

Christiane Schwausch

Candidate Board Member / Treasurer

1. Enlarging the basis

First, we would have to strengthen the network through

1.1 Getting as many aboard as possible, as early as possible

The Association should be **present on Lido** – virtual, in paper and in person. Masterini should know about us and should be included from the early beginning, through **leaflets, early access to the homepage** and maybe even the presence of some **representatives at the graduation ceremony** (engaging two generations at once!). Through website access already in the first semester, Alumni can serve as a valuable source of information for the Masterini, e.g. by establishing interview contacts for a thesis, etc. And finally: **no membership fee for new Alumni** for at least the first year (thanks Mariana Rocha for this excellent idea).

1.2 Strengthening local Alumni connections

I live in Brussels and I am sure, I don't even know a quarter of the E.MAs actually residing here. Therefore **the board should encourage people living close to one another to gather**. In the "worst case" it will be a good night of drinking, in the best case a local project pops up. It would also serve the following point:

1.3 Strengthening the relations between the years

Those who live and work in second semester destinations could also act as a "**mentor**" for **the arriving Masterini** (big word for going for a beer and showing a bit around town). I have hosted a Masterina from the following year in my flat, passed on my experience and some towels and for us both it was nice to hear each other's version of the Master.

2. Improving communication

First, thank you Cristiano for the incredible work you did with the website! For facilitating communication, I would suggest:

- A **RSS-feed or a kind of e-mail notification service**, in order to keep people engaged without making them click too many buttons, as well as
- To structure the – by now most active – employment section, an "**Application Calendar**", where the posted jobs are sorted by deadline (I always wished I had this!)
- A little profile indication on whether the person would be a **potential host** other Alumni (e.g. for conferences)

3. Developing Activities

In the long run, I wouldn't want to see the organisation to be a cause for itself. Even if some things will take a long time, I want us to have impact.

3.1 Inside Activities

Students spend a too short time on the Lido to push positive changes through. There, the E.MA Alumni can **provide consistency and implement good ideas of generations that have already left**: Small things like a "greener" coffee machine, that works without wasting a s*** load of plastic cups. And big things, like more leverage towards the administration, when repeated students' concerns are not followed up on (difficult second semester conditions, scholarship distribution etc.). This way we could act as a quality advisor to EIUC.

3.2 Outside Activities

New members are best engaged, old members are best involved, and we are best visible by **doing things**, for example:

- Publishing a **HR&D newsletter** with contributions of our members, we can not only become a human rights voice, but also learn more about what our fellow alumni do. As this constitutes a big part of my normal job anyways, I would be happy to organise this. Everyone could promote it at their respective workplaces for further subscriptions.
- If a major event on HR&D should be organised, it ought to take place on occasion of the next general assembly meeting again, to engage as many people as possible and save costs.
- Propose, encourage, and connect members to **implement HR&D initiatives** and organise logistical and staff resources. Organising lectures in schools, human rights film screenings, awareness parties, conferences, workshops and and and. Some of those can contribute to fundraising (see below).
- Some of the other candidates have proposed to set up a scholarship scheme. I suggest to **lobby human rights organisations to actually PAY internships**. Working for a big organisation like HRW for free, or even paying for HR internships (like here: http://www.hrwf.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=45&Itemid=56) is one of the greatest hypocrisies I have ever seen. Being an alumni organisation, I think we can and we have to do something about it.

4. Raising Funds

Surely we will be dependent on membership fees for the first years. BUT I am a strong advocator for "**One wo/man, one vote**", therefore **free active membership should be the long term goal** (I checked, it's possible).

Besides approaching obvious **donors** (organisations, firms, foundations), I propose **linking the "External Activity" section with fundraising**. Thus, we could organise HR&D lectures, film screenings or awareness parties in Alumni-dense areas. Not only could it raise funds through entrance fees/donations, it would also raise HR&D visibility and of course ours.

Finally, when it comes to money, **transparency** is a big (VERY BIG!) issue for me. I want to have everything (and I mean every single cent, where it came from and where it went) public. For this reason, and because I am really (really!) good in MS Excel, I would not only like to **candidate as board member, but also as treasurer**.