

Individual Members Section Annual Report

The new IMS Team, elected at the beginning of 2017, and composed of Jorge de Jesus, Zeneda Feratllari and Benjamin Fievet, took office with a clear aim: to build on the work done by the previous IMS Team and to go further, thus achieving the overall aim of strengthening and developing the Individual Members Section. This objective was clear with the development and circulation of the Action Plan 2017-18, a lot of which has already been achieved, and which the IMS Team will continue to work on until the end of its mandate.

A number of aspects of the IMS have been developed this year with a lot of success. The first of these was our social media presence. As the previous IMS Team created the foundations for the development of our social media presence, we set about developing that. We began by developing a Social Media Strategy, which we are currently in the process of implementing. We have developed a strong presence on Facebook: since 28 March, when announced the start of the new IMS Team, we have increased our likes by over 50%. We have also launched a new social media campaign, developed by our individual member Benedikt Bente, entitled #IMS-Talks, where we speak to our individual members about why they joined the IMS and what they would like to get out of it. The first segment of this campaign will focus on the upcoming congress and reform, and a new segment will be introduced after the congress. We have also put together a social media discussion group, composed of individual members who are keen to contribute to this aspect of the IMS.

This has also been a big year for IMS events. One of the things that our members spoke to both the previous and the current IMS Teams about was the need to have more IMS events. In light of this, we developed the IMS Gatherings. This format is based on the idea that the best way to develop the IMS is through our individual members. Here, our individual members can propose a gathering in their respective cities, and the IMS Team will then help them put it together. As of the writing of this report, we have organised a total of 6 gatherings, in Brussels, Warsaw, Frankfurt and Utrecht. More IMS Gatherings are currently in the pipeline. We have also continued with the tradition of the IMS Hangouts, which now take place on a regular basis on the first Wednesday of every month.

Engagement has also been one of the main banners of this IMS Team, and steps have been taken to increase the engagement of individual members. One of the first actions taken by this team was the development of the IMS Welcome Pack, which is now sent to every new individual members who joins our IMS. The organisation of IMS Gatherings, Hangouts, and the inclusion of individual members in the implementation of our social media strategy has also contributed to an increased engagement.

One of the main portfolios of the IMS Team this year has been to push forward the reform of the IMS initiated last year. The previous IMS Team laid the foundations for the reform process by reaching out to members at the Tallinn Congress, and the current team picked up from where they left off. We proceeded to further gather input from our individual members through the public consultation that took place in Spring 2017, as well as through the Pre-Congress Meeting for the Spring Congress. A document was compiled with this

input, after which time we reached out to the Bureau to coordinate the next steps and to come to a compromise position. This compromise position, which can be found in the *Working Paper for the Reform of the Individual Members Section*, was then circulated among the individual members so that they could once again contribute and provide amendments. Meanwhile, due to the desire to take this to Congress, a *Motion* was submitted to Congress containing only the major organisational changes. In line with the democratic nature of the IMS and of the reform process, individual members will vote on the amendments and on the final Working Paper/Motion at the Pre-Congress Meeting on 4 October 2017.

Lastly, due to the now limited spaces that the IMS has at each Congress, the IMS Team has worked with the Secretary General on developing a set of criteria with which individual members who wish to attend a Congress will be chosen. These criteria are temporary, and subject to change if the individual members so wish. Furthermore, the IMS Team has worked on changing the structure of the Pre-Congress Meeting, making it more efficient and streamlined. The new structure will be tried out at the Autumn Pre-Congress Meeting.

A lot has been done this year, but there is more yet to do. From the implementation of the reform, to the further development of our social media presence, to the organisation of more events to bring the IMS closer to its members, the IMS Team will only stop working on the day that our mandate ends.

Jorge de Jesus, Zeneda Feratllari, Benjamin Fievet