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To the members of the Board
of the IASQ and to
Mr. W. den Bieman,
accountant

Concerning: activities
first half year 2017

Amsterdam, 1 August 2017

Dear all of you

With this letter I present you an overview of our activities during the first half year of 2017. This is also to inform the Dutch fiscal authorities ¹.

1. With regard to the International Journal of Social Quality

- With support by Berghahn Publishers and the authors, we completed Volume 6 (1) of the IJSQ with addition of an extensive editorial by connecting issues as Brexit, sustainability, policy of multinationals concerning societal responsibilities etc.
- With support of Berghahn Publishers and especially the guest editors of this thematic issue on experiencing dignity while accessing public services from the Faculty of Social Sciences at Oslo and the National Law School University in Bangalore, we completed Volume 6 (2) of the IJSQ.
- The IASQ continued the discussions about the continuation of Chinese support for the IJSQ in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 with representatives of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and with authorities of the Zhejiang University. A contract-proposal with support by Berghahn Publishers is made as well as a new project-proposal.
- In the meantime the IASQ, Berghahn Publishers and representatives of the Liverpool Hope University were engaged with organizing financial facilities for the IJSQ in 2017 (Volume 7/1 and 7/2) as well as preparing the composition of both Volumes: this included extensive communication with candidate authors as well.

2. With regard to the IASQ's website and direct communication

- The update of the website for informing connections about (among other things) new publications by associated universities about topics, related with the issue of social quality
- The presentation of the second IASQ-Manifesto 'Brexit and the recent Declaration on Social Quality', in collaboration with the University of Sheffield and the Liverpool Hope University as well as gathering and registering signatures for supporting this manifesto.
- Sending e-mail newsletters to more than 900 subscribers worldwide and letters to IASQ-connections in order to stimulate the extension of the social quality approach and discuss the challenges we face.

¹ This is requested for continuing the Dutch status of 'public service institution', obtaining fiscal benefits with regard to the financial aspects of the IASQ's work.

3. Preparation 'pre-application concerning social (economic) sciences and sustainability'

- The IASQ completed a final draft of a 'pre-application' on behalf of the International Social Science Council (ISSC) with support by representatives of ten academic institutes in Europe, China, Australia and Japan. Before the start an appointment was made with one of these institutes to function as 'first applicant'. This appointment was cancelled ten days before closing time. The IASQ was not able to find an alternative within ten days.
- Therefore the ISSC is informed about this unhappy decision. We maintain that especially from the social quality perspective an essential contribution to the overall issue of sustainability can be put into effect. New plans will be developed how to address this main challenge. The completion of the draft will deliver points of departure.

4. Developing the Working-Paper nr 16 about addressing the problematic of Ukraine

- Responding to an invitation by the Academy of Sciences and the Government of Ukraine, the IASQ made new steps to prepare research proposals about how to contribute from the social quality perspective to societal processes in Ukraine. A 'preliminary project-group' has been formed from academic institutes in Ukraine, the EU-Members States and China to pave the way for addressing this invitation.
- In dialogue with members of the 'preliminary project-group' the IASQ produced several versions of the Working Paper as point of departure for developing a 'international joint research project Ukraine'. The completion of this Working Paper – which tries to enhance some essential characteristics of the social quality approach – is scheduled for the second half of 2017,
- Meanwhile the IASQ discussed with representatives of the Academy, the Government and representatives of the European Commission the chances for building the infrastructure for the supposed 'international joint-research project'.

5. Pilot study in the Dutch city of The Hague

- The IASQ functions during this period as 'Secretary of the Strategic Group' for paving the way for constituting 'care-cooperations' of citizens in the 'multicultural quarter Laak' of this city for caring for the elderly on street and neighborhood level, as well as paving the way for developing forms of collaboration between community groups and health care workers and their institutions, as foundation of these proposed 'care-cooperations'. The IASQ was responsible for high standing notes of the most important meetings in this period.
- The IASQ contributed also to the policies of this Strategic Group to pave the way for a collaboration with the 'The Hague University of Applied Studies', with which to start 'Innovation Labs' in Laak. Three meetings were held about this issue.
- Finally it contributed to the production of a scientific article in the IJSQ about 'participatory public health' in the Laak quarter. The 'care-cooperations' are an expression of the policies to strengthen the empowerment of (older) citizens

6. Start Pilot study in the Dutch city Amsterdam

The IASQ contributed in the past already informally to the project 'Street festival' in the eastern part of the city of Amsterdam. This started out as a festival of 2000 participants; in 2017 there were more than 30.000 participants. This year the IASQ contributed also more formally in order to demonstrate to the municipality of Amsterdam, funds and the general public in East Amsterdam the meaning of this socio-cultural festival for strengthening social cohesion in this part of Amsterdam, as well as the empowerment of citizens to organize on equal level with public institutions (departments of governing bodies of the city, police, etc etc). Because of this success of cohesion and empowerment, the city council accepted this festival in 2016 as a highly important 'city event' and contributed financially in a substantive way. Plans are being made to analyse this event as a good example of citizens' empowerment.

7. Theoretical support

On behalf of the challenge of sustainability the IASQ (ad-3), the invitation from the side of Ukraine (ad-4), the pilot study The Hague (ad-5) and the pilot study Amsterdam (ad-6) theoretical oriented documents are published in order to enhance the theory to contribute more productive to related challenges.

With all my best wishes

Laurent J.G. van der Maesen
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