

## **EASA APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY NETWORK**

### **ACTIVITY REPORT 2014**

In 2014 EASA Applied Anthropology Network was very active. In August it presented its activities at the EASA biennial conference, which was held in Tallinn, Estonia. The network held a panel entitled 'Applied anthropology as a source of innovation,' which featured eight papers and was attended by approximately 30 participants. The panellists discussed how current applied anthropology in Europe compares with applied anthropology elsewhere, and tried to establish the most relevant and promising opportunities for development of the discipline.

At the EASA conference the network held a meeting and decided on its future strategy. Approximately 20 participants of the meeting decided to continue organising the annual network event 'Why the world needs anthropologists,' to carry out regionalisation of network activities (e.g. through local events), to take care of promotion of applied anthropology in Europe through events and publications, and to investigate possibilities of preparing a European study programme in applied anthropology. Network members also discussed the necessity for rotation of network's management, i.e. biennial election of network convenor and administrator.

The main network event of 2014 was held in the beginning of December in Padua, Italy. The city hosted the second international symposium 'Why the world needs anthropologists,' which was attended by more than 200 visitors from Europe and beyond. The international symposium was a result of collaboration between Slovenian, Italian, Dutch and international institutions. Besides the main organiser, EASA Applied Anthropology Network, the event was organised by University Campus CIELS, University of Ljubljana, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, VU University Amsterdam, and Slovene Ethnological and Anthropological Association KULA. The symposium was sponsored by the Slovenian Research Agency. The first keynote speaker at the event was Antonio Luigi Palmisano, Italian professor of social and economic anthropology at University of Salento. Business challenges of applied anthropology were presented by Rikke Ulk, anthropologist and CEO of Danish consultancy firm Antropologerne. Michele Visciòla, co-founder of Turin-based company Experientia, presented his view on applications of anthropology in business sector. Diverse insights into the practical work of anthropologists continued during the heated panel discussion which was moderated by Dan Podjed, convenor of the EASA Applied Anthropology Network. Apart from the three speakers, the discussion featured two network members, namely Desirée Pangerc, applied anthropology lecturer at University Campus CIELS and Italian army lieutenant, and Peter Simonič, observer and initiator of political change and assistant professor at the Faculty of Arts of University of Ljubljana. News about the event in Padua was published in various media in Italy and beyond – newspapers, radio, web pages, etc.

The network was also active through its mailing list, which currently has approximately 200 members. The list is used for internal communication between members and for dissemination of relevant information (events, meetings, etc.). In 2014 the network prepared two issues of the newsletter on applied anthropology in Europe, which was distributed to the network members.

In previous year the main information source of the network became the online social network Facebook. The network's Facebook page, moderated by Dan Podjed and Meta Gorup, already has over 1,000 members, who have been receiving information about applied anthropology and have been actively engaging in posting and commenting. In the future the network intends to strengthen online communication and turn the Facebook page to the main information and communication hub.

This report was prepared by:

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