**Central European Association for Canadian Studies**

**President’s Report on activities for the period 2015-2018**

The core objective of the Central European Association for Canadian Studies is to assist university teachers, researchers and students in carrying out work relating to Canada. In the past three years, the CEACS and its members in the Central European region have continued to pursue a wide range of activities in support of this aim. This report discusses the following areas:

**The CEACS**

* Membership
* Research
* Publications
* Conferences
* Visiting lecturers
* Grants, awards and services
* Young Canadianists
* Cooperation between associations and centres and with local Canadian Government missions
* Outreach

**The future**

**The CEACS**

***Membership***

The period under consideration does not mark any fluctuations in the number of members, following the sharp 30% drop in CEACS membership five years ago (from 294 members in 2012 to 205 in 2013), the main factor being the cancellation in 2012 of the Canadian government’s international Canadian Studies programme, which had been in place for 40 years and had linked over 7,000 Canadianists on all continents from 70 countries. As of 2018 the association has 187 active and dedicated members, of whom 22 are students.

***Research***

A new CEACS translation project, “Canada Consumed”, was initiated at a meeting in Budapest, Hungary on October 15, 2016. The aim of the project is to track the popular impact of Canadian texts in the humanities and social sciences in the Central European region since 1990. Canadianists from all CEACS member countries are included. As of June 2018 all but two articles have been submitted; it is hoped that a volume containing all texts produced by the project participants will be published by the end of 2018.

CEACS scholars have also taken part in international research teams on various topics. The Hungarian association have concluded a collaboration agreement with Montreal University and the support of the Ministry of Human Resources for an international research team on contemporary Quebec literature and culture, migration and intertextuality. The Serbian association have been working on the project “Languages and Cultures in Time and Space”, where among other French-speaking cultures the topic of Canadian French speaking areas is included. The Slovak Ministry of Education national research project): “(E)migration as a political, ethical, linguistic and cultural phenomenon in the era of globalisation”, focusing on the Slovak immigration history to North American, especially to Canada, was awarded to a team of researchers that includes CEACS members,

***Publications***

The CEACS continued to publish its own journal, the Central European Journal of Canadian Studies. The double issue Vol. 10/11 appeared in 2016; a further double issue, Vol 12/13, will be published in September 2018.

In this period, CEACS members were also involved in several special issues of other journals:

*Mixed Heritage: (Self) Portraits and Identity Negotiation.* *Americana E-journal* special issue (http://americanaejournal.hu/vol13no1). Eds. Edith-Anne Pageot and Judit Kádár.

Translation into Czech of selected passages from *Epos of Qayaq* by Lela Kiana Oman. PLAV (7/2017). Jana Marešová.

A special issue (XIII, Vol. 7, 2017, [www.svetovka.cz](http://www.svetovka.cz)) of PLAV, Monthly for World Literature, dedicated to Inuit literature. Ed. Klara Kolinská.

Members penned over 190 publications – monographs, articles, reviews and translations - which appeared in scholarly journals and books.

***Conferences***

The association’s 7th Triennial International Conference titled “Canada: Preconceptions and Realities. Canada Preconceived”, held in Zagreb from 9-10 October 2015, attracted a significant number of participants from outside the region and was notable for the general high level of the papers presented.

Numerous Canadian Studies and Canada-related conferences, seminars and other scholarly fora are continually being organized in the Central European region by national chapters and by individual universities and departments. What follows is a selective list of the major events in the past three years.

Bulgaria

• 2nd Student conference on Canada, New Bulgarian University, Sofia, March 2016

Croatia

• "Page, Stage, Screen, Voice: A Canadian Studies Seminar", Osijek, May 2018

Czech Republic

• 10th International Brno Conference of English, American and Canadian Studies, Masaryk University, Brno, 2015

• "The Americas in Canada", International conference, Canadian Studies Centre, Masaryk University, Brno, October 2017

• Organisation of a symposium “Kanadská zkušenost” [The Canadian Experience], University of Hradec Kralove, November 2017

Hungary

• "Multiculturalism in Canada: Changing perspectives", Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary and Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, November 2016

- "Canadian Values at 150: Reflections on a Diverse Nation". Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary and Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, November 2017

Romania

• "Francophonie et curiosité(s)", Université Alexandru Ioan Cuza Iaşi, March 2016

Serbia

• 7th International Conference of the Serbian Association for Canadian Studies, Belgrade, 2015

• "Canada 150 Filmed": 8th International Conference organised by the Serbian Association for Canadian Studies and the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade, April 2017.

Slovakia

• 4th Biannual Graduate Student Conference: Gender in the Americas, Bratislava, February 2016

In the period 2015-2018, CEACS members presented over 200 papers at these and many other conferences and scholarly events within Central Europe, the rest of Europe and countries further abroad (Canada, Austria, Denmark, the UK, Poland, France, Germany, Spain).

***Visiting lecturers***

Amon the notable Canadian authors and academics giving lectures in the region over the past three years were the following: Endre Farkas (Montreal) in Budapest and in Ljubljana; Mark Anthony Jarman (University of New Brunswick) in Croatia and Slovenia, Canadian Literature Class, Nov. 7, 2016; prof. Martin Loschnigg and prof. Marija Loschnigg (University of Graz) in Croatia; Prof. Gaëtan Brulotte (Université de Louisiane à Lafayette / Université de Floride du Sud, États-Unis) at Université Alexandru Ioan Cuza Iaşi; prof. Nathalie Watteyne (Directrice du Centre Anne-Hébert de l'Université de Sherbrooke, Québec) at Université Alexandru Ioan Cuza Iaşi; Pénélope Cormier (Université de Moncton, Nouveau-Brunswick, Canada) at Université Alexandru Ioan Cuza Iaşi; prof. Sophie Beaulé (Saint Mary's University of Halifax, Canada) at Cluj-Napoca, Babes-Bolyai University;

Richard Nimijean (Carleton University, Ottawa) at Masaryk University, Brno; dr. Edith Pageot (Montreal University) at Matej Bel University Hungary.

***Grants, awards and services***

Between 2015 and 2018, CEACS Conference Grants were awarded to 21 members of the associations, helping them to defray the costs of attending conferences at which they were presenting papers.

In addition, in the same period 10 grants went to CEACS members to cover the cost of accommodation in Brno to do research at the Canadian studies library at Masaryk University.

Finally, it should be mentioned here that recognition – both personal as well as of the role of the CEACS internationally – came in 2014 with the awarding of the ICCS Certificate of Merit to our former President, and current Vice-President, Janos Kenyeres.

A number of awards have gone to CEACS members in recognition of outstanding work. In 2016, Cristina Petraş (Romania) received a National Scientific Research Council Award for the article “De l’adverbe d’intensité à l’adverbe exophrastique en français acadien du sud-ouest de la Nouvelle-Écosse “; Yavor Petkov (Bulgaria) won Laureate of the Francophone Thesis Prize for his doctoral thesis „La fin de l’appartenance culturelle dans le roman migrant québécois“ by the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie.

And in 2017, Vanja Polić (University of Zagreb) - Special Appreciation Award for strengthening Academic, Cultural and Intellectual Ties between Canada and Croatia on the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of Canada (presented by the Canadian Ambassador to Croatia on 1st July 2017), Cristina Petraş, financement obtenu dans le cadre du programme de mobilité pour les chercheurs, UEFISCDI (Ministère de l’Éducation Nationale/Ministère de la Recherche et de l’Innovation, Roumanie), décembre 2017, pour un stage de documentation dans les Archives de folklore et d’ethnologie du Centre d’Études Acadiennes Anselme-Chiasson (CEAAC) de l’Université de Moncton, stage qui se déroulera dans la période 5-24 mars 2018.

***Young Canadianists***

A number of MA and PhD theses were successfully defended in the recent period: „La fin de l’appartenance culturelle dans le roman migrant québécois“ (PhD, Bulgaria), “Female Voices of Hyphenated Canadians” (MA, Czech Republic), “Bilignualism and Second Language Acquisition in Canada: Theory and Practice in View of Some Case Studies” (BA, Hungary), “Canadian English between Myth and Reality” (MA, Romania), “Jacques Ferron, Contes : traduction de plusieurs contes et analyse traductologique “ (MA, Croatia), „Anti-Americanism and Canadian Cultural Policy (1928-1957)“, „Economic development of the Canadian Arctic and the impact of mining on Inuit“, “Les personnages féminins d’Anne Hébert, Les mondes imaginaires à l’inspiration néobaroque dans L’Avalée des Avalés de Réjean Ducharme et La petite fille qui aimait trop les allumettes de Gaétan Soucy “, “Les espaces transculturels de la dramaturgie Québécoise : Une analyse géocriticienne de la diversité entre 1975 et 1996 “, ”Thematic Shifts in Twentieth and Twenty-First Century Metis Life Writing” , “Éléments de civilisation francophone dans l’enseignement du FLE/ Elements of Francophone Civilization in Teaching French as a Foreign Language”, “The Devil Within: Warrior Archetypes in Three Day Road by Joseph Boyden” (MA, Slovenia), “Leonard Cohen: Man in a Suit” (MA, Slovenia), "A Work of Art as an Expression of Society and Concrete Examples From Yann Martel’s Life of Pi" (MA, Slovenia ; won the Prešeren Prize), “Alice Munro's Short Fiction Against the Slovene Literary and Cultural Background” (PhD, Slovenia). A number of additional students are currently in the process of doing research on Canada-related topics for their theses.

Young Canadianists continue to receive grants to participate in academic conferences and do research in Brno at the Canadian Studies Centre at Masaryk University, which houses the largest collection of Canada-related books in the Central European region (around 6,000 titles).

***Cooperation between associations and centres and with local Canadian Government missions***

In the past three years a number of collaborative activities took place between associations, centres, and local Canadian missions in the Central European region, including a great number and variety of cultural events, visiting lectures and film screenings. In the period 2015-2018 Canadian Centres in the region helped to organize over 120 cultural events, often in collaboration with the local Canadian missions. In 2016 the events included: Days of Poetry and Wine (Ptuj, Slovenia), August 23-25, 2016; The Experience of Migration in Canada and the Czech Republic", held on 2 November as the opening event in the "Canadian Days in Prague 2017"; "La littérature francophone au Canada“. Conférence à l’Institut pour l’étude du développement culturel à Belgrade, March 9, 2016.

In 2017 the cultural events included film screenings (Reel Injun by Neil Diamond, University of Montenegro and University of Novi Pazar), book launch events (Canadian writer Flavia Cosma’s volumes *Cine ne sunt ingerii* and *Fauves et ombres*, organized by the Canadian Studies Centre of the University of Bucharest), presentation of the Canadian writer Kim Thuy and her novel *Vi*, Romania), „Days of Canada“ in Prague: with the lecture “Contemporary Indigenous and Inuit Literature in Canada “ and presentation and launch of the Canadian thematic issues of PLAV (monthly for world literature).

Canadian embassies also offered speakers for events at universities. Most notable, perhaps, was a lecture on "Building thriving democracies: Responses from Canada and Slovenia" that was delivered by the Hon. Stéphane Dione, Ambassador to Germany and Special Envoy to the European Union, at the University of Ljubljana on March 20, 2018.

CEACS academics continued the by now well-established practice of delivering lectures outside their home universities, in particular at universities in the Central European region but to an increasing degree elsewhere in Europe. Within the ERASMUS programme, these visits to foreign universities often take the form of intensive courses. Equally encouraging has been the large number of academics from across Canada, Europe and elsewhere who have come to give lectures and courses at universities in the CEACS region. They have been joined by a number of Canadian artists.

***Outreach***

As in previous periods, outreach has been a priority for the association. Some activities include: interviews with Central European Canadianists in the mass media and with politicians connected to Canada (Croatian Prime Minister); collaborative activities between universities; presentations in schools; holding of contests and competitions on Canadian topics (Lonyay High School, Hungary); organizing a world fair with Canada as one of the featured countries (First Grammar School in Zagreb); organizing regular consultation sessions for MA teacher trainees and practicing teachers to use Canada-related material in schools (Károli Gáspár Univeristy, Budapest).

Some more specific events: Radio interview on translation of Alice Munro’s Runaway into Slovene (Maribor, October 2015); talk for the County Council for Teachers of Primary and Secondary Schools, aimed at continuing professional development, topic “Teaching Canadian Literature and Culture to Croatian Students” (Zagreb, December 2017), talk and seminar with students at the 1st International School, Ostrava, Czech Republic, November 2017 topic "Canada - Immigration, Diversity and Multiculturalism", “Multicultural Canada “, discussion with students of the Ostrava International School, within the festival Days of Canada in Nother-Silesia Region, November, 2017, “Canada in the English Classroom” consultations and customized teaching material development for teacher trainees and high school teachers, workshop on Hungarian-Canadian Business and Cultural Relations, roundtable discussion at the Centre d’Études canadiennes ‒ Université catholique Pázmány Péter ‒ Département de Français: Études francophones canadiennes en Hongrie: Roundtable discussion with Edith-Anne Pageot, (Université du Québec à Montréal), collaboration agreement with the Montreal University and the support of EMMI (Ministry of Human Resources) for international research on contemporary QUE literature and culture, migration and intertextuality, co-organizing conferences, publishing a bilingual book, developing francophone courses in Hungary, Joe Blades Poetry Reading at The Living Room (Maribor, October 2015).

**The future**

The decision by the Canadian government to cancel support for Canadian Studies activities worldwide dealt a serious blow to the work of several generations of committed Canadianists on all continents. As dedicated members of the Canadian Studies community, some of whom have devoted their whole working life to Canadian topics, it is up to us to join our efforts and prove that academic enthusiasm, optimism and resourcefulness is the path to maintaining and expanding Canadian Studies in the region.

The General Meeting of our association, to be held in Prague on 22 September during the 8th Triennial International Conference of Central European Canadianists, will offer a forum at which the future path of Canadian Studies in the region will be discussed. We will share experiences, hopefully succeed in delineating priority areas and most importantly come up with ideas for feasible ways of raising funds. It is hoped that agreement will be reached on various activities and projects involving both academics and students that will carry the association forward successfully in the coming years.

Prof. Diana Yankova, PhD

CEACS President, on behalf of the Executive Committee

1 July 2018