

Report from the Phonetic Documentation sub-committee, August 2023
Pat Keating, Chair

From 2016 to 2019, Council discussed supporting work on phonetic documentation of endangered languages. It was agreed that the IPA should not set up its own procedures for requesting, reviewing, funding, and administering proposals, but rather should partner with existing organizations with appropriate infrastructure already in place. In general, we do not fund entire proposals, but contribute part of the full awards made and administered by the partner organizations. In summer 2019 (at the time of the previous ICPhS) we made our first award, £5000 via the Endangered Language Fund. In the period 2019-2023, we made awards via two organizations, the Endangered Language Fund (ELF) and the Endangered Language Documentation Programme (ELDP).¹ During this period, COVID made conditions for fieldwork so uncertain that some proposal cycles were cancelled; nonetheless we were able to make awards every year.

Each year the committee chair sought volunteers from Council to serve as reviewers for proposals referred to us by these organizations for potential co-funding. The number of proposals we were sent, and the number of IPA reviewers, varied from year to year. Those who served each year on the committee are listed below, and the chair thanks them wholeheartedly for their dedicated work.

At first we had no fixed budget, instead determined what funding we would like to award and requested this amount from the IPA Executive. However, the Executive later determined that we should have an annual allocation of \$10,000 to award as we deemed appropriate.

Summary of IPA awards made:

Spring-Summer 2020: volunteer reviewers = Alexis Michaud, Daniel Recasens

1. Awards through ELF: \$8500, 4 proposals
(http://www.endangeredlanguagefund.org/ll_2020.html)
2. Awards through ELDP: not this year

Spring-Summer 2021: volunteer reviewers = John Esling, Alexei Kochetov

1. Awards through ELF: \$10,000, 6 proposals
(http://www.endangeredlanguagefund.org/ll_2021.html)
2. Awards through ELDP: not this year

Spring-Summer 2022: volunteer reviewers = James Kirby, Alexei Kochetov

1. Awards through ELF: \$3,000, 2 proposals
(http://www.endangeredlanguagefund.org/ll_2022.html)
2. Awards through ELDP: \$7000, 2 proposals, but later it turned out that one of them would not go forward as planned so that portion of our award was re-allocated to three additional 2023 applicants (and thus the total amount awarded for the 2 years 2022,2023 remained \$20,000)

¹ Discussions with the Foundation for Endangered Languages have not yet resulted in a collaboration.

Spring-Summer 2023: volunteer reviewers = James Kirby, Alexei Kochetov, Alexis Michaud, Daniel Recasens

1. Awards through ELF: \$7500, 4 proposals
(http://www.endangeredlanguagefund.org/ll_2023.html)
2. Awards through ELDP: \$2500, 1 proposal (plus see note for 2022)

In the future, the committee should work to build its relations and visibility with partner organizations, and should begin to follow up on previous awards, to understand how IPA funding is (or is not) helping phonetic documentation. To these ends, the committee may benefit from a fixed membership for the entire new 4-year term.