

Programme ICORN Network Meeting Brussels 24-27 March 2011

Thursday 24 March

Afternoon: Arrival, hotel check in

18:30 Welcome Reception in the Town Hall (Grand Place) by invitation of the Lord Mayor of Brussels (with Passa Porta, WiPC, Halma and invited guests)

20:00 Dinner (with Halma and PEN WiPC) at Le Tentation,
Laekensestraat 28

21.00 Forbidden books Passa Porta festival public event, a live performance with writers, musicians and circus artists. Venue: La Tentation,
Laekensestraat 28

Friday 25 March

09:30 Official opening event (KVS; www.kvs.be, see separate sheet for programme), including keynote speech, writer statements and presentations of Halma, WiPC and ICORN (open to public/invited guests).

11:30 Session 1: ICORN and Europe (KVS)

Convening in the Capital of Europe, we have invited representatives from the European Commission, the European Parliament and ECRE to talk on subjects of vital interest to our organisation, and explore potentials for future support and cooperation:

Patrice Lenormand Acting head of unit European Commission EuropeAid
Heidi Hautala, Chairperson, the European Parliament Subcommittee for Human Rights
Bjarte Vandvik Secretary General European Council for Refugees and Exiles.

Letters to Europe performances by ICORN guest writers Manal al-Sheikh and Pegah Ahmadi

13:00 Lunch (KVS)

14:30 Session 2: Participation and Promotion (KVS)

This will be a session dedicated to exchange of ideas and experiences between the ICORN member cities. How are the cities working with their writers, what works, what doesn't? How are member cities cooperating, what kind of projects are in planning, which should be invented?

The Shahrazad – stories for life project will present examples of successful initiatives and events, ICORN writers will share stories and testimonies.

Important: Make sure to prepare and bring ideas for future projects and events. This is the time to look for partners and suggest cooperation between the cities for promoting ICORN writers.

18:00 Festive ICORN dinner at Spinnekopke (www.spinnekopke.be),
1 Place Jardin Aux Fleurs.

20:00 Letters to Europe Major Passa Porta festival/Shahrazad - Stories for Life event with among others ICORN guest writers performing at KVS (www.kvs.be).

Saturday 26 March

09:30 Session 3: Workshops (KVS)

Together with Halma and WiPC we are presenting five intensive and fruitful workshops. The workshops run in parallel, please choose one where you would like to participate:

1) Visa and migration

The ability to travel and move to new places has always been important to writers. Sometimes to get inspiration, other times out of sheer necessity. The workshop will discuss the practical limitations and possibilities to travel and migration today. How can we influence authorities to make it easier for writers to be on the move? With representatives from ECRE, Danish PEN, the EU and reports from ICORN/PEN /Halma experiences in the field.

2) Translation and publication

Representatives from Halma, ICORN and PEN International will share their competence and experience from their fields. Remarkable translation and publication projects will be presented, while the participants will be challenged to bring in their own ideas and suggestions for new initiatives to be developed.

3) Mobility and creativity

The organisations Halma (www.halma-network.eu) and Literature Across Frontiers (www.lit-across-frontiers) have mobility and creativity at the heart of their agendas. What are the relations between being on the move and the creative processes? is one of the questions that will be raised and discussed in this workshop.

4) Working with the EU

EU policies on human rights and advocacy will be on the agenda in the first part of this workshop, before the focus is turned to EU funding in the human rights and cultural sector. Professional EU representatives will be around, and reports from Halma/ICORN/PEN experiences in the field will be shared and discussed.

5) Freedom of Expression

“Post Wikileaks: digital media, dissidents and dictatorships” will be on the agenda in this workshop where representatives from PEN International’s Writers in Prison Committee will share competence and recent experience on these vibrant topics for the essential debates of today and tomorrow.

11:30 Plenary session, summing up with reports back from the workshops

12:30 Lunch (KVS)

14:00 Session 4: Protection, challenges and expectations (KVS)

How do we receive a persecuted writer? How should the ICORN member cities be prepared for the challenges and possibilities the arrival of an ICORN guest writer is representing? How can the writers be successfully integrated in their host city, and how do writers, member cities and the organisation deal with what happens after the ICORN placement period is over?

Guest writer experiences:

Asieh Amini (Iran/Trondheim)

Chenjerai Hove (Zimbabwe/Miami)

Guest lecture by Dr. Psych Binnie Kristal-Andersson:

“Towards understanding life in exile: A psychological model”

Parvin Ardalan (Iran/Malmö): How can ICORN guest writers work together in the future?

18:30 Come together dinner with Passa Porta, ICORN WiPC and Halma at La Tentation, Laekensestraat 28

20:00 On the Move Major Passa Porta Festival event at La Monnaie (www.lamonnaie.be), with among others Peter Esterhazy, David Mitchell, Jens Christian Grøndahl, Philippe Claudel, Arthur Japin and Brussels Poets Collective

Sunday 27 March

All day: **A literary feast is on!** The Passa Porta Festival presents a wide range of high quality literary events in cafes, libraries, churches, train stations, book shops and theatres all over the city. See festival programme and updates at www.passaporta.be

18:00 Concluding Passa Porta Festival event; Special guest: Orhan Pamuk