

Worldwide Biography Conference (WBC) “Guiding Light Principles”

The following points are to be understood as guidelines; a summary of the core principles which the organisers of WBC 2017 want to make available to the organisers of WBC 2019, to be taken into consideration and implementation according to their own best possibilities.

The Conference

It is developing, in collaboration with the *General Anthroposophical Section of the School of Spiritual Science at the Goetheanum*, as the international organ of an open collegial community, for those who are striving to create a spiritual ecology which promotes the impulse of biography work in the spirit of “freedom”, “equality” and “humanity”.

It is organised every two years with the aim of bringing together colleagues who are professionally involved in biography work on the basis of anthroposophy, in order to serve the being of biography work, as also to nurture its development.

It embraces the striving to provide a practical, inclusive approach to the contents of the Michael School, enabling all conference participants to engage in a respectful exchange about their esoteric work.

The realisation of a constant archetype for the conference is aimed for, that it is a vessel in which the content is created by participants, who freely share their professional experience with one another.

The Organisation

Application of the principles of social threefolding is taken into account as much as possible.

Cultural and linguistic differences are considered as far as possible. Messages, programmes and plenums are generally provided for both in English and German.

A relationship is maintained through functional communication with the *International Trainers Forum*, which usually holds a meeting at the venue of the conference on prior days.

Due diligence is practiced in the conduct of financial arrangements, planning and management of the conference event.

The organisational process and procedures are managed in compliance with the prevailing legal standards of the venue and its country.

In cooperation with those responsible for maintaining of the database of the conference community, the international rights for data protection are respected at all levels of organisational communication.

Conference fees are calculated responsibly to cover all costs, by setting them as low as possible and as high as necessary (e.g. by using modalities such as “solidarity fee”, “standard fee”, “basic fee”).

It is fundamental that participants register as an individual and pay in advance the conference fee in full as quoted, without expectation of discount or reimbursement.

The provision of travel bursaries or sponsorship for financially weak participants is considered to be a matter for coordination which promotes collegial solidarity within countries or internationally between countries.

The original funds carried over through the last conference should be passed on to the next conference by way of practising responsible management.

To handle the conference finances ... *a trust account is used if possible.*

The Organisers

They select a mantra from the complete work of Rudolf Steiner, as an inspirational basis for the conference.

They budget and manage their own finances, while maintaining a transparent accounting system.

They are responsible for creating the form of communication that is necessary for the current conference, including, for example, the use of a website and online facilities for registration and payment.

They are open minded towards colleagues worldwide, including those without a background in anthroposophy.

They allow for a moment of observance for the protective spirits, the living and the deceased.

They develop the thematic focus of a conference by communicating coherently with the conference community at an early stage, in order to promote and nurture communal work with the spiritual scientific foundations of biography work and its professional application.

They create the conference programme on their own authority, by involving as many colleagues as possible and requesting their cooperation or advice in an appropriate manner.

They design a programme that facilitates an exchange about professional development and networking, regional self-organisation and spiritual scientific research, in order to promote applicational development of biography work.

They encourage potential initiatives towards the organisation of future conferences early on, for example, by trying to engage such collegial enterprise in support of their own organisational work; so that it may become possible to announce the place and country for the next conference in plenum during the current conference.

Conclusion of the Conference

A review of the conference is prepared and distributed to the conference community, as also a shorter report (max. 5,000 characters incl. spaces) for the journal "Anthroposophy Worldwide" in English and German.

A financial balance and statement is prepared, from which an extract is to be included in a report distributed to the conference community before the end of the same year.

Latest at the beginning of the New Year the organisers of the last WBC transmit responsibility (by preference personally) to the organisers of the next WBC, thereby releasing and dissolving themselves as a group.

The "Guiding Light Principles" are further developed on the collegial basis of the ongoing practical experience of the currently responsible organisers, for transmission to the organisers of the next conference and also to share with the conference community, so that all colleagues can lend support.