

Minutes from meeting with the board for Nordic Network of Intercultural Communication 2002-11-23

Agenda

1. Approval of agenda
2. Election of a secretary
3. Minutes from the previous meeting
4. Presentation of NIC
5. Election of Board Members
6. Membership in NIC
7. NIC Homepage
8. Publication from Riga meeting in Journal of Intercultural Communication
9. Next conference
10. New Initiatives
 - a) European Network
 - b) Nordic support
 - c) Multimodal intercultural communication library
 - d) Multilingual, multicultural global TV-station
11. Further business
12. Closing

Minutes

1. The agenda was presented and approved.
 2. Magnus Gunnarsson was elected secretary.
 3. The minutes from last meeting were only available on the Internet. It was agreed that at the next meeting the minutes of this meeting (2002-11-23) should be available physically; Magnus Gunnarsson will produce the minutes and Nataliya Berbyuk will make them available.
 4. Jens Allwood presented the network briefly. Liisa Salo-Lee asked about the purpose/goal of NIC, and Allwood answered that it was to create a common forum for researchers and educators *and* practitioners, especially to provide a forum for young researchers. Over the NIC years there has been discussions about a forum for publications of articles, a forum which is not anglo-saxon. There is now such a forum, an international, electronic journal, *Journal of Intercultural Communication*.
- Brian Groth opposed to the name NIC; the network is not limited to the Nordic countries anymore (most notably the Baltic states are members). Some discussion broke out whether or not the Baltic countries are Nordic or not. However, the representatives from the Baltic states were content with the name, and so there was no change of name. Liisa Salo-Lee also suggested that the acronym should be NNICC, *Nordic Network of InterCultural Communication*, but the old name was kept for sake of brevity.

5.

Old Board:

Norway	Finland	Denmark	Baltic	Sweden
Ö. Dahl	J. Lektonen	I. Jensen	K. Lauristin	J. Allwood
M. Isaksson	N. Kumar	M. Gram	L. Rahnu	B. Dorriots

a) Liisa Salo-Lee replaces J. Lektonen as Finnish member.

b) The Baltic group was extended to three members, adding Aija Priedite. Brian Groth and Liisa Salo-Lee suggested that the Baltic groups should be split up into three separate groups, one for each country and with two members each, like the rest of the countries. Jens Allwood thought that such an extension would have to be better prepared, and Liisa Salo-Lee accepted to prepare a suggestion for members from all Baltic states until next meeting

New Board:

Norway	Finland	Denmark	Baltic	Sweden
Ö. Dahl	L. Salo-Lee	I. Jensen	K. Lauristin	J. Allwood
M. Isaksson	N. Kumar	M. Gram	L. Rahnu	B. Dorriots
			A. Priedite	

6. Like previously, all participants of the conference are accepted as members of the network, unless they specifically ask not to. The complete member list can be found on the NIC web site.

7. Nataliya Berbyuk presented the NIC web site. It has the following content:

- Register of the members, with name and email. Nataliya Berbyuk asked everybody to check their respective information and email any corrections to her.
- Minutes from NIC meetings.
- The NIC-board
- Grants
- A link to the Journal of Intercultural Communication
- Bibliography

The participants were asked for suggestions for improvement of the web site.

- i) Nataliya Berbyuk asked for information about grant institutions which could be added to the list.
- ii) Jens Allwood suggested an electronic discussion forum.
- iii) Liisa Salo-Lee suggested that the web site should be extended with information about where intercultural communication can be studied. The respective members should send information to Nataliya Berbyuk.

8.

- Some of the presented papers or descriptions of the papers, as well as a description of the conference, will be published in English, Latvian and Russian by the organizers of the conference, the National Programme for Latvian Language Training, in their own journal.
- All contributors are invited to send their papers to Journal of Intercultural Communication, where these papers will be reviewed and possibly published. The journal has good reading rates, Jens Allwood informed.

9. Next year is the end of a cycle, and so it is Sweden's turn to host the NIC conference. Cooperation with Högskolan i Borås is being negotiated (Borås is about 30 minutes drive from Göteborg).

Liisa Salo-Lee raised the question about moving the time of the conference to the spring instead, when the weather is better. Brian Groth opposed, saying that darkness and cold are typical Nordic, that there are so many other conferences in May anyway, and that you need something to cheer you up in dark November. There was no change of time.

10.

a-b) Several participants had experience of European networks, and the general impression is that it is more bureaucratic, which is a reason to stay Nordic. However, interested members can contact Jens Allwood.

c) Multimodal, intercultural library.

- It should consist of small video clips of communication from different places around the world. 'Culturally interesting pieces of communication'. It could also include e.g. clips of Latvian singing.
- It should have the form of a distributed database, i.e. each participating organisation should host the clips themselves, and the NIC library should only provide links.
- It should be for free.
- Liisa Salo-Lee informed us that something similar is being built in Jyveskylä, which could be one of the links of the suggested library.
- Brian Groth suggested that we should share information with each other about where interesting examples of intercultural communication can be found, typically in commercial movies.

d) Multilingual, multicultural, global TV-station.

- We should ask UNESCO to sponsor this.
- It should be non-commercial
- Its purpose should be to preserve small languages and cultures.
- Any interested people can contact Jens Allwood and Kenneth Kidd.

11.

Brian Groth raised the question of why we in an intercultural network (almost) always use English to communicate, and he suggested that we should encourage members to use their respective languages instead. Jens Allwood said that this has always been an option for the members, but that most people have chosen to present in English. The reason are probably 'realpolitik' – if they present in English a lot more people will understand. Liisa Salo-Lee and Lillia Corradi agreed. Aija Priedite explained that the organisers of this conference were forced by law to provide translation into Latvian, and that they could not afford translation into more than two languages, and that the other language would have to be English in that case.

12. The meeting was closed.