



Policy Paper 2008/2009

ISHA Policy Paper 2008/2009

Dear fellow members of ISHA! It is once again time for the new policy paper. In this document we, the new International Board, have gathered together ideas and plans about how to maintain and develop our beloved organisation. We have several tasks which are on-going projects, started already by previous IBs and also some new ones, which will be continued in the future. Below you can see the list of the tasks we intend to achieve during this year. These tasks are also explained in detail further on in the Policy paper. Our intention is that this document will give everyone in ISHA a clear picture of what is going on this year and how we are planning to develop our association. We hope you will enjoy reading this at least as much we enjoyed writing it!

At your service,

The IB 2008/2009

President, Marko Halonen, ISHA-Helsinki
Secretary, Larissa Vanamo, ISHA-Helsinki
Treasurer, Zrinka Kolarić, ISHA-Zagreb

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TASKS 2008/2009

1. Continuity

The first and most important task of the IB is of course to keep ISHA alive. We need to bear this fact in mind at all times and make sure that also in the future events will be organised and new officials will be elected. During our leadership we must continue to maintain and improve ISHA so that we shall, if possible, leave ISHA as an even better organisation than what it was when we started our term.

2. Active promotion of ISHA

ISHA only works if people keep taking part in the events. At the moment we have quite a nice amount of active people who are taking part in the events but we only have a few active sections. This leads to the fact that same sections keep organising events year after year. This becomes tough for the sections and also, as people graduate, sections might die out. Continuity inside a section is sometimes very difficult and that is why we need to get new sections in order to replace the ones which are no longer active. Also, it would be better to organise events in new cities in order to keep people's interest.

We are planning to promote ISHA, together with the council, with a promotion package made with the previous IB, which will include information about ISHA and our great events. This will be sent by e-mail to several history students' societies in European Universities. Depending on how actively new sections get involved we can either increase or decrease the amount of promotion e-mails sent. Hopefully in the end of the year we will have people from new sections attending events and even planning to organise an event in the future.

3. Maintaining and improving communication within ISHA

It is important that information moves smoothly inside ISHA. For this purpose we have the mailing list, the webpage and first of all, the forum. The forum is an important place where to share information and keep in touch between the events. We are planning to encourage everyone to take part in the discussions in the Forum. It is also important that information moves inside the sections especially in order to get new members from old sections.

4. Improving documentation inside ISHA

ISHA has existed for a long time, but in spite of the fact that this is an organisation run by history students, a lot of information has been lost during the years. We are planning to improve the documentation of past events and the work carried out by ISHA-officials so that in the future people can learn from the past and will not make the same mistakes over and over again. This will also decrease the amount of work done by the officials and the sections organising an event.

5. Decrease the amount of cancellations in seminars

Recently there has been an unfortunate tendency of quite a few people cancelling their participation of an event on a very short notice. This is bad for obvious reasons as it makes organising an event even more challenging than before. The new IB will consider various ways of avoiding this. These will be discussed on the forum and presented in the next GA. Hopefully in the future this problem will diminish.

6. Co-operation with CliohNet and other organisations

The new IB will continue to co-operate with other organisations beneficial to ISHA. The previous IB worked closely with CliohNet and this work will be continued with the help of the council. Also co-operation with IFISO and ESN will be kept going. This co-operation can also be a good way of getting new sections involved with ISHA.

7. ISHA and a stronger link with the European Union

At the moment ISHA is officially based in Switzerland, which means it is outside the EU. The new IB will continue the work of the previous officials to find out whether it would be wise to move ISHA (and its bank account) into an EU-country. This could improve our financial situation and strengthen our status in Europe.

8. Improving and maintaining the Carnival

It goes without saying that we will continue to improve the Carnival. We hope that in the future more people will be interested in both reading it and writing articles for it. As soon as the previous IB's Carnival has received some feedback, we can start working on the new one. We will also continue to improve its academic quality.

9. Retrieving the money from Belgium

This is a long-term project of ISHA and we will continue the work of previous officials in this matter.

10. Continuing to improve the academic quality of ISHA-events

This was one of the tasks of the previous IB and we will continue to work on this. As we have seen in previous events, this has already improved and we hope to make this trend continue.

11. New ISHA-products

Last but not least, we are planning to have new ISHA-products available during this year. Most of the old products are already sold out so it is about time for new ones. These products are aimed to improve our financial situation and first of all our visibility without forgetting our unity as an organisation.