



TO: SIEC Executive Committee
FROM: Mona Engberg
DATE: 17 July, 2017
SUBJECT: Professional Development Committee

This month the 89th SIEC-ISBE Conference will take place in San Juan, Puerto Rico! As always we have invited people from all over the world to make a presentation or run a workshop at the conference. The call for papers to be presented at the conference was sent out in December and we have received many proposals. Elisabeth Riebenbauer, who has done a fantastic job in coordinating and organizing the presentations and workshops has sent me the following report:

The time frame:

- November 2016: Preparation of the Call for Presentations, Workshops & Posters and email-campaign of Call and Submission form
- January 31, 2017 Deadline for submissions
- February 2017 Review process with review board
- February 25, 2017 Sending notification of acceptance to presenters
- March – July 2017 Preparation of preliminary and final schedule for the sessions, coordination with organizer/Juanita, handling of cancellations and finding alternative presenters

The **review board** which consists of Mariann Holmberg (Finland), Gudlaug Nielsen (Iceland), Dana Gray and Tamra Davis (US), Beat Gauderon (Switzerland), Elisabeth Riebenbauer (Austria) has been working together since Helsinki (2014). I thank them for their commitment and productive way of working together.

This year we received **18 submissions** by the end of January 2017. The review board evaluated and accepted all of them for Puerto Rico. The 18 proposals consisted of 16 presentations and 2 workshops. They are from United States (4), Austria (3), Finland (3), Germany (2), Switzerland (2), South Korea (1), Sweden (1), Nigeria (1) and Puerto Rico (1). In total, there are 11 first-timers involved.

During the last months, we had to deal with **4 cancellations** (Weisblat/US, Leni/Finland, Obehi/Nigeria & Mona). Thanks to Juanita, Mona & Gerry, we managed to find good alternative presenters, thus we are still able to offer a full program with 3 parallel sessions and a broad variety concerning nationalities, first-timers and topics.

The **final program** includes 16 presentations, 2 workshops and the marketplace from these countries:

5 United States, 3 Austria, 3 Puerto Rico, 2 Finland, 2 Germany, 2 Switzerland, 1 Sweden, 1 South Korea

10 first timers are involved in 7 of these 19 sessions.

I really want to thank all members of the review board as well as Mona, Gerry and Juanita for the good collaboration in this previous year. I am sorry that I am not able to attend the conference in Puerto Rico because of my deputy professorship for business education at the University of Mannheim in Germany. This is also the reason why I want to give up this coordination of the call and review process after 3 years. Thank you for your understanding.

I wish all my SIEC-ISBE friends an interesting and inspiring conference. Have fun in San Juan and see you next year in Iceland ☺ Best wishes from Graz - Elisabeth

Thank you Elisabeth and members of the review board for all your commitment, work and efforts, it has been great work! As you can see from Elisabeth's report she will not be able to continue as the organizer and for that I am extremely sorry! But congratulations to you Elisabeth with your new job.

Concerning networking, the ideas from the market place in Graz are hopefully still alive and based on evaluation from Graz it was decided to also offer a market place this year, to give people a possibility to network and find partners. It has been placed already on Tuesday, so participants will be able to continue discussions about possible future connections during the whole conference.

A suggestion has been put forward that each chapter will introduce itself on Facebook.

This year's theme is extremely important, since internationalization of education is one of the ways in which a country responds to the impact of globalization. It affects each country differently under the history, traditions, culture and priorities of each nation and is a dynamic process and not a set of isolated activities, which is a very good reason for promoting networking and exchange of experiences during SIEC-ISBE conferences..

I took contact to the Czech Ministry of Education and some schools in the Czech Republic, to ask them to join SIEC-ISBE and maybe host a conference in Prague. At that time they were quite positive – but unfortunately it seems that we will not succeed in involving them..

Mr. Navaraj from India is positive to the thought of reviving the Indian chapter and maybe establish one in Thailand. I have just been in contact with him to inquire whether he would come to Puerto Rico, but for personal reasons he cannot .

I wish you all a great conference!

Mona