

European Movement International

Work Plan 2013

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1 Introduction

The EUROPEAN MOVEMENT INTERNATIONAL (EMI) is a non-profit association whose main objective is to contribute to the establishment of a united, federal Europe founded on the principles of peace, democracy, liberty, solidarity, and respect for basic human rights. The European Movement brings together a large spectrum of organisations, divided between national councils (42) and international member associations (32). Those members are united under a network of organisations that allows the EM to fulfil its role as promoter of active participation by citizens and civil society organisations. This wide and diversified membership is allowed by the choice that was initially made to welcome all types of cultural, political, economic and social orientations at the heart of the European Movement.

The EMI Work Plan for 2013 will include three types of actions and activities: statutory activities (Federal Assembly, Members Council and Board meetings); networking and capacity-building activities; and content-based and/or project-oriented activities.

Following the success of the membership policy in the past few years, the EMI will continue in 2013 to strengthen its network through an active strategy of recruitment of new members. This plan clearly focuses on increasing the support base of the EMI and its ability to reach out to more citizens through further organized civil society sectors across Europe.

In order to fulfil its objectives, the EMI will seek to find the correct balance between promoting the active involvement of civil society organisations through the promotion of civil dialogue at the European level, and the active participation of European citizens through activities oriented toward the general public (with the involvement of the EM National Councils). As in past years, the main objective will be to narrow the gap between citizens and European Institutions through an enhanced communication strategy that involves civil society (and particularly the EMI network) as an interface between the two.

This is particularly important in the frame set by the new perspectives for civil dialogue that the implementation of the new Treaty of Lisbon brought, and in line with the objectives set by the European Commission itself regarding further involvement of civil society organisations in enhancing the transparency and quality of the consultation processes, and raising public awareness of European issues and policy debates.

2 Statutory Activities

In 2013, the EMI will convene one meeting of its Federal Assembly, one meeting of its Members' Council and four meetings of its Board.

2.1 *Federal Assembly*

The 2013 meeting of the Federal Assembly (FA) will take place in Dublin (Ireland), on the occasion of the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, on 24-25 May. It will gather around 100 participants, including delegates from all over Europe, representing the Members of the EMI, the Board members, staff and external guests. Apart from the statutory procedures, the FA will also be an occasion for exchanges with the Irish Government on the achievements of the Presidency and a joint reflection on the issues of the European sovereign debt crisis and the solutions as they have been applied in Ireland.

2.2 *Members' Council*

The 2013 meeting of the Members' Council (MC) will take place in Brussels on 29 November. It will gather around 100 participants, including delegates coming from all over Europe representing the Members of the EMI, the Board members, staff and external guests.

2.3 *Board*

The EMI Board will meet four times in 2013 in dates to be later defined. The Board meetings are to be attended by the Board members and supported by a few staff members.

3 Networking and Capacity-Building Activities

The EMI Network is currently composed by 74 Member Organisations, including 42 National Councils and 32 International Associations. Within this network, there are important disparities regarding the size and capacities of the Members. Some of them are already at a very advanced stage concerning the structure, availability of resources and delivering capacities. Others are still in a preliminary phase and are trying to develop their activities as well as their organisational structures. In 2013, the EMI will of course maintain its efforts to attract new potential international associations by offering target group-oriented measures. EMI will also insist on strengthening the capacities of the already existing ones, by organising a constant exchange for international associations in Brussels. The EMI Secretariat dedicates its work-power equally to all Members and, likewise, focuses both on political communication and political representation.

In 2013, the EMI will work to keep constant contact with civil society partners and activists in order to further develop co-operation. The aim of the EMI is to develop itself as an essential aggregating pole of European-minded civil society, both at the national and European levels. In order to fulfil this objective, our organisation has to build upon its reputation while improving its image as a space for dialogue, exchange and co-operation. In that perspective, the EMI will also further develop its communication tools, which are crucial for visibility and capacity-building. Furthermore, the EMI will raise its attractiveness by providing instruments exclusively for member organisations (e.g. background meetings, online tools).

The European Movement International will also organise in 2013 several small briefing/de-briefing events on diverse European topics. Those events have proven to be very successful, both in terms of content and attendance. While bringing together representatives of the European Institutions and Civil Society Organisations, the EMI briefings allow debate around new ideas for Europe and to discuss the role of civil society in the context of participatory democracy. Those activities are also a powerful instrument for attracting new members. The visibility they offer to the EMI show the importance of such organisation in the current European context.

Following the success of the previous editions, the EMI will organise two sessions of the Training Academy in 2013, in June and September. The EMI aims to further improve the programme of the trainings and will continue to strive to find sponsors for the students in the future.

After the successful editions of the past couple of years, the EMI will also organise its yearly Heads of Office meeting on October 1st. The meeting targets individuals in charge of the day-to-day management of the Members of the EMI; in some cases these are the Secretaries General, in other cases they are called Executive Directors, in some other cases they are simply the Presidents or some Board Members. The main purpose of the event is to share experiences and good practices in order to improve the work of the EMI members, and also in their relations with the European institutions.

Last but not least, and in order to promote a good and fluid communication between the Members and the EMI Board and Secretariat, regular contacts with the International Associations (especially with the ones based in Brussels) will be deepened, the EMI-Wiki will be promoted and coordinated by the Secretariat and visits to the Members will be planned and conducted by Board and/or Secretariat Members.

4 Content-based and/or Project-oriented activities

Most of the content-based activities will be developed by, or at least originate from the work of the five Political Committees. These Political Committees will meet in the fringes of the Statutory Meetings and whenever deemed necessary, and are open to all the Members. Whenever possible, the Political Committees will cooperate and/or initiate projects which are relevant to more than one of them. Other than these, transversal projects such as the Europe Day will also be developed and implemented in cooperation with the Members who are interested and want to contribute.

4.1 *EMI Political Committee on Economy and Finances*

Following the launch of the Political Committee on Economy and Finances in 2012, its members will continue to focus on the developments and reforms that have been triggered by the financial crisis. In that perspective, the European Movement International will try to make the most of its Federal Assembly in Dublin to organise a side-event on the economic recovery in Ireland. This session will involve the participation of a high-level Irish speaker and will be supervised by the Political Committee on Economy and Finances.

2013 will also be the 20th anniversary of the internal market and the need for a single market capable of producing jobs and sustainable growth is more and more urgent. The Political Committee will therefore address these issues from both an economic and a social standpoint, insisting on the necessity of a highly competitive social market economy in order to promote business, reduce social inequalities and respect the environment. As the negotiation taking place in the framework of the Multi-Annual Financial Framework 2014-2020 will be over, the Political Committee addressing this specific issue will be merged with the PC on Economy and Finances. A follow-up will be carried out in order to keep track of the topics that were included in this former PC, namely EU Budget Priorities, Common Agricultural Policy and Cohesion Policy.

4.2 *EMI Political committee on Freedom, Security and Justice*

In 2013, the Political Committee on Freedom, Security and Justice will develop activities on the topics identified in 2012 as key issues to be tackled. Work will also be related to EM network's actions to be undertaken in view of the European Elections of 2014 (see below 4.6.2) and also relative to the European Year of Citizenship. Possible topics to be included could be the Charter of Fundamental Rights or the issues concerning the Schengen area. Possible links may be established with the PC on Economy and Finance on the subject of the Single Market, still in the framework of the European elections.

4.3 *EMI Political committee on Enlargement and Eastern Partnership*

In general, it will focus on the relations between the EU and its neighbours from the Western Balkans, the Eastern Partnership, and Turkey and Russia.

4.3.1 Fostering Civil Society's role in further European integration in the candidate and potential candidate countries (Montenegro, February 2013)

Building up on the success of the Ljubljana and Istanbul Congresses and upon the invitation of the National Council of the European Movement in Montenegro, the EMI will organize in Podgorica a new event of the kind, focusing once again on the candidate and potential candidate countries.

The Congress in Podgorica will be the occasion to promote the exchange of practices and ideas among civil society organizations and authorities from the region, and look at how the National Councils of the European Movement can effectively assist in advancing the European integration process by communicating Europe in cooperation with the national authorities and through regional and international cooperation.

4.3.2 Fostering Civil Society's role in further European integration in the Eastern Partnership countries

Building up on the success of the Yerevan Congress, a follow-up event will be organised. This event will be an occasion to promote the exchange of practices and ideas among civil society organizations and authorities from the six countries of the Eastern Partnership, and look at how the National Councils of the European Movement can effectively assist in advancing the European integration process by communicating Europe in co-operation with the local, regional and national authorities and through regional and international cooperation.

4.4 EMI Political committee on Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

In 2012, the European Movement International added the foreign affairs and security policy to its priority areas of work. The relations with the USA will have a central place in the work of this PC, with a visit of an EMI Delegation to the USA (Washington DC and Indianapolis) in May 2013. The Euro-Mediterranean Relations will also be a topic of interest for this PC. The External Energy Strategy, as well as the International Climate Negotiations, will also be of great interest for the participants to this PC. This working group will also discuss the current global economic situation and the possible improvements that could bring a reform of the financial sector. Through all of these, the EMI will try to emphasize the importance of making the EU's voice heard globally.

4.5 EMI Political Committee on Institutional Innovations

This working group will focus on new institutional debates such as the rotating presidency vs. the Council presidency, the role of the General Affairs Council, the principle of subsidiarity, the Multi-Level Governance and the EU Policy and Constitutional Sovereignty as well as the follow-up of the implementation of the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI). In the framework of the European Year for Citizenship 2013, this working group will particularly concentrate on the preparation of the EMI campaign for the European Elections in 2014 with emphasis on the EP Electoral Reform.

4.6 EMI Political Committee on Education and Culture

Given the crucial implications of Education and Culture for the European citizenship, and since many of EMI's members are implementing actions and activities in these fields, the EMI has set up a

political committee in order to address these topics in a comprehensive way. This PC will promote debate and prepare activities on the following issues: integration of the activities of EMI's members, transnational educational projects, cultural heritage, European studies as part of curricula, development of European schools in the member states, "Europeability" of school teachers and vocational instructors, non-formal education and peace education.

4.7 EMI Transnational Activities, open to all our Members

Among the added values that the EMI brings to its Members is the possibility to take part in transnational, pan-European activities and projects, and the exchange of best practices. The EMI Secretariat supports its National Councils and International Associations in establishing transnational cooperation, e.g. by providing support in the application for grants or the implementation of projects. Projects that illustrate and emphasize the aspects of pan-European co-operation and best practices' exchange will therefore be developed in 2013.

4.7.1 9 May– Europe Day 2013

Once again, the European Movement International will commemorate the anniversary of the Schuman Declaration on 9 May 2013. In close cooperation with its Members, and with the support of the European Commission, the EMI will develop a wide range of activities involving many citizens all over the continent. Each year, the Europe Day celebrations try to focus on the annual topic chosen by the European Commission in the framework of the European years. 2013 will be the European Year of Citizens and the EMI will work to insert the Europe Day celebrations in that specific perspective. One year before the 2014 EP elections, the 9th of May celebrations will indeed be a unique occasion to mobilise people around the topic of EU citizenship and the rights that stem from it. Twenty years after the entry into force of the single market, particular focus will be put on the EU policies, their effects on citizens' daily lives and on what it means to be a European citizen today. In order to reach out to even more citizens, the EMI will seek the support of many local, national and European partners with the objective of bridging the gap between citizens and the European institutions. The use of a common visual identity and materials will also help the EMI to increase the European dimension of the events and to give more visibility to the celebrations. Moreover, in an effort to strengthen the network, several meetings (physical and/or via Skype) will be organised prior to the celebrations to build up a common strategy of action and exchange material and good practices.

4.7.2 European Elections 2014

Since 2013 will be dedicated to the Citizens and Citizenship, and 2014 will see the European Elections taking place, the EMI will try to organize a series of activities and actions aimed at raising the awareness among citizens about their citizenship rights, and at increasing their interest in the Elections that will follow. The EMI will therefore activate its network of 72 Members covering 42 countries to use the celebrations of Europe Day (9 of May) to launch a big campaign focused on citizenship rights. Citizens and civil society organizations all over Europe will be invited to identify their main concerns, and based on these, the EMI, through the work of its Political Committees, will select a series of questions/topics that will be further discussed at several occasions and in the different events. One of the most important events would be the organization, in Strasbourg, in October 2013, of a big European event, bringing together the EMI Members and EM-friendly

parliamentarians (members of the European Parliament, national parliaments, and even local and regional parliaments). At this occasion, the issues will be discussed, commitments will be made and, hopefully, a big support for Europe and European solutions will be made visible. The visibility and the impact brought by such an event will be followed-up, at the national level, by the EM National Councils, political parties and other stakeholders, and will constitute an ideal and motivating launch of the campaign for the 2014 European elections. It will be the starting point of the second stage of the EMI campaign towards the European elections: giving visibility to the topics, provoking debate and motivating citizens to go out and vote! This campaign will have a very important media element, using the different information technologies, as well as several partnerships, to produce and spread information that will manage to reach all the citizens, throughout all the European space.