

EUROCALL: Informe del Presidente 1996-97

President's Report 1997

Annual General Meeting, Dublin (Ireland), September 1997

1. Introduction

It gives me great pleasure to present this fourth President's Report on the activities of EUROCALL over the past year. EUROCALL has now been in existence as a formal professional association for three years.

2. Executive Committee Meetings

The Executive Committee met twice in 1997:

March 1997, DCU, IRL

September 1997, DCU, IRL

Full minutes of these meetings are available from [June Thompson](#), so I will limit this part of my report to just a few important observations.

3. Publications

The [ReCALL Journal](#), a fully-refereed academic publication, continues to be published by the CTI Centre for Modern Languages, [University of Hull](#), in association with EUROCALL. The quality of contributions to this publication has improved steadily and it now occupies a respected position among journals devoted to IT and language learning and teaching.

The [ReCALL Newsletter](#) is available on the Web:

<http://www.hull.ac.uk/cti/pubs/newslet.htm>

Back numbers of the [ReCALL Journal](#) are also available on the Web in PDF format:

http://www.hull.ac.uk/cti/eurocall/recall/r_online.htm

The EUROCALL [1996 Proceedings](#), edited by János Kohn, Bernd Rüschoff and Dieter Wolff, have been published and distributed.

Selected papers from the [EUROCALL 1997 conference](#) will be published in a double issue of the [ReCALL Journal](#) 10 (1).

4. EUROCALL Workshops

Members are reminded that a database of EUROCALL members has been set up - all specialists in different fields of CALL and TELL - with a view to providing expertise in the running of regional EUROCALL workshops. Any institution that wishes to host a regional EUROCALL workshop can call upon this expertise. It is expected that the EUROCALL member will provide his/her expertise free of charge, subject to the payment of travel and subsistence expenses by the local host.

Only one regional workshop took place during the last year: at the University of Timisoara, Romania, 13 March 1997. Special thanks are due to Stephan Pohlmann for his help in setting up this workshop and to János Kohn and Mária Balaskó for their valuable contributions.

5. Electronic communications

EUROCALL's WWW site is fully operational and can be accessed at:

<http://www.hull.ac.uk/cti/eurocall.htm>

EUROCALL's electronic discussion list can be joined by any EUROCALL member. If you have access to email facilities you can join the discussion list simply by sending the following message to:

mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk

join eurocall-members yourfirstname yourlastname

(For "yourfirstname" etc., of course, substitute your own!)

6. Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Information on EUROCALL's Special Interest Groups can be obtained from the EUROCALL website:

<http://www.hull.ac.uk/cti/eurocall/about.htm>

The position and role of SIGs are currently under discussion in the Executive Committee. It is planned to issue guidelines on setting up and running SIGs within EUROCALL.

CAPITAL

CAPITAL is a joint SIG of EUROCALL and [CALICO](#), devoted to using computers in the domain of pronunciation in the widest sense of the word. To join the group, individuals or institutions must be members of one of the parent organisations, CALICO or EUROCALL.

The European co-ordinators are:

Philippe Delcloque, University of Abertay Dundee

Ton Koet, Hogeschool van Amsterdam

WELL

A proposal was made to set up a EUROCALL SIG devoted to Web Enhanced Language Learning (WELL). This proposal has now been dropped, as a Web Enhanced Language Learning project has now been awarded funding by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) under the FDTL programme. EUROCALL does not wish to compete with this project but to offer its help and collaboration. WELL aims to provide access to high-quality Web resources in 12 languages, selected and described by subject experts, plus information and examples on how to use them for teaching and learning. Its activities will be of interest to all teachers and students of languages regardless of sector and location.

The WELL web site is now accessible at:

<http://www.well.ac.uk/>

7. Links with other associations and organisations

EUROCALL maintains close [links](#) with a number of professional associations and organisations that promote technology enhanced language learning. We welcome the attendance of representatives at our conferences and participation in our activities, and we endeavour to be represented at their conferences and to collaborate in other ways. These are some of the key associations, organisations, events and projects with which EUROCALL members have been associated during the last year. This list is not intended to be all-inclusive, and I apologise for any omissions.

CALICO

We are pleased to welcome a number of [CALICO](#) members to EUROCALL 97. Cooperation between CALICO and EUROCALL is becoming closer. Both associations offer reductions in their conference fees to members of either association. EUROCALL members Philippe Delcloque, Matthew Fox and Jenny Parsons attended the CALICO 97 conference at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York. A report on CALICO 97 was published in the *ReCALL Journal* 9, 2.

IAL & FLEAT III

We are pleased to welcome Nina Garrett, President of [IALL](#), as our opening Keynote Speaker at EUROCALL 97. I was delighted to be able to attend the FLEAT III Conference, University of Victoria, Canada, in August 1997. This was organised jointly by IALL and LLA (Language Laboratory Association of Japan). June Thompson and Jo Porritt managed a stand promoting EUROCALL, and June Thompson and I gave a joint paper on "National and international co-operation". I was also invited to take part in a panel discussion entitled "Futurewatch: language learning and technology in a global context". A report on FLEAT III was published in the *ReCALL Journal* 9, 2.

WorldCALL 98

Close contact has been maintained with [ATELL](#), Australia. The University of Melbourne will host WorldCALL 98, 13-17 July 1998, under the auspices of ATELL, the Australian Association for Technology Enhanced Language Learning.

The WorldCALL organiser is June Gassin, who is also present at EUROCALL 97. We extend our warm welcome to her.

Graham Chesters, June Thompson and I represent EUROCALL on the WorldCALL 98 Steering Committee, and I am also a member of the WorldCALL 98 Scholarships Committee. I am delighted to have been invited to give a keynote paper at WorldCALL 98 and to participate in a plenary panel event. I know that several EUROCALL members are planning to attend WorldCALL 98, so we will be well-represented.

Further information available about WorldCALL can be found at:

<http://www.hlc.unimelb.edu.au/worldcall/welcome.html>

Council of Europe

Several EUROCALL members have recently been involved in the Council of Europe's activities, particularly those promoting new technologies and language learning. Bernd Rüschoff is one of the joint editors of a recent Council of Europe publication: Korsvold A-K. & Rüschoff B. (1997) (eds.) *New technologies in language learning and teaching*, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France. Bernd Rüschoff, Lis Kornum and I have also been involved as "animateurs" in the Council of Europe's series of "New Style Workshops": Workshops 7A, 7B, 9A, 9B. Lis Kornum attended the Council of Europe Conference in Graz, April 1997.

European Language Council and the Thematic Network Project (Languages)

These two linked projects, both of which are funded under the SOCRATES Programme of the Commission of the European Communities, include sub-groups on New Technologies and Language Learning. Joseph Rézeau and I are members of the Policy Group of the European Language Council's Policy Group on New Technologies and Language Learning and of the Scientific Committee of the Thematic Network Project's sub-group on New Technologies and Language Learning. I am also a member of the Board of the European Language Council.

Further information about these projects can be found at:

<http://www.fu-berlin.de/elc/>

Language Learning and Technology Journal

I am a member of the Editorial Board of this new journal, which is published exclusively on the World Wide Web:

<http://polyglot.cal.msu.edu/llt/>

The Editor is Mark Warschauer, University of Hawaii.

8. Membership and recruitment

Graham Chesters, EUROCALL Treasurer, is submitting his report, which includes information on current membership and membership fees.

Conferences will in future be restricted to EUROCALL members. In effect, this means that non-members will pay higher conference fees than non-members - which has always been the case - but the higher conference fee will now include the annual

EUROCALL membership fee. This has the advantage of enabling us to transfer membership fees collected in this way direct to our current account.

Membership figures show a net increase of 20 over last year's figures, but we must not be complacent. Membership subscriptions are our main source of income. As I have indicated in my previous reports, please publicise EUROCALL at seminars, workshops and conferences, among your colleagues at work - in short, wherever you can. Publicity leaflets can be made available to you if you can make use of them, and attractive posters have been printed.

9. Sponsorship

As I have indicated in my previous reports, EUROCALL desperately needs sponsorship as membership fees alone are insufficient to enable EUROCALL to embark upon exciting ventures. I therefore urge all members to pass on to the Executive Committee the names of local firms that might be willing to sponsor EUROCALL. When seeking sponsorship it is important - especially when contacting a large company - that we have the name of an individual contact in the company, preferably someone who is known personally to a EUROCALL member. Once again, I have had no reactions to my appeal last year.

10. Thanks

Many thanks are due once again this year. It is difficult to single out every EUROCALL member who has made a valuable contribution to the success of our association, but my special thanks are due to the Executive Committee for being diligent and supportive throughout the year, especially June Thompson and Graham Chesters for handling the increasing burden of administration.

I wish to offer my personal thanks to Françoise Blin and Jane Fahy as the main organisers of EUROCALL 97, not forgetting their enormous team of helpers. I also wish to thank Dr Daniel O'Hare, President of DCU, for offering to host EUROCALL 97 and providing such a friendly environment.

Graham Davies
President, EUROCALL
September 1997