

International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (ISSOTL) Regional Report – EUROPE

October 2016 - October 2017.

There are two Vice-Presidents representing Europe on the Board of ISSOTL. They have joined monthly online meetings of the ISSOTL Board throughout the year and engaged in policy development, outreach and conference planning for the Society. Both positions as Vice-Presidents were refilled June 2017.

In June this year Dr. Bettie Higgs (University College Cork, Ireland) completed her 3-year term as VP on the ISSOTL Board. Bettie was replaced by [Dr. Claire Hamshire](#) (Manchester Metropolitan University) who is elected for the term 2017-2020. Claire is the Head of Education for the Faculty of Health, Psychology and Social Care (HPSC), she has presented at ISSOTL Conferences since 2014, and has been and still is a member of the ISSOTL Advocacy and Outreach Committee.

Dr. Idoia Fernandez (University of the Basque Country, Spain) was nominated and elected to serve as VP Europe for 2016-2019. Due to significant changes in her position at the university, including promotion to Vice President, Idoia was unable to complete her term on the Board. Idoia will continue to engage in SoTL as she will be a key member of the planning committee of the EuroSoTL conference in 2019 in Spain. In June 2017 Idoia was replaced by [Dr. Rie Troelsen](#) (University of Southern Denmark) for the term 2017-2019. Rie is the Head of SDU Centre for Teaching and Learning and is very active in both the Danish and Nordic-Baltic networks for educational developers. In the ISSOTL community, Rie is a member of the Budget and Financing Committee.

The ISSOTL year began with 20-30 members travelling from Europe to the ISSOTL Conference held in Los Angeles, USA in October 2016. The majority of European members presented talks and/or workshops at the conference, and as has become tradition a European membership meeting was arranged to provide an opportunity for colleagues to network.

In June 2017, following on from EuroSoTL2015 in Cork, the second EuroSoTL conference was held in Lund, Sweden organised by Dr. Katarina Martensson (chair) and Roy Andersson (co-chair). ISSOTL members received a reduced fee which was appreciated. The conference theme was *Transforming patterns through the scholarship of teaching and learning*, and it gathered more than 200 participants from 19 different countries. The keynote speakers were Dr. Catherine Bovill, University of Edinburgh, Scotland (UK) and Dr. Maart Noorma, University of Tartu, Estonia and the conference generated a [proceedings](#) with both abstracts and full papers. A new feature at the EuroSoTL conference was the presentation of the first [Joanna Renc-Roe Award](#) for innovative work in SoTL. The receivers of the award were C. Borstad, M. Forchhammer, and T. M. Gabrielsen from Norway for their paper [Active learning and course alignment in thematically complex courses](#). This conference provides an additional venue for Europe members who cannot, for whatever reason, make it to the annual ISSOTL conference.

The next EuroSoTL conference will take place in Spain in 2019 hosted by the University of the Basque Country. REDU (the Spanish organisation for university teaching and learning), with Idoia Fernandez as one of the elected board members, will be engaged in the organisation of the conference. As well as Europe members, it is likely to also attract Spanish speaking academics from Latin America.

Bettie engaged in a number of SoTL events during the past year, including giving an introductory keynote lecture and helping to facilitate workshops at a 2-day conference at the University of Zurich. Participants came from French, German and Italian regions of Switzerland.

Idoia has also been engaged in various SoTL activities through her membership of REDU, including the [annual congress of REDU](#) with Mick Healey as the keynote speaker and a seminar on the qualifications framework for university teaching in which SoTL has been included. News from ISSOTL and EuroSoTL are frequently shared on [REDU's web site](#).

The above listed activities all have as a goal the support and growth of SoTL across Europe, particularly in countries where English is not the native language.

We thank you all for your work on SoTL and we urge you all to keep engaging in discussion, set goals and plan for the future. If you have any developments you want us to include in the next report, please let us know.

With best wishes,

Dr. Bettie Higgs (University College Cork, Ireland)

Dr. Idoia Fernandez (University of the Basque Country, Spain)

Dr. Claire Hamshire (Manchester Metropolitan University, UK)

Dr. Rie Troelsen (University of Southern Denmark, Denmark)

October 2017