

# Annual Report 2011

## ECREA International & Intercultural Communication Section

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The ECREA International and Intercultural Section has been active since early 2006. The Section has today 242 members.

### ***Membership***

Also during 2011, following a positive trend since its inception, the section has augmented and consolidated its membership. The section now counts 242 members against 2019 in December 2010. As the section did not have any event in 2011 due to the time and effort dedicated to organize the European Public Sphere conference in February 2012, it is reasonable to expect that an important increase in members will happen just after the event.

### ***Organization of events/Management of the IIC Section***

The Section did not have any major event in 2011. The main reason for this is that all the efforts of its Chair and Vice-chairs focused on the organization of a conference on the European Public Sphere which will take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2012.

### ***Future Events/Development Plans***

The preparation for the conference started in early 2011 with the call for papers distributed in may 2011.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2011 the section Chair introduced a proposal for a Jean Monnet Conference to support the event and in July 2011 the proposal got a positive feedback from the European Commission.

The conference is a jointly ECREA-SMIT/VUB event and will be held at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels. The Committee of the Regions has accepted in an early stage of the preparation of the conference to contribute with rooms and logistics. The JS and the CLP sections of ECREA also contributed in terms of Human resources to the organization of the conference.

This is probably the first time that an ECREA event is held in a European Institution and receives the support of a European LifeLong Learning programme.

The Jean Monnet conference “The European Public Sphere: from critical thinking to responsible action” is a one day conference with three parallel thematic sessions in the morning, a plenary session and a Round Table in the afternoon. The parallel sessions will analyse and reflect upon the EPS from the perspectives of Identity Building and Citizenship Building, Communication and Information Strategies and Policies and Multiple Governance Structures and Actors. The plenary session will present further reflections on concrete policy recommendations and actions to implement the EPS and empower citizens in view of the discussions at the parallel sessions in the morning. A concluding Round Table will discuss on the public sphere(s) and space(s) in Europe.

The innovative character of the conference is due not only to the fact that practitioners, policy makers and academics are contributing to the event, but and especially to the fact that the topic of the European Public Sphere is seen and regarded from the point of view of identity and citizenship building and multilevel governance structures and actors.

### **Development Plans**

- As the year before, rather than looking at a further increase in the section constituency, a more active and proactive participation of members is highly welcome and will be supported by the management team.
- Participation in other sections activities continues to be a strategic priority in this stage of development.