



OIKOSNET EUROPE

62nd Annual Conference 6. - 10. September 2017 in Flehingen (Germany)

Minutes Business-meeting 08./9.9. 2017

Participants:

Sofia af Geijerstam, Alexei Bodrov, Istvan Elter, Uta Engelmann, Hermann Düringer, Julia Gerlach, Ioannis Grigoriadis, Martina Heinrichs, Wiebke Juhl-Nielsen, Marjaana Kanerva, Katja Kareinen, Sören Lenz, Alf Linderman, Walter Lüssi, Gernot Meier, Nicola Murray, Rüdiger Noll, Elisabeth Reichen-Amsler, Kjell Y. Riise, Günter Renz, Svaltoslav Rogalsky, Sara Marta Rostagno, Bishop Ioannis Sakellariou, Jaap van der Sar, Karolina Silná, Marielisa von Thadden, Karin Uhlmann, Konstantin Vasilis, Julia Weisberg, Birgit Weinbrenner, Konstantinos Zorbas.

1. Opening and welcome

The president Jaap van der Sar welcomed the participants. He stated that the invitation to this Annual Conference was sent in due time.

2. Roll Call and Quorum

Rüdiger Noll informed about the quorum: 30 members have notified their membership to Oikosnet Europe according Swedish law. 16 votes are necessary for the quorum. The following 19 members (from 13 countries) are present in Flehingen, from 4 members there are proxies; in total this makes 23 voting members.

1. Kirkkopalvelut, Finland	(Marjaana Kanerva)
2. Evangelische Akademie Baden, Germany	(Uta Engelmann)
3. EREN -Theologie Education Formation, Neuchatel, Switzerland	(Elisabeth Reichen-Amsler)
4. Evangelische Akademie Bad Boll, Germany	(Günter Renz)
5. Plusbildung – Ökumenische Bildungslandschaft Schweiz, Switzerland	(Walter Lüssi)
6. Sts. Methodius and Cyrill, Belarus	(Svaitoslav Rogalsky)
7. Le Liebfrauenberg, France	Sören Lenz
8. Norwegian Church Academies, Norway	(Kjell Y. Riise)
9. Sigtuna Stiftelsen, Sweden	(Alf Linderman)
10. Stichting Oikos, Netherlands	(Jaap van der Sar)
11. St. Andrew's Biblical Theological Institute, Russia	(Alexei Bodrov)
12. Evangelische Akademie Villigst, Germany	(Birgit Weinbrenner)
13. Ecumenická Akademie Prag, Czech Republic	(Karolina Silná)
14. Orthodox Academy Crete, Greece	(Konstantinos Zorbas)
15. Interorthodox Centre Pendeli, Greece	(Bishop Ioannis)
16. Centro Ecumenico di Agape, Italy	(Sara Marta Rostagno)

17. The Corrymeela community, Northern Ireland, UK	(Nicola Murray)
18. Evangelische Akademie Meißen, Germany	(Julia Weisberg)
19. Evangelische Akademie Nordkirche, Germany	(Wiebke Juhl-Nielsen)

<u>Proxies from:</u>	<u>Proxy vote carried by</u>
20. tecum, Schweiz	Walter Lüssi
21. Evangelische Akademie Wien	Marielisa von Thadden
22. Evangelische Akademie Frankfurt	Hermann Düringer
23. Evangelische Akademie zu Berlin	Julia Weisberg
2. Evangelische Akademie Thüringen	Julia Weisberg

3. Agenda

The agenda was adopted unanimously.

4. Election of a Co-signer of the minutes 2017

Sara Marta Rostagno was elected unanimously.

5. Adoption of the Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting in Prague 2016 (decision, Doc ACS 2016-3)

The minutes were adopted with one abstention

6. Election and Welcome of New Members (decision)

Walter Lüssi presented 'Plusbildung', a Swiss umbrella organization for several formation institutes. Plusbildung was elected unanimously as a new member of Oikosnet Europe.

Istvan Elter presented his center Monoszlói Erdei Iskola at the Balaton Lake. He expressed interest in a membership of OE.

7. Presentation and Discussion of the President's Report (Doc ACS 2017-3)

Jaap van der Sar presented the President's report entitled "Meat and Eat". Marielisa von Thadden moderated the discussion.

8. Presentation and Discussion of the Annual Report of the Board (Doc: ACS 2017-4)

Moderated by Walter Lüssi

Rüdiger Noll and Board members presented the report. See Doc ACS 2017-4)

He encouraged the members to use the Annual Report as the archived memory of OE and recommended to discuss it in the centres. Alf Linderman added: this can be a good place for discussing the conditions centres are working with.

Further issues which were discussed:

- Sigtuna foundation celebrated its 100 years jubilee. They saw it as an occasion to think about the challenge to stay relevant.
- Membership developments:
 - + Plusbildung is – after the Norwegian Church Academies – the second Association to become a member.
 - + The ambivalence of this model has to be discussed.
 - + Likewise there should be a discussion and decision about the model 'individual membership'.
 - + How can centres support each other – before it comes to closing?!
 - + There is a general move of Academies into the cities, e.g. the Frankfurt Academy (previous Arnoldshain).

- + With sorrow the AC commemorated the death of Roman Juriga, Director of the centers in Vilemov and Javornik. He died soon after the AC in Prague. After his death the future of the center in Javornik is more than uncertain.
- + A plea was made for the Board to have its meetings in different places to get knowledge and a good feeling for their condition.
- + The announcement was made that Oikos in the Netherlands will cease to exist after the end of the year. By consequence the membership will end as well.
- Succession plan: Jaap van der Sar informed about upcoming changes for the configuration of the Board. President and Vice-President are leaving. Different aspects for the elections have to be considered: a German Board member – Gender – Regions – Denominations; To make Board meetings easier, cheaper and more efficient, Jaap van der Sar recommended to reduce the number of Board members: there should be one member less in the future.

9. Budget 2018

The treasurer introduced the Budget 2018

See Doc ACS 2017-5

The Board recommended to the Annual Assembly to adopt the Budget 2018 for OE with an income and expenditure of 36.600 € as presented in Doc. AC 2017-5.

Decision: The Assembly accepted the budget 2018 unanimously.

10. Elections

Moderated by Kostas Zorbas

— Decision on the size of the Board

The proposal for a reduction of the Board to 5 members was adopted unanimously by the Annual Conference.

— Report from the Nomination Committee

Alexei Bodrov reported.

The nomination committee presented:

- + Walter Lüssi as candidate for president
- + Julia Gerlach as Board member
- + Sören Lenz as Vice-president (till end of his legislative period 2018)
- + Kostas Zorbas has to be re-elected as member according Swedish law

— Election of the President

Walter Lüssi was elected as President with one abstention

— Election of the Vice President

Sören Lenz was elected as Vice President with one abstention

— Election of Board members

Julia Gerlach was elected as Board member with one abstention

Kostas Zorbas was re-elected as Board member with one abstention

— Election of an Auditor

Carolina Silni was elected as Auditor unanimously. (successor of Nils Ivar Agoy)

11. The Future of the Gender and Justice Network

The President introduced: it's open, how the Gender and Justice network (GaJ) will exist in the future.

A discussion followed.

One position: there is a successful tradition of former Women's network and since 2013 GaJ.

OE shouldn't give up the GaJ network. It would be a loss if the GaJ would not be continued. GaJ should be integrated into the AC.

Another position: There aren't longer good arguments for a special GaJ network, where not so many activities – if any – are realized in the time between AC's. Informer times, there were good reasons for a separate Women's network. Gender issues are meanwhile in core everywhere.

Third position: It still seems necessary to organize a female (better: diversity) perspective. We should take care for a balance of male and female speakers – as an example. This was already considered for the input during this AC but the financial burden was far beyond the reach of the budget.

The Board and all members should pay attention to the gender aspect.

The Board will discuss the issue and will prepare a solution.

12. Communication

- Sofia af Geijerstam indicated that there are possibilities to improve the communication: to shape the newsletter more animated she needs more information about some highlights of the members. It might be in national languages with a summary in English.
- It would be desirable to have more two-way communication.
- An updated membership list was distributed.
- Members are asked for a permanent actualisation of their information as enclosed in the booklet from the AC in Villigst. This up-to-date-information could go onto the website. Please share any amendments to the member portraits with the secretariat.

13. Cooperation within Oikosnet Europe

- Executive Secretary Rüdiger Noll stated that there are less cooperative activities among OE members.
- The offer of Oikonet Europe of up to 5000 € as seed money for common projects was not used, except once. What are the reasons?
- Rüdiger informed about the Civil Society Project, in which OE is one of the stakeholders.
- An experience so far: it turned out to be a very important project, a project where East and West can learn from each other.
- Reports about Dialogue for Peaceful Change (DPC) and the Arab-European Dialogue were given. A suggestion for the Arab-European Dialogue: to include Arab people living in Europe.

14. Developments within OE Members

In a very lively evening session every member gave a report of successful as well as disappointing experiences and developments. In the end there was a consentaneous conclusion: there is a great richness in our members that can be shared.

15. Annual Conference(s) 2018/2019 (decision)

- Kostas Zorbas invited the Annual Conference from 5. to 9. September 2018 to the Orthodox Academy of Crete.
He presented the Academy which was founded 1968 and highlighted some events from then 50 years history.
For the Annual Conference next year he proposed the theme "What can we learn from the economic crisis in Greece?"
The Assembly was very grateful for the invitation and accepted it unanimously.
Maybe there are ideas to support the chosen theme, someone should take responsibility for a support process.
- Sara Marta Rostagno invites the AC to come to Agape/Italy 2019.

- It was mentioned by the Ev. Academy Baden representatives that an AC date in September during summer holidays is a problem for Baden-Württemberg and Bavarian members. The Board will think about it.

16. Any Other Business

Elisabeth Reichen-Amsler pleaded again for the Gender and Justice network and asked for the possibility to extend the AC. The Board will consider.

At this moment the leaving president handed over the presidency to his successor, Walter Lüsi.

Minutes were taken by Hermann Düringer, Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

Walter Lüsi, President



Sara Marta Rostagno, co-signer

