

EUMA Iceland - History and Organisation

In May 1981 seven delegates from Iceland attended the Nordisk Sekreterarkongress held in Stockholm. In late 1982 the Reykjavik Club of Secretaries became affiliate members of EAPS and five members of that Club attended the EAPS conference in Lillehammer in September 1982.

EAPS Iceland, now EUMA Iceland was founded 9th of November 1983 by eight members of the Club of Secretaries and Jóhanna Sveinsdóttir was elected as National Secretary of EAPS Iceland. The group counted only fourteen members when the first EAPS annual conference in Iceland was organised and hosted 1986. The highlight of that conference was to be invited by the president of Iceland, Vigdís Finnbogadóttir to the presidents' residence at Bessastaðir. Vigdís was also one of EAPS patrons. Since then the group has grown and has had up to 45 members at best.

EUMA Iceland organised and hosted the 25th annual conference in 1999 which was a great success with over 300 participants.

In September 2012 EUMA Iceland hosted the conference for the third time. Participants were around 200 and they seemed to enjoy the event very much both professionally and socially.

All members of EUMA Iceland live and work around the capital, Reykjavík, which makes choosing of meeting places easy comparing to some other countries.

The first edition of our yearly newsletter, in Brief from Iceland, was published in February 1991. The editorial committee consists of three members and the National PRO acts as the National Committee representative. The name of the magazine was changed in the year 1999 to Impetus which means Drifkraftur in Icelandic.

Structure of the National Group

The National Group consists of five members National Committee that is responsible for the efficient functioning of EUMA Iceland and whose delegates serve on The Council and refer to the Executive Committee.

The National Committee consists of the following positions:

- National Chairman
- National Treasurer
- National Public Relations Officer (PRO)
- two co-members

Each National position comes up to election every two years and is renewable once only for a maximum of four years. The co-members are elected every year and can hold office for a maximum period of two years. Normally the National Chairman and the National PRO are up for election one year and the National Treasurer the next as to secure update of information and more efficient functioning committee.

A member will not become eligible for a further term of office as a National Representative until a minimum period of one year has elapsed but may be elected as an Officer of the Association according to the European Management Assistants Statutes.

The National Committee is elected at the National Annual General Meeting (AGM) which takes place once a year, in April. The affairs of the National Group is controlled by the members at the AGM in accordance with the Statutes and National bylaws.

Meetings

Monthly meetings are held in the evening of the first Tuesday each month during September through May, most often in locals provided with the courtesy of members' companies. No activities take place during the summer months. Different topics are on the agenda and the meetings are in Icelandic, with a few exceptions. One cultural meeting to an art gallery, theatre, concert or some other art form is on annually. For the past few years a company visit has also been on the agenda and seminars on different subjects where qualified speakers are obtained. To the Christmas meeting in December the bosses are usually invited.

Guests are welcomed at all meetings other than the AGM and the first one of the season, which is often held in some special place out of the ordinary and where the winter program is represented and members' orienting takes place.