2017 Report

of the CAS Representative to the International Council for Central and East European Studies (ICCEES) at the CAS AGM at Ryerson University, Toronto, 28 May, 2017

- 1. Following up on conversations with Concordia University's V-P Research Graham Carr and his successor Justin Powlowski, a **collaboration agreement with Concordia University** is being finalized whereby Concordia will assist ICCEES and CAS by hosting the Congress, providing administrative and logistical support, and preferential rates on meeting rooms and equipment.
- 2. The **core of the Organizing Committee** was established: Concordia University professor and CAS President Alison Rowley; Hospitality Concordia's Director, Marie-Josée Allard; ICCEES V-P and CAS representative to ICCEES Andrii Krawchuk (U of Sudbury). Alison has also spoken with Prof. James Krapfl (McGill), who will join the group at the end of the summer.
- 3. **Congress theme**: various suggestions have been received and a working theme will be selected soon. Further input from CAS and ICCEES Executives is welcome.
- 4. The list of proposed **keynote / VIP panelists** has been expanded, featuring high-profile speakers from various disciplines of Slavic / Central and East European Studies, and related professions. We welcome new ideas that can enhance the program.
- 5. **Hotel block reservations** are nearly complete, and will ensure reasonably priced accommodations for Congress participants.
- 6. Congress dates moved forward by one day: from 3–8 August to 4–9 August 2020: hotels will be very expensive on the preceding weekend.
- 6. The **budget estimates** have been revised to reflect more accurately how revenues and expenditures will be balanced.
- 7. This summer we will review a bid from an IT company to set up and manage the **Congress website** (with Congress information, announcements, Call for Papers, selection of papers, creating panels, processing registration, and compiling data for the Congress program. We will also solicit other bids and review the options.
- 8. From our **planning timeline**: we are now three years from the 2020 World Congress in Montreal, and two years away from the Call for Papers.
- 9. Heads-up for CAS AGM 2019: In the final year before the Congress, CAS should form an **academic committee** to review proposed papers and set up panels. Based on past World Congresses, we are projecting over 1200 registered participants.