the light of the report of the Credentials Committee, twenty-two members were still active members of EFUCA with sixteen of them being present and with a right to vote.

The absolute majority of the General Assembly approved the report.

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES TO THE NEW EFUCA EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Candidatures Committee announced the candidates for the EFUCA Executive Board for the period 2012-2016.

| POST | CANDIDATE’S NAME |
|-----------------------------|---|
| President | Daniela Popescu (Romania) |
| Treasurer | Yulia Averina (Russia) |
| Executive Secretary | Marina Christophides (Cyprus) Silvia Martinez Canton (Spain) |
| Vice-Presidents and Members | Dzmitry Subtselny (Belarus) Jorge Oliveira (Portugal) Maria Paola Azzario (Italy) Milica Dromnjakovic (Serbia) Renata Verejanu (Republic of Moldova) Silvia Martinez Canton (Spain) |

The President of WFUCA, Mr George Christophides, raised an issue regarding the interpretation of the article 5 s. 4(h) of the EFUCA Statutes and the right to present candidatures to two different positions of the Executive Board of EFUCA. Following discussions it was decided that the elections would take place in two rounds; in the first round all members with a right to vote would vote for the EFUCA president, treasurer and executive secretary and in the second round all members with a right to vote would vote for the EFUCA vice-presidents and members.

PRESENTATION OF THE FILE TO SUPPORT A CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF EFUCA

The two candidates for the position of the Executive Secretary presented themselves and each of them had a few minutes to inform the General Assembly about the reasons of their decision to become candidates for the position of the Executive Secretary of EFUCA. Following the presentation of the two candidates, delegates from the General Assembly had some time to submit their questions to the two candidates.

ELECTION OF THE THREE MEMBERS OF THE CONCILIATION COMMITTEE

The General Assembly elected the following members of the Conciliation Committee:

- Mrs. Corinne Dominique Ziegler (Switzerland)
- Mr. Guy Djoken (USA)
- Mr. Juan Antonio Vera Casares (Spain)

REPORTS OF WORKSHOPS

Following the two workshops that were held in the morning the following results were presented to the General Assembly:

English Group:

- Cultural variety: it is not easy to define “culture” and its roots
- People are connected to the historical background of their country of origin but can also be influenced by other cultures in different territories
- It is important to find a minimum level of consensus accepted by everybody
- Dramatic changes during the last 30 years, societies are experiencing multiculturalism
- In the light of the existence of illegal immigration there is a need of protection of human rights
- A large number of people come from a variety of different national backgrounds
- Protection of national heritage: protection of diversity
- Education is a way to initiate resolutions on how to avoid crisis
- Presentation by Austria: Vienna Charta as well as a project from Great Britain about education of character. Agreement by consensus to become a subject in schools.
- Presentation by Kazakhstan: “Teaching the youth moral values, issues and challenges”
- Presentation by Spain: short film about a school in Great Britain that can be seen as a model for integration and diversity
- Proposal for joint future actions. “Global Ethics”
- Need to establish a working committee

French Group:

- Discussion about what is a European project
- Discussion about projects based on the promotion of multiculturalism
- Discussion on how national projects can become regional - European projects

- Discussion on how to choose projects that can become European projects
- Focus on environmental projects
- Each country should propose projects

After the presentation of the results of the two workshops, the delegate from Serbia Mrs. Milica Dromnjakovic spoke about ethics, including access to clean water.

Mrs. Patrizia Favati, the representative of the City of Lucca, made a presentation regarding the City of Lucca and made reference to the planned activities for the next meeting of the Executive Board of WFUCA, in Lucca - Florence, 8-13 March 2013 and all events related to "Global Ethics".

RESULTS OF THE ELECTIONS AND PRESENTATION OF THE NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD

FIRST ROUND

| POST | NAME | VOTES |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| President of EFUCA | Mrs. Daniela Popescu | Fifteen votes |
| Executive Secretary of EFUCA | Ms. Marina Christophides | Ten votes |
| Treasurer of EFUCA | Ms. Yulia Averina | Fifteen votes |

SECOND ROUND

| POST | NAME | VOTES |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Vice-President of EFUCA | Mr. Dimitry Subtselny | Eight votes |
| Vice-President of EFUCA | Mrs. Maria Paola Azzario | Eight votes |
| Vice-President of EFUCA | Mrs. Silvia Martinez Canton | Ten votes |
| Member of EFUCA | Mr. Jorge Oliveira | Seven votes |
| Member of EFUCA | Mrs. Milica Dromnjakovic | Six votes |

CLOSING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The new President of EFUCA, Mrs. Daniela Popescu expressed her sincere thanks to all the participants of the General Assembly and her hopes for a more prosperous future for the European UNESCO Clubs movement, looking forward for further cooperation with all the members of EFUCA as well as with WFUCA and UNESCO, including the organization of new projects.