

# **Member Association Reports to FELA**

January 2020

Dear FELA colleagues,

Ever since Ulla-Britt Persson's chairmanship, it has been a tradition for all of us to write reports about the recent and future activities of our national literacy associations. These reports

- o contain information for ourselves as a Federation,
- serve as newsletters to all our members and colleagues in each respective country,
- o will be sent to ILA to show and share our activities,

and

o are to be published on the FELA website (<a href="http://www.literacyeurope.org/">http://www.literacyeurope.org/</a>) and possibly on the respective websites of our member associations.

Attached please find the twenty-two (22) reports that were submitted by 21 February, 2020.

Ann-Sofie Selin, FELA, chairperson

felaliteracyeurope/at/gmail.com

Am-Sofie Selm

Veronika Rot Gabrovec m.p. FELA, secretary

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3.	<b>Bulgaria</b> / <i>България</i> (BulRA - Българска асоциация по четене)
4.	Croatia / Hrvatska (CroRA – Hrvatsko čitateljsko društvo)
5.	Czech Republic /Česká republika (CzechRA- Společnost pro podporu a rozvíjení
6.	čtenářství) <b>Denmark</b> (Landsforeningen af Læsepædagoger /The Danish Reading Association)
7.	Estonia / Eesti (Eesti Lugemisühing)
8.	Finland / Suomi / Finland / Suopma (FinRA)
9.	Germany / Deutschland (DGLS - Deutsche Gesellschaft für Lesen und Schreiben)
10.	<b>Greece / Ελλάδα</b> (Hellenic Association for Language and Literacy)
11.	Iceland (Íslenska lestrarfélagið / (The Icelandic Reading Association)
12.	Ireland (Literacy Association of Ireland / Cumann Litearthachta na hÉireann)
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14.	Italy / Italia (Associazione Literacy Italia)
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16.	Portugal / República Portuguesa (Littera Associação Portuguesa para a Literacia)
17.	<b>Romania / România</b> (Asociația Lectura și Scrierea pentru Dezvoltarea Gândirii Critice România)
18.	Russia /Росси́я (Русская Ассоциация Чтения)
19.	Slovak Republic / Slovensko (SARČ - Slovenská asociácia na rozvoj čítania)
20.	Slovenia / Slovenija (Bralno društvo Slovenije)
21.	<b>Switzerland / Svizzera / Schweiz / Suisse</b> (Leseforum Schweiz – Forum suisse sur la lecture)
22.	Spain / España (AELE - Asociación Española de Lectura y Escritura)
23.	<b>Sweden / Sverige</b> (SCIRA - Swedish Council of the International Reading Association )
24.	United Kingdom (UKLA – The United Kingdom Literacy Association)

# BULGARIAN READING ASSOCIATION (BulRA)

Address: P.O.B. 205, Sofia 1000, Bulgaria

E-mail: lydia.dachkova@gmail.bg,

marieta.tzvet@gmail.com

Website: www.bulra.org

Chairperson: Marieta Tzvetkova, PhD

Vice-chairperson: Lydia Dachkova, PhD



Date: 23.12.2019

BulRA was registered in April 2001 and chartered as an IRA member organization on July 1, 2003. It was established resulting from the RWCT project, funded and administered by the Open Society Foundation NY and Sofia.

BulRA runs projects funded by international and local donors and the projects are oriented to educators on various levels (school, university) and target groups (high school and university students, parents, community). They are oriented to: professional development, course and curriculum design, publishing. BulRA administers projects either initiated by BulRA, local or international partners.

# • REGULAR ACTIVITIES:

- Living & Studying Abroad: information meetings & discussions with parents & high school students & teachers in Bulgarian schools; cross-cultural, multicultural & academic issues.
- Support of the website of BulRA, incl. FB page. Regularly sharing info on BulRA's website and a FB page of BulRA, disseminating info about literacy projects and activities of BulRA, as well as international & local literacy & education organization.
- Organizing of targeted meetings in Sofia and Plovdiv for presenting and popularizing BulRA good literacy and exchange practices.

#### • PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES:

- Participation in some of the training activities of Erasmus project "*E-leadership Trainer Accelerator*" which was awarded a prize for the best Erasmus + project for 2019 in December 2019 by Bulgarian Center for Human Resources Development
- High School Exchange Program: 1-year exchange programs for Bulgarian high school students in USA and UK; merit based national competition; partners: ASSIST, USA & HMC, UK;
- Participation in the project activities of the project "I do prefer to love" supported by Europe program of Sofia Municipality (interactive website with poetry encouraging young people to resist and oppose hate speech).

# Upcoming events:

- 1. <u>Preparation of a project proposal on multimodal literacy</u> with experts in the specific field and in partnership with other NGOs and organizations working in Bulgaria and abroad.
- **2.** <u>High School Exchange Program:</u> 1-year exchange programs for Bulgarian high school students in USA and UK; merit based national competition; partners: ASSIST, USA & HMC, UK.
- **3.** Living & Studying Abroad: information meetings & discussions with parents & high school students & teachers in Bulgarian schools; cross-cultural, multicultural & academic issues.

Submitted by: Marieta Tzvetkova, Chair of the Board of BulRA

# **Croatian Reading Association**

TrgEugenaKvaternika 11, 43000 Bjelovar,

Croatia

Phone: +38543244447 / fax: +38543243624

e-mail: <u>hcd@hcd.hr</u>

website: <a href="http://www.hcd.hr">http://www.hcd.hr</a>

Chairperson: Snježana Berak

Vice-chairpersons: Kristina Čunović

Davorka Semenić-Premec

Date: 2020-10-01

Croatian Reading Association established in 1995, as a nongovernmental, not-for-profit and voluntary association whose mission is to encourage, research and promote reading and literacy. The CroRA has approximately 300 members.

# **Recent activities:**

- Took part at Fela Conference and at the 21<sup>st</sup> European Conference on Literacy at August in Copenhagen by our Chairperson Snježana Berak, who had poster presentation "(In) possible mission connecting through roundtables, expending reading strategies".
- Organized Conference "Literacy and Learning for sustainable Development" in partnership with the largest publisher in Croatia, Školska knjiga Zagreb, Goethe Institute Croatia and under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture at the International Literacy Day in September and published Association's review "Hamster" (thematically dedicated to the Conference)
- Organized 14<sup>th</sup> Photo contest Smile... while reading! for the best photography of a reading person
- Had part at the 4<sup>th</sup> International Picture book Festival "Sheep in the box" at Pazin in September and in The Month of Croatian Book in November.
- CroRa with Partners organized an exhibition The Our Street Books in Ethnographic Museum in Zagreb.
- Snježana Berak and Kristina Čunović continue Croatian Prison Reading Program for Detainees and their Children, and also continue our National Campaign "Read to mi!" with presentations for parents and teachers to encourage early birth reading.

# **Upcoming events:**

- Preparing activities for CroRa election assembly in spring.
- The project "Our Street Books" will be completed in May.
- Snježana Berak and Kristina Čunović continue Croatian Prison Reading Program for Detainees and their Children and also continue our National Campaign "Read to me!" for promoting reading to children from early age.

Submitted by: Davorka Semenić-Premec

# **Czech Reading Association**

Prague, M.D.Rettigové 4, CR

Chairperson: Radka Wildová

Vice-chairperson: Marie Ernestová



Czech Reading Association Společnost pro podporu a rozvíjení čtenářství (abbr. as CzechRA)

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019

**The Czech Reading Association** was chartered as a member organisation of the IRA in 2003 and has 25 members and several regular collaborators.

The membership comprises university research specialists and lecturers, school teachers at all levels, students, parents, librarians and professional educational psychologists.

CzechRA goals are to develop and support reading skills in the Czech Republic, and to promote cooperation between universities and colleges training teachers, education specialists and other consultants in the field of reading.

#### **Recent activities:**

CzechRA members participated in the creation of two textbooks on reading literacy + Teacher's Books published by the University of South Bohemia (recommended for primary school pupils from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 6th class).

- Whitcroft Ladislava: Friends From the Town of Fishponds 1
   Specialist collaborators: Ivana Šimková, Martin Schacherl
- Schacherl Martin, Šimková Ivana, Whitcroft, Ladislava: Friends From the Town of Fishponds
   2

The aim of the project was to trial, through action research in schools, the effectiveness of strategies for teaching reading which improve text comprehension, especially in lower socio-economic and culturally disadvantaged pupils. The development of reading strategies has not attracted much attention in the CR, probably because it was not thought to be needed in the Czech context. Both textbooks can be found on-line at:

https://www.pf.jcu.cz/stru/katedry/cj/publikace.phtml http://gramotnost.cfme.net/

# Upcoming events:

CzechRA members participate also in the project called "Teachers' work support", which focuses on the basic pre-literacies in preschool and primary school education. It has been launched by the National Institute for Education (see: <a href="www.ppuc.cz">www.ppuc.cz</a>) as a part of their operational programme "Research, Development and Education" financed by the EU Structural and Investment funds. CzechRA members assess supportive methodological materials, topics and examples of activities, videos showing extracts of practical activities, texts and act as sources of inspiration.

Submitted by: *PhDr. Marie Ernestová (* on behalf of the Executive Board).

# Landsforeningen af Læsepædagoger (The Danish Reading Association)

Strandhavevej 50, 1. info@laesepaed.dk www.laesepaed.dk

**Chairperson:** Thomas Ais Christensen **Vice-chairperson:** Rikke Torbjørg Nielsen



Date: 2019-12-22

The Danish Reading Association (LL) was founded in 1950 and was initially comprised mainly of teachers from the municipality of Copenhagen. Gradually, the association grew to include members from all parts of Denmark, from both general and special education, and comprised K-12 and adult education.

The active members of the association work on a voluntary basis.

Today the association has approximately 1,100 paying members, which includes individuals as well as schools and institutions.

The journal *Læsepædagogen* is the cornerstone of LLs work together with the annual conference called the *Munkebjerg Conference*.

# **Recent activities:**

2019 has been a busy year for LL due to the work to prepare the 18th Nordic Literacy Conference & the 21st European Conference on Literacy which LL hosted in august.

The conference was held at the same educational venue as the first Nordic Conference which was held in 1948, namely the *HF-Centret Efterslægten* - an upper secondary school for young people and adults.

At the board of the association we are very happy and relieved that the conference is well over and that the interest in participating was so great: In all 515 participants from 43 countries.

During 2019 LL offered and held two mini conferences for literacy advisors in elementary and secondary schools.

In November the annual conference was held on Hotel Munkebjerg. The three-day conference offered a large number of presentations, as well as exhibitions from publishers. Approximately 320 people participated in the conference this year.

Members received a printed copy of the magazine Læsepædagogen six times in 2019.

# **Upcoming events:**

In 2020 LL offers two mini conferences for literacy advisors in elementary and secondary schools.

In November the annual conference will be held on Hotel Munkebjerg.

Members will receive a printed copy of the magazine *Læsepædagogen* six times in 2019.

# Submitted by

Thomas Eis Christensen

Name of association: Estonian Reading

Association

Web site: www.lugemisyhing.ee

Address: Narva Road 25 Tallinn 10120 Estonia

Chairperson: Mare Müürsepp, marem@tlu.ee

Vice-chairperson: Kadi Lukanenok,

kadi.lukanenok@tlu.ee



Date: January 2020

The Estonian Reading Association/EstRA (*Eesti Lugemisühing*) was founded in May 1992 and became a National Affiliate of the IRA in April 1993. EstRA is a voluntary organisation that unites currently around 200 individuals from different reading-related professions in the Republic of Estonia interested in reading and in issues related to reading and literacy. EstRA aims to follow the IRA's goal-setting process and its guidelines for Estonian traditional development in reading and literacy. Mare Müürsepp runs as EstRA leader since August 2015.

# Current and recent activities and projects:

- Dyslexia awareness day and parents training events was held on October 2019.
- Different teacher and parents training programs on reading issues are offered and continuously carried by EstRA trainers all around Estonia

# **Upcoming and ongoing events:**

- The 4. Baltic Sea Literacy Conference, 16-21 Jan, 2020 in Tallinn.
- **Starting Erasmus+ project Superliterate** Creating an Online Alphabetization Platform for Illiterate Adults.

Submitted by: Kadi Lukanenok, January, 2020

# FinRA ry/rf

% Selin, Västerlånggatan 26 C 74, FI-20100 Turku/Åbo, Finland

finrainfo/at/gmail.com

http://finnishreadingassociationenglish.blogspot.fi/

# Finnish Reading Association is on Facebook

Chairperson: Ann-Sofie Selin Vice-chairperson: Heli Ketovuori



Date: January 2020

# FinRA, Finnish Reading Association, reg. assn., 50 years 2018

FinRA, previously Klinikkaopetus and Suomen puhe-luki-yhdistys, has developed with and for the needs of the society without losing its focus. FinRA is a membership organisation for teachers, researchers and all interested in working for literacy. All activities have been and are still run on voluntary basis. The association is bilingual (Fin/Swe), in practice most of the activities are in Finnish.

FinRA was chartered as an IRA affiliate in 1970.

The journal *Kielikukko* is published 4 times per year.

#### Recent activities:

FinRA is an active partner of the NordPlus project sponsoring the 4th Baltic Sea Conference on Literacy in Tallinn 16–21 January, 2020.

FinRA has approached three Finnish organisations in order to attract members for FELA. We are optimistic so far.

FinRA has published an updated test battery for screening pupils in grades 1–6. It has been well-received among special teachers all over the country.

# **Upcoming events:**

FinRA Board is about to appoint a working group for producing screening tools for grades 7–12 as a follow-up of the test battery for grades 1–6

FinRA Board members Miina Orell and Tiina-Maija Kaarlela are working on a third publication for Literacy and Diversity: New Directions Teachers. The focus will be on active learning and exercises.

22<sup>nd</sup> European Conference on Literacy



On regular basis the journal *Kielikukko* is uploaded on the FinRA website with a delay of two numbers. On most issues there are also articles in Swedish and English besides Finnish. The websites are published in Finnish, Swedish and English.

FinRA promotes the 22nd European Literacy Conference to be held in Dublin, Ireland, on July 5-7, 2021. <a href="https://www.literacyeurope.org/dublin2021/">https://www.literacyeurope.org/dublin2021/</a>

Federation of European Literacy Associations & Literacy Association of Ireland Cumann Litearthachta na hÉireann

on Facebook, in *Kielikukko* journal and on http://finnishreadingassociationenglish.blogspot.fi/

The logo is produced by Susan Johnsson, FinRA.

Submitted by FELA delegate Pehr-Olof Rönnholm on behalf of the FinRA Board

# Deutsche Gesellschaft für Lesen und Schreiben DGLS sauerborn@ph-heidelberg.de www.dgls.de Chairperson: Dr. Hanna Sauerborn Vice-chairperson: Natalie Bors

The German Society for Reading and Writing was founded in 1968. It has about 380 members. Its main aims are:

Date: 21st of February 2020

- to stimulate and promote interest in literacy
- to sponsor conferences and workshops related to literacy development
- to disseminate knowledge helpful to the solution of literacy problems.

# Recent activities:

- new website format of a monthly short publication called "Fundstücke des Monats"
- Publication of articles about literacy and inclusive learning environments (2020)

# Upcoming events:

• Conference in November 2020 at the University of Education in Heidelberg with well known speakers in the field of literacy

Submitted by Hanna Sauerborn

# **Hellenic Association for Language and Literacy**

30 Agisilaou Str.

16675 Glyfada

Greece

etafa@edc.uoc.gr

www.eegg.gr



Chairperson: Eufimia Tafa

Vice-chairperson: Marina Sotiropoulou

Date: 16/02/2019

The Hellenic Association for Language and Literacy (HALL) was charted as a member organisation of the International Reading Association in 1995. Greek Reading Association has approximately 100 members most of whom are teachers working in primary, secondary and higher education, literacy advisors and teacher educators promoting language and literacy development in children.

#### **Recent activities:**

- A newsletter has been sent to all members.
- Two of our members published their books. In addition other members published articles and got European or national grants.
- A new Board has been elected on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019

# **Upcoming events:**

The HALL will organise the 23<sup>rd</sup> European Conference on Literacy in cooperation with the FELA. The Conference will be organised at Chania, Crete by the end of June 2023.

Submitted by Eufimia Tafa

Íslenska lestrarfélagið The Icelandic Reading Association				
Chairperson: Erna Árnadóttir				
Vice-chairperson: Gudmundur Kristmundsson				
	Date: January 12 <sup>th</sup> 2020			
The Icelandic Reading Association has been small since the beginning, despite a heavy and fruitful work over the years. Now changes are expected and the Board has managed to join three powerful women who have worked extensively in literacy education and will take over the Board of Directors after the next Annual General Meeting. These are young women who have come a long way to literacy, teachers and librarians. We trust that they will succeed in bringing good people into the team and promoting the association. There has been considerable debate in the community lately, because of a result from the Pisa survey where Iceland did not come out well and can remember its much better results. The Minister of Education, who is now in the cabinet, has also shown great interest in literacy and hopefully our association can take advantage of this. We who currently sit on the board of directors will retire but will be the backbone for a new board if needed. Of course, we will maintain a good relationship with our FELA members in the future.				
Recent activities:  Last months the board have had meetings with interested people, who will hopefully take over. We have also been in contact with group of literacy people in The Directorate of Education.				
Upcoming events:  Work on strengthening the status of the Icelandic Reading Association and provide advice and take part in discussions on literacy, as we have done for years				
Submitted by Erna Árnadóttir				

# Literacy Association of Ireland

Cumann Litearthachta na hÉireann

Educational Research Centre Saint Patrick's Campus Drumcondra, Dublin 9

LiteracyIreland@gmail.com

https://www.literacyireland.com/

**Twitter:** @LiteracyIRL *President:* Niamh Watkins

President Elect: Jennifer O'Sullivan



Date: February, 2020

The Reading Association of Ireland (RAI) was established in 1975. Initially focussed on developing an interest in reading, supporting reading and encouraging research in the area of reading, the RAI was always connected to international researchers, organisations and emerging international practices. It became a national affiliate of the International Reading Association in 1978. Over time the concept of literacy itself evolved; while reading skills and reading always remained a key focus for RAI, the emphasis broadened to encompass a whole range of literacy skills to include language, written expression and a whole range of new digital literacies. In April 2015 the RAI was re-launched as the Literacy Association of Ireland (LAI), affiliated now to the International Literacy Association. The LAI aims to support and inform all concerned with the development of reading, language and literacy, it encourages research, reflection and dialogue, challenges practice and gives public voice to concerns. The Literacy Association of Ireland currently has approximately 150 members, including teachers, students, teacher educators, librarians and parents. Any person interested in literacy or language development is welcome to join the association at any time.

# **Recent activities:**

- <u>Annual Conference:</u> The LAI held its 43rd International Conference in November 2019. It was a great success. The Conference theme was 'Engaging literacy learners in diverse settings'
- <u>Seminars</u>: Seminars are free to LAI members; they are held in Education Centres and other in Third Level Institutions, and cover a range of themes..This year the themes addressed were 'Laying the Foundations for Early Reading', 'Motivating the Reluctant Reader', Reading for Adolescents', 'Disciplinary Literacy', 'The Challenges of the Digital Classroom'.
- <u>Publications:</u> Every year the LAI produces two issues of *Literacy News* (one issue has a digital format, the second is distributed in hard copy around annual conference time).
- The LAI Book Award is given on alternative years to a book published in Ireland in the previous two years. The 2019 winning books, and those that were shortlisted, are to be found on the LAI website.

# **Upcoming events:**

- The LAI will celebrate its 44<sup>th</sup> International Conference in November 2020. The forth-coming conference theme is yet to be decided and will soon be announced on our website, <a href="https://www.literacyireland.com">www.literacyireland.com</a>.
- A specially commissioned medal and €500 is awarded to an outstanding thesis that has been written in the two years preceding the award date. The thesis must address the theme of literacy. The competition for this award will be held in 2020 and the process is currently underway.

Submitted by Dr Máirín Wilson LAI FELA Representative

Israel Reading Association			
Chairperson: Dr. Shlomo Alon			
Vice-chairperson: Mr. Moshe Zaafrani			
	Date: December 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2019		
The Association was established 51 years ago. It is the umbrella for researchers, writers and teachers of the languages of Israel: Hebrew, Arabic, Russian, French, English, German, Amharic, Persian, Ladino, Portuguese, Iddish, Spanish, Italian, Chinese. Hebrew and Arabic are the two official languages of Israel .Literacy and linguistic education are, historically, very important to the people in the country. The Association is undergoing now a shift in the leadership and the framing of the goals, with the special influence of the social media and the changes which take place in the style and the functional status of the new grammar. The 48th volume of JTAI(Journal of the teachers of Arabic and Islam)will appear in March 2020, holding 200 pages. During summer 2019 there were 10 conferences dealing with languages and the new media.			
Recent activities:  New Journal. In service trainings. The Institute for Democracy held 2 more round tables about the status of the Arabic Language after the new law of the nation and the debates about the influence of the law on Arabic as an official language in Israel.			
Upcoming events:			
About 8 conferences dealing with the new media i	in the various languages, during the year 2020.		
Submitted by Dr. Shlomo Alon			

#### **Associazione Literacy Italia**

Via Macedonio Melloni 6 – Milano - Italy <a href="mailto:literacyitalia@gmail.com">literacyitalia@gmail.com</a>

[www.literacyitalia.it – under construction]

Contact person: tizianamascia@tizianamascia.it

Chairperson: Tiziana Mascia

Vice-chairperson: Francesco Grande



Date: 20 December 2019

ALI – Associazione Literacy Italia is a non-profit organization established by a group of professionals from different backgrounds, united by a social, educational and cultural project focused on promoting reading literacy. ALI aims at encouraging higher levels of quality in research, reading instruction, reading promotion in schools and libraries specifically directed to: early childhood, children and adolescents.

#### Recent activities of ALI's members:

- Presentation at ECER 2019 the European Conference on Educational Research in Hamburg (September 2019);
- Presentation at the Statistical 2019 in Treviso (September 2019);
- Participation at the FELA Ordinary General Assembly in Copenhagen (August 2019);
- Presentations at CPH Conference on Literacy in Copenhagen (August 2019);
- Presentations: FELA seminar at Hamburg University (January 2019); Children's Book Fair in Bologna (April 2019); Turin International Book Fair (May 2019); International Conference Education and Post Democracy in Cagliari (June 2019);
- Collaboration with the National TV RAI Cultura for the production of distance education programs for teacher training on the topics of school libraries and augmented reading;
- Partnership with the journal "Il pepeverde" specialized in literacy education and children's literature.

# **Upcoming events:**

- Participation at the 4th Baltic Sea Conference on Literacy "Searching for a Common Language" (Jan 2020);
- Participation at the FELA Ordinary General Assembly in Tallin (Jan 2019);
- Workshops and seminars for teachers and librarians for the professional development in the field of reading literacy (Jan 2020);
- Promoting the exchange of information between ALI's members and other national and international organizations;
- ALI is provider for the project www.ioleggoconte.it CEPELL with articles on literacy education and children's literature (until December 2019).

Submitted by: Tiziana Mascia, Chairperson

# Latvijas Lasīšanas asociācija

#### **Latvian Reading Association**

Dzirnavu iela 34a – 8 Rīga Latvia LV 1010 www.iac.edu.lv

Chairperson: Sandra Kalnina

Vice-chairperson: Irena Freimane



Date: December 19, 2019

**Latvian Reading Association** was charted as a member organisation of the International Reading Association in 1993; it renewed its activities in 2004.

The association has 15 members in good standing. The membership mainly includes teachers, teacher educators, university staff, and librarians.

# The goals of the association are:

- to popularize reading as a value
- to foster reading literacy in all levels of education
- to promote research on reading and writing in Latvia
- to promote teaching critical thinking in Latvia

# **Recent activities:**

- Cooperation with the Latvian Association of Book publishers, Latvian Association of Librarians, participation and presentation in the Days of Book in October 2019 in Rīga
- Seminars for educators, librarians and parents on latest developments in children's literature implementation of critical thinking approach in the educational process at school, participation projects on the development of reading and literacy (S.Kalniņa,
  - A. Kalve, I.Stikāne, S. Tretjakova)

# **Upcoming events:**

• Latvian Book Fair 2020 – February 28 -March 1, 2020

Submitted by Sandra Kalnina

# LITTERA – PORTUGUESE ASSOCIATION FOR LITERACY

Rua Nascente, nº 10, Escudeiros, 4705-473 Braga Portugal

mldionisio@ie.uminho.pt; litteraapl@gmail.com

**Chairperson:** M. Lourdes Dionísio **Vice-chairperson:** Iris Pereira



Date: January 2020

**Littera** was founded in 1996 and it was charted as a member organisation of the International Reading Association in 1997. Since the beginning, the goals of Littera concerned two integrated axes: research and intervention. Because of this, close links with universities and teacher training institutions, as well as school authorities on local as well as national level were established.

# The aims of the association are:

- 1. To promote education in all domains of reading and writing;
- 2.To promote research dealing with all aspects of reading and writing;
- 3. To promote professional training at the level of the conception and development of reading and writing;
- 4. To develop awareness of the impact of reading and writing among all individuals by encouraging and promoting the formation of lifetime habits;
- 5. To improve levels of literacy among all individuals, regardless of their culture, race, religion or gender;
- 6. To stimulate and promote cooperation among all individuals and organizations concerned with the study, research teaching and animation of reading and writing;
- 7. To act near the responsible institutions in order to raise awareness to literacy problems Throughout the years, as its main intentions were the organization of in service activities, such minicourses, lectures, and seminars many have been organized. Lately, due the shortage of money coming from fees and of volunteers all those activities are less frequent.

During the past year it was very difficult to recruit new members.

#### Recent activities:

During the second semester of 2019, the association:

- initiated the co-organization of the VII Iberian American Forum on Literacies, which will take place in Brazil, probably March 2020.
- started the partnership with the Institut für angewandte Sprachintegration Ottakring, Austria, and teaming with the RWCT(RO), EstRA (EE), Slovenian Reading Association (Bralno društvo Slovenije) in an ERASMUS+ project on adult literacy SUPERLITERATE;
- organized several workshops for teachers and librarians;
- participated in the Regional phase of the National Reading Contest of the National Reading Plan

# **Upcoming events:**

- VII Iberian American Forum on Literacies, which will take place in RECIFE, Brazil, March 2020.

# Submitted by

Maria de Lourdes Dionísio

# Asociația Lectura și Scrierea pentru Dezvoltarea Gândirii Critice România/ Romanian Reading and Writing for Critical Thinking Association

400343 Cluj-Napoca, 6/22 Luceafarului St

office@alsdgc.ro www.alsdgc.ro

Chairperson: Ariana-Stanca Vacaretu

Vice-chairperson: Maria Kovacs



Date: 2.01.2020

The Association was chartered as a member organisation of the International Reading Association on 10 June 2008. The association has 76 members. The membership consists of teachers, teacher educators, and other education-related professionals, regular and honorary members. The goals are:

- Support for teachers' pre-service and in-service training, for improving the quality of education,
- Support for the professional development of teaching staff by using reading and writing as means of professional development,
- Provision of a professional framework for sharing experiences in the field of reading, writing, critical thinking and instruction.

# Recent activities:

- Continued the implementation of the project Making the most of the magic of reading (3MR) (Erasmus+, KA2). We organized the TPM3 in Cluj-Napoca, developed the 3MR training methodology and made preparations for testing the 3MR curriculum and methodology (see <a href="https://readingmagic.eu/">https://readingmagic.eu/</a> & <a href="https://www.facebook.com/3mrproject/">https://www.facebook.com/3mrproject/</a>).
- Delivered 2 training workshops The Magic of Reading to health mediators and school librarians from Bistrita county.
- Delivered the in-service teacher training programme Literacy and Critical Thinking for Learning with 2 groups of teachers.
- Started the implementation of the Get Readers on the Wavelength of Emotions (GROWE) –
  Erasmus+ Strategic Partnerships for school education (KA201) (see
  https://www.facebook.com/3mrproject/).
- Organized the International Seminar *Literacy and Critical Thinking for Learning* 21 September 2019, Cluj-Napoca; participants: 5 literacy experts from Finland, Belgium, Lithuania and Romania, representative of the Romanian Ministry of Education, around 100 teachers.
- Organized the celebration of the Year of the Book via class book writing projects.

Upcoming events:

Delivery of the 3MR training

Submitted by: Ariana-Stanca Vacaretu

Name: Reading Association of Russia

Address: 24 Obrucheva St, 119421 Moscow,

Reading Centre (Office)

E-mail: nataly.smetannikova2015@yandex.ru

Website: http://www.rusreadorg.ru Chairperson: Nataly Smetannikova

Vice-chairperson: Natalia Kurikalova and 5 more



Date: December 2019

RAR was chartered on September 8, 2010. It unites 22 Local Councils from 6 Federal Districts in Russia (Central, Northwestern, Urals, Southern, Volga, Far Eastern) out of 8 and 1 Local Council in Switzerland (Geneva). RAR has about 510 members.

# Our goals are:

- promotion of reading and literacy in education and culture
- development of partnership relations through competition: The Reading Regions of Russia
- development and promotion of SWLT ideas to other spheres of life
- promotion of professional development of teachers, school teacher-librarians and librarians
- support of local councils and RAR development hot issue

The Association promotes reading and literacy in education and culture through partnership, professional development, research and publications

# **Recent activities:**

**Ongoing projects**: SWLT: intervention programme for poor readers, Innovations in Teaching and Promoting Reading, Reading Programmes for hospitalized children undergoing long-term medical treatment.

**Seminars**: "Academy of Pedagogical Mastery"15 -16 March, 2019, Odintsovo, Moscow Region a series of seminars and workshops for teachers of Moscow Region. "Reading Practices in Modern Library" a series of seminars and workshops for librarians. Academy of Pedagogical Mastery" November, 2019, Moscow

Webinars: "Reading of boys and girls, Reading in mother tongue and foreign languages"; "Role of reading and literacy in educating a successful person (related to the tasks put forward in National projects in education and culture)"

Round the Table Discussion in the DUMA Civic commission on education and science development, 22 April 2018.

**Presentation of Software Complex "Reading Analyst"** <a href="http://www.read-analytics.ru/">http://www.read-analytics.ru/</a> designed by researchers engaged in "Text Readability" Project. (6 June, 2019, Moscow, Book Festival "Red Square"); (Moscow International Book Fair (September, 2019, Moscow)

**Participation** in the 3d All-Russian Conference "Caring School – 2019" (1-2 November, Moscow) **Participation** in the 21st European Conference on Literacy (4-7 August, 2019, Copenhagen, Denmark)

# **Upcoming events:**

- 1. The 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference "Reading and Literacy in Education and Culture: A Digital Dimension" (2-4 April, 2020, Moscow)
- 2. Seminar "Academy of Pedagogical Mastery" (November, 2020, Moscow)
- 3. Participation in the 4th Baltic Sea Conference of Literacy (January, 2020, Tallinn, Estonia)
- 4. Participation in ILA, FELA meetings, summer schools, other activities.

Submitted by Nataly Smetannikova, Chairperson of RAR

# Slovenská asociácia na rozvoj čítania (SARČ) - SLOVAK READING ASSOCIATION (SRA)

Račianska 59, Bratislava, 813 34, Slovakia

zapotocna@savba.sk zuzana.petrova@truni.sk

Chairperson: Oľga Zápotočná

Vice-chairperson: Zuzana Petrová

Date: December 20, 2019

SLOVAK READING ASSOCIATION (SRA) was founded in 1999. The main purpose of the association is the support of literacy research and practice, with specific interest in early literacy development and beginning reading. This interest has resulted from the need to overcome the main-stream focus on developing low-level text processing skills in national curricular documents and to establish literacy curriculum and literacy practices on the national level. Due to this, close collaboration with national educational authorities and teachers unions was established.

#### **Recent activities:**

- comparative research study evaluating the effects of two models of early literacy instruction in preschool education one built on phonic, bottom up model and one on emergent literacy and holistic approach supported by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic (2018 2020):
- since September 2019 assessment of early literacy classroom practices (in collaboration with State School Inspection, coordinated by O. Zápotočná)
- literacy teaching planning and assessment materials for early childhood teachers (in collaborations with Raabe Publishing House): The world of a pre-school child (published quarterly).

#### **Current publications and conference presentations:**

- Petrová, Z. & Nemec, R. (2019). Changing reading paths in a digital age: What are the consequences for meaning-making? *Journal of Pedagogy*, 10(2) in press.
- Petrová, Z. (2019). Digitálne knihy v rozvoji gramotnosti detí [Digital books in early literacy development]. In P. Izrael, J. Holdoš et al. *Digitálne detstvo* [Digital Childhood], pp. 179-198, Ružomberok: Verbum.
- Petrová, Z. (2019). The potential of different types of picture sequences for assessment of narrative abilities of children. Presentation at the Conference on Literacy - Learning from the Past for the Future: Copenhagen, August 4-6, 2019.
- Zápotočná, O. & Petrová, Z. (2019). Early Literacy Curriculum in Slovakia Symposium The initial teaching of literacy across Europe. Presentation at the Conference on Literacy Learning from the Past for the Future: Copenhagen, August 4-6, 2019.

# **Upcoming events:**

- issuing new updates of literacy teaching planning and assessment materials for early childhood teachers The world of a pre-school child,
- analysing data collected within comparative study of the effects of early literacy programs on measures of literacy and publication of results,
- preparing project aimed to facilitate early literacy classroom practices (list of books recommended for early childhood education, planning and preparing literacy activities)

Submitted by: Oľga Zápotočná

# Bralno društvo Slovenije (BDS) – Slovenian Reading Association

Peričeva ulica 4, SI – 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenija E-mail: <a href="mailto:bralno.drustvo.slovenije@gmail.com">bralno.drustvo.slovenije@gmail.com</a> website: <a href="mailto:http://www.bralno-drustvo.si/">http://www.bralno-drustvo.si/</a>

Chairperson: Savina Zwitter



Date: 15 December, 2019

Bralno društvo Slovenije – Slovenian Reading Association was founded in 1995 with the aims to raise the awareness of the importance of literacy in the Slovenian society, to promote reading and to facilitate the exchange among researchers and practitioners. One of the aims was also to foster partnership in research and exchange of information, so it became a member organisation of the International Reading Association (today International Literacy Association) in 1996 and a member of FELA in 2008.

In recent years, Slovenian Reading Association has put a lot of effort into bringing together and establishing connections between various institutions and individuals, experts in the field of reading and literacy. It has done so by inviting them to symposia on up-to-date topics (readers with special needs, migrants, e-materials and reading...), round tables and other events, while its members have actively participated in the events of other associations and organisations. Successful partnerships have been established especially with the following associations and institutions: Društvo Bralna značka Slovenije – ZPMS (Slovenian Reading Badge – an organisation whose activities reach all children in Slovenia from kindergartens to secondary schools and also an important percentage of adolescents and adults), IBBY Slovenia, The Section for Children and Young Adult Literature of the Slovene Writers' Association, The Centre for Youth Literature and Librarianship, JAK – Slovenian Book Agency, National Institute of Education, Faculty of Arts (University of Ljubljana) and more.

In October 2019, Slovenian Reading Association has gained recognition as an association of public interest in the field of culture.

# **Recent activities:**

- 9 September, 2019: symposium *What gender are reading worms?* with more than 100 participants, well-covered in the media; it included:

Slovenia & Slovenian Reading Association joining EURead campaign Europe Reads,

a special edition of National Education Institute's magazine *Vzgoja in izobraževanje* was published, dedicated entirely to reading (guest-edited by members of the association)

the official opening of National Month of Reading Together 2019.

- 9 September-13 October 2019: National Month of Reading Together 2019 second joint campaign of various Slovenian associations, libraries, educational institutions and ministries, initiated by Slovenian Reading Association and aimed at promoting reading and literacy across all age groups (with a lot of materials to address various groups of people through different media, e.g. posters, postcards, special website for events...)
- Booking Around 2019: My favourite literary character a common project of The Section for Children and Young
   Adult Literature of the Slovene Writers' Association and Slovenian Reading Association with the final event at the
   Slovenian Book Fair in November

#### **Upcoming events:**

- 21 March 2020: general assembly and a social gathering organised by the Primorska subsidiary
- 8 September 2020: interdisciplinary national conference on literacy organised jointly by a number of associations and institutions working in the field of literacy (Slovenian Reading Association is one of the organisers, together with Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Slovenian Book Agency and National Education Institute Slovenia)
- 8 September 2020-11 October 2020: National Month of Reading Together 2020: Third edition
- September 2019–September 2021: Slovenian Reading Association takes part in Erasmus+ project Superliterate –
   Creating an Online Alphabetization Platform for Illiterate Adults.

Submitted by: Petra Mikeln

# Leseforum Schweiz - Forumlecture Suisse

c/o Schw. Institut für Kinder- und Jugendmedien SIKJM Georgengasse 6 CH-8006 Zürich

redaktion@leseforum.ch www.leseforum.ch www.forumlecture.ch www.forumlettura.ch

Chairperson: Dieter Isler, dieter.isler@mac.com

Contact FELA: Therese Salzmann,

thsalzmann@bluewin.ch

leseforum.ch forumlecture.ch forumlettura.ch

Date: December 02, 2019

«Leseforum Schweiz» / «Forum lecture Suisse» / «Forum lettura Svizzero» is the literacy association of Switzerland. The main purpose of the association is the support of literacy research and practice. The goals include the provision of open access to knowledge on literacy, exchange between research and practice as well as collaboration of organisations and professionals engaged in literacy across language borders. Perspectives on literacy include different age groups, life domains, and research disciplines.

The main activity of «Leseforum Schweiz» / «Forum lecture Suisse» / «Forum lettura Svizzero» is the publication of an online journal on literacy providing three thematic issues per year, each consisting of about 8-10 articles by authors from French, German and Italian speaking countries. The journal is edited by a board of literacy experts and funded by their home institutions.

The online journal is supported by the Swiss Federal Office of Culture.

# Recent activities:

In 2019, two issues of the journal have been published, including a total of 29 articles in French, German and Italian:

- 1/2019 Räume der Poesie / Espaces poétiques / Spazi poetici (Spaces of poetry)
- 2/2019 Kulturelle Teilhabe für alle? / Participation culturelle pour tous/toutes? / Partecipazione culturale per tutte e tutti? (Cultural participation for all?)
- 3/2019 Rechtschreibung / Orthographe / Ortografia (Orthography)

# **Upcoming events:**

The next issues will cover the following topic:

- 1/2020 Wege zur Literalität / Parcours vers la littératie / Percorsi verso la lettura/scrittura (Pathways to literacy)
- 2/2020: Literalität Entwicklungen in den letzten zehn Jahren / Littératie Evolution au cours des dix dernières années / La lettura/scrittura - Sviluppi degli ultimi dieci anni (Literacy -Developments over the last ten years)

In 2020, «Leseforum Schweiz» / «Forum lecture Suisse» / «Forum lettura Svizzero» will celebrate the first 10 years of the online platform. The executive committee is organizing a conference on literacy in research and practice on Friday, August 21 in Lausanne. Members of FELA are cordially invited to attend the conference. The FELA meeting will then take place in Lausanne on Saturday and Sunday following the conference.

Therese Salzmann and Dieter Isler

# **Spanish Reading and Writing Association - AELE**

Romero, 15. 28260. Galapagar. Madrid. Spain.

Phone: +34 91 858 51 34
E-mail: aele@asociacionaele.org
Web site: www.asociacionaele.com
www.escribircomolectores.org

Chairperson: Estela D'Angelo Menéndez Vice-chairperson: María Sáinz Martín



Date: December, 2019

The **Spanish Reading and Writing Association** (AELE in its Spanish acronym) was charted as a member organisation of the International Reading Association in 2005. The Association has approximately 250 members between partners and supporters, and maintains a close relationship with Latin American reader associations. In addition, AELE is member of FELA and Spanish Book Council.

#### **Recent activities:**

- **Ibero-American Scientific Symposium "Evidence on inclusive language practices"**, Madrid, 14-16 November 2019. The purpose of this event was to disseminate and transfer to scientific and cultural groups the scientific evidence on reading and writing practices of an inclusive nature in schools that emerge from the research that the research group has developed over the last decade in the context of it Iberoamerican Network research.
- Proceedings of the 20th European Conference on Literacy + 6th Iberoamerican Forum on Literacy and Learning: "Working together to encourage equity through literacy communities: a challenge of the 21st. Century".

# **Upcoming events/projects:**

#### Iberoamerican Network Research

The AELE and Research Group of Complutense University of Madrid "Communication and languages studies for inclusion and equity in education" – (ECOLE in its Spanish acronym) are developing projects with the Iberoamerican Network Research "Speaking, reading and writing practices: interrelationship between instructions and development of linguistic communicative competence".

Iberoamerican Program: "Write as readers of a literary work". In Spain, this Program is included in the Reading Promotion Plan of the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports (MECyD in its Spanish acronym)

This Project develops different interrelated activities to promote groups of children and adolescents to participate in shared reading and writing processes of a novel. Namely, the Program "Write as readers" coordinates communities of readers and writers of literature in classrooms, libraries, etc. The Program began in 2009 with the integration of literacy teams from four countries: Argentina, Chile, Peru and Spain. In 2017, teams from Mexico, Colombia and the Dominican Republic joined the project. Heretofore, more than 50 thousand children and young people and 2.371 teachers/librarians from different countries have attended this Program. Additional information: <a href="https://www.escribircomolectores.org">www.escribircomolectores.org</a>

**Iberoamerican Program:** "Write as readers of illustrated narratives" (pilot experience in Spain). This version of "Write as readers" proposed that children and adolescents access the exhibition "Illustrate. Contemporary illustration in children's and young people's literature" (which includes the winning illustrations of the eight editions of the Bologna International Fair Illustration Award - SM Foundation) and some of the books produced by these awards; and participate in workshops that, coordinated by illustrators of this exhibition and by writers of literature, have proposed to them to be writers of the stories that each one finds in the illustrations and, in turn, as illustrators who tell stories. At the end of the process, they exhibit their own productions in an exhibition.

Additional information: www.escribircomolectores.org

**Permanent projects:** a) Teacher training courses, seminars and workshops under attendance, semiattendance and digital form; and b) reading and writing workshops in cultural centers, libraries, schools, etc. in different Spanish cities.

Submitted by: Laura Benítez

# SCIRA - Swedish Council of International Reading Association

www.scira.nu

Chairperson: Marie Kallin Fredriksson

marie.k.fredriksson@gmail.com

Vice-chairperson: Ulla-Britt Persson

ulla-britt.persson@liu.se



Date: 2020-01-11

#### About the association:

SCIRA was established in 1964 and has less than 200 members, constantly decreasing. The largest local groups are now in the areas around Linköping in the region of Östergötland, and Umeå in the region of Västerbotten in the north, where meetings, lectures, and other activities are arranged regularly. Most activities are related to competence development for teachers, but in Östergötland a writing competition for students in grades 2, 4 and 7 is arranged annually, and the winners are awarded with books, some of which are donated by the authors. The competition was launched in 1990 in connection with IRA:s World Congress which was located in Stockholm that year.

Since 2011 SCIRA:s board is responsible for selecting winners of the Eve Malmquist Prize for Reading Research, which was also instigated in 1990 to reward literacy research carried out in Sweden. The winners get 25 000 Swedish Kronor (appr. 2 300 €).

#### Recent activities:

In October 2019 SCIRA invited local teachers to a lecture given by Christine Cox Eriksson from Dalarna University College, who was awarded the Eve Malmquist Prize for 2019. Her lecture was about 'Vocabulary as the Building Stones of Language' and among the listeners were several mother tongue teachers. SCIRA:s national board had located the autumn meeting to Linköping in connection with this event.

**Upcoming events**: A national seminar is planned in November to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Eve Malmquist Prize.

Submitted by:

**Ulla-Britt Persson** 

# **United Kingdom Literacy Association**

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**Chairperson:** Cathy Burnett

Vice-chairperson: Roger McDonald



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UKLA was founded in 1963 as the United Kingdom Reading Association, changing its name to the United Kingdom Literacy Association in 2003, to reflect more accurately its wide remit. UKLA seeks, through education and advocacy, to promote research and good practice in language and literacy teaching. It is energetic in its work to influence UK education policy. Its sub-committees promote research, international relations, publications, conferences and awards. It has a strong publications section, with two refereed journals, *Literacy* and *Journal of Research in Reading*. It also publishes, in conjunction with the English Association, *English 4-11*, as well as a broad range of books, position papers, and practice and planning guides. The full range of titles can be viewed on our website.

Date: December 2019

Our awards programme is extensive and includes the UKLA Book Award, the Brenda Eastwood Award for good practice in teaching for diversity and inclusion, the John Downing Award which celebrates a class' response to books shortlisted for the Book Award, the UKLA Digital Book Award, the UKLA Wiley-Blackwell Research in Literacy Award, the UKLA Academic Book Award and the UKLA Literacy School of the Year. Further details are again available on our website.

UKLA is a member of FELA and part of Elinet and is further strengthening its ties with colleagues across the world through an International Ambassador scheme. It supports a number of literacy projects in Africa, notably in Zanzibar and Ethiopia.

# **Recent activities:**

- UKLA 55<sup>th</sup> International Conference, July 2019, Sheffield: *Literacy and Play: improvisation, possibility and imagination*
- 9<sup>th</sup> November 2019: Creative Approaches to Teaching Grammar In Context: A Joint NEU and UKLA event

# **Upcoming events:**

3-5 July 2020: UKLA 56<sup>th</sup> International Conference, Oxford: *'We need to talk about literacy': why spoken language matters in literacy learning and teaching* 

Open University/UKLA Reading for Pleasure Conference: 14th March 2020 Cambridge

UKLA National Conference 2020: Writing for Pleasure. Canterbury Christ Church University.

Submitted by Liz Broad



# Six-monthly reports of FELA member associations

Written and submitted by national FELA representatives and/or members of respective executive boards

Compiled in January/February 2020 Turku/Åbo, Finland & Ljubljana, Slovenia