



# Institute for Peace Studies in Eastern Christianity, Inc.

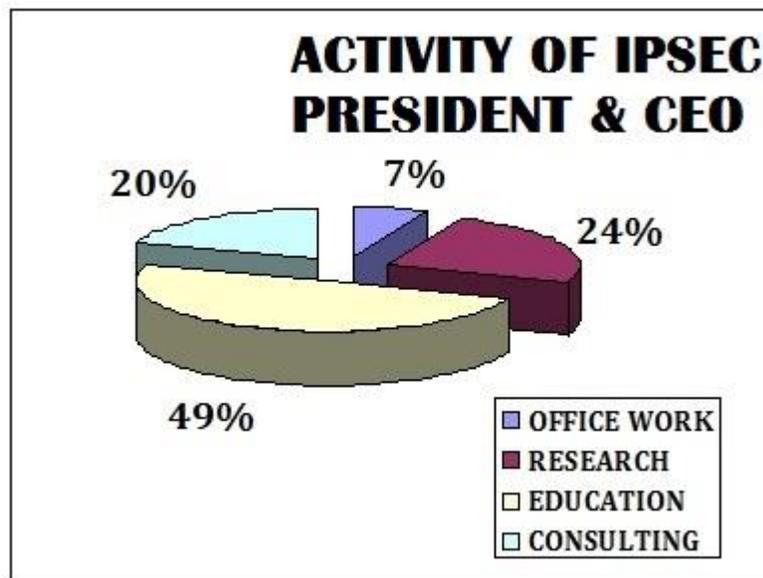
P.O. Box 380246 (Harvard Square) Cambridge, MA 02238-0246, U.S.A.  
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## 2017 IPSEC Activity Report

FULL-TIME WORK PERFORMED DURING 2017 BY  
Marian Gh. Simion, PhD, as *IPSEC President & CEO*

Report Completed on February 3, 2018

The work performed by Marian Gh. Simion, PhD, as IPSEC President & CEO, consisted of a minimum of 46 (forty-six) weeks of full time activity on programs and operations. A minimum of tree weeks were spent on office work, and a minimum of forty-three weeks were spent on programs: research (11 weeks), education (23 weeks), and consulting (9 weeks).



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### OFFICE WORK (3 weeks)

During 2017, the office work consisted of a minimum of three weeks of administrative activities, communication, and institutional operations. One week was spent on general administration such as budget creation, setting up templates in QuickBooks and Microsoft Excel, financial administration, board election, Bylaws updating, state filings, mailbox checking, office supplies, etc. A second week was spent on general communication such as writing/answering emails, updating



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mailing list, maintaining contacts, etc. A third week was spent on IPSEC website and IPSEC Newsletter, such as updating the website, creating graphics, writing the text for the newsletter, conducting research for content, sending out 4 issues, etc.

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## RESEARCH

(11 weeks)

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The research activity as IPSEC President & CEO included a minimum of eleven weeks of work which included writing one research paper and one book chapter; reviewing and editing 15 papers for the third volume of Harvard Square Symposium, as well as work on research program development for Harvard Square Symposium and RAIS.

### Peer-reviewed Research Paper (4 weeks)

A minimum of four weeks were spent on conducting research and writing an article titled, "[Ambivalence of Ritual in Violence: Orthodox Christian Perspectives](#)," which was published in the internationally acclaimed, peer reviewed journal, *Hervormde Teologiese Studies* 2017, Vol. 73 Issue 3, p1-8. 8p, in South Africa.

### Book Chapter for WCC volume on Pilgrimage (4 weeks)

A minimum of four weeks were spent on conducting research and on writing a book chapter titled, "A Path to Immortality: Reflections on Pilgrimage from Orthodox Perspective." This chapter was written at the invitation of Fernando Enns of Universität Hamburg (Germany), to contribute to an ecumenical volume titled, *Walking Together: Theological Reflections on the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace*, edited by Susan Durber and Fernando Enns; forthcoming via WCC Publications.

### Research Program Development (2 weeks)

About two weeks were spent on program development for Harvard Square Symposium and RAIS. [Harvard Square Symposium](#) activity included website content development, coding and administration. [RAIS](#) activity included bylaws development, incorporation with the State of Maryland and obtaining the 501(c)3 status from the Internal Revenue Service.

### Harvard Square Symposium Volume 3 (1 week)

A minimum of one week of full time work was performed on editorial work for the third volume of the [Harvard Square Symposium](#), Harvard Square Symposium. The work included paper reviewing, assessing and briefly editing 15 academic papers.



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## EDUCATION

(23 weeks)

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The educational activity performed by IPSEC President & CEO included a minimum of twenty-three weeks of work which involved course development; the writing and the publication of a university textbook; and work for the IPSEC Field Education program at Harvard Divinity School.

### Course Development (The Hague, Netherlands) (1 week)

A minimum of one week of work was spent on a course development program. Following an invitation to join an educational consultation titled, "Practitioner Exchange: Trainers of Courses Addressing the Role of Religion & Secularity in Conflict," the IPSEC President & CEO traveled to the Hague, in the Netherlands, where during May 10 through May 12, 2017, he worked at The Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI) in the Hague, with trainers and curriculum developers to improve courses offered on religion in conflict for practitioners & policymakers. The IPSEC courses were announced and promoted through this venue. Work involved preparation and travelling to the Hague, participation and contributions to meeting in a think-tank fashion, review post-conference report, and so forth.

### University Textbook (Cluj-Napoca, Romania) (18 weeks)

A minimum of eighteen weeks were spent on writing and publishing a university textbook titled, *Metodologia Cercetării în Studiile de Pace Ortodoxe* (*Research Methodology in Orthodox Peace Studies*), which was released by the University Press of Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca. This referenced textbook was published with the generous support of Rev. Dr. Cristian-Sebastian Sonea, Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Theology of Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, and with the support of the Romanian Ministry of National Education and Research. The book is available in electronic format on the website of Presa Universitară Clujeana, and distributed gratis.

### Field Education (Harvard Divinity School, USA) (4 weeks)

A minimum of four weeks were spent on redesigning the IPSEC offerings for the Field Education program at [Harvard Divinity School](#). The work involved redesigning the educational program, weekly meetings with Shannon Schmidt, the HDS field education student IPSEC, attending HDS meetings and events organized by the Office of Ministry Studies and by the program on Religion and the Practice of Peace.



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## CONSULTING

(9 weeks)

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The consulting activity performed by IPSEC President & CEO included a minimum of nine weeks of work which involved a plenary speech presentation during the 8<sup>th</sup> World Congress of IRLA (Miami, USA); work at the Romanian Parliament (writing a paper for a human rights conference, attending two conferences, speech, attending the Romanian National Prayer Breakfast); an expert presentation at SanoVita Foundation; and TV interviews with TrinitasTV and Valcea1 (Romania).

### **IRLA Congress (Miami, USA)** (2 weeks)

Two weeks of work were spent on writing, travelling, attending and delivering a plenary speech titled, "[Why We Don't Raise](#)," at the International Religious Liberty Association, during the 8th World Congress for Religious Freedom, held during August 22-24, 2017, in Miami, Florida.

### **Paper for Romanian Parliament (Bucharest, Romania)** (3 weeks)

Three weeks of work were spent on writing a paper titled, "From Pan-Arabism to Islamism: How Modernity Failed to Redefine Collective Identity," presented as expert testimony during an international conference titled "[Freedom of Religion and Conscience in the Public Mentality](#)," held at the Romanian Parliament during November 15-16, 2017. Following a peer-reviewing process, the paper was published in *Journal for Freedom of Conscience 2017* (Les Arcs, France: Editions IARSIC, 2017), 570-583.

### **Conference at Romanian Parliament (Bucharest, Romania)** (2 weeks)

Two weeks of work were spent on speech writing and delivery, conference attendance, meetings at the Romanian Parliament and universities, traveling to and from Romania, as well as peer-reviewing some papers published in [Journal for Freedom of Conscience 2017](#). An additional event at the Parliament included the attending of [the Romanian National Prayer Breakfast](#), and a two days conference on family values.

### **Media and Consulting (Romania)** (2 weeks)

Two weeks of work were spent with an expert presentation and media appearances. A special presentation was prepared and delivered as a seminar for SanoVita senior management on the role of peace and spirituality in productivity. A 60 min interview titled, "[Faith and Culture Today: The Pacifying Virtualities of Religion](#),"



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was conducted with Dr. Vasile Bănescu, the spokesman of the Romanian Orthodox Patriarchate, on November 9, 2017 at the Romanian Patriarchate, and broadcasted nationally via TrinitasTV. Another 75 min interview titled, "[Meaningful Dialogues with Dr. Marian Simion](#)," was conducted with Valeria Tănase at Antim Ivireanul District Library, Rm. Vâlcea, on November 21, 2017, and broadcasted locally by Vâlcea1 TV.

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