

Oikosnet Europe

The 63rd Annual Conference – Business meeting

Orthodox Academy of Crete, 7-8 September 2018



Draft Minutes

by Alf Linderman, Head of the Oikosnet Europe Secretariat in Sigtuna, Sweden



Participants

Name	Academy	Country
Sara Marta Rostagno	Agape Centro Ecumenico	Italy
Jaroslav Jozwik	Akademia Supraska	Poland
Sören Lenz	CEC	France
Karolína Silná	Ekumenická akademie (Ecumenical Academy)	Czech Republic
Jörg Hübner	Evangelische Akademie Bad Boll	Germany
Georg Lämmlin	Evangelische Akademie Bad Boll	Germany
Gernot Meier	Evangelische Akademie Baden	Germany
Wiebke Juhl-Nielsen	Evangelische Akademie der Nordkirche	Germany
Georg Wenz	Evangelische Akademie der Pfalz	Germany
Birgit Weinbrenner	Evangelische Akademie Villigst -Westphalian Church	Germany
Michael Dr. Hartmann	Evangelische Akademie zu Berlin gGmbH	Germany
Kalliopi Mavragka	Interorthodox Centre of the Church of Greece	Greece
Metropolitan Ioannes Sakellariou	Interorthodox Centre of the Church of Greece	Greece
Marjaana Kanerva	Kirkkopalvelut/The Church Resources Agency	Finland
Kristin Gunleiksrud Raaum	Norske kirkeakademier	Norway
Kjell Riise	Norske kirkeakademier	Norway
Rüdiger Noll	Oikosnet Europe	Germany
Katerina Karkala-Zorba	Orthodox Academy of Crete	Greece
Konstantinos Zormpas	Orthodox Academy of Crete	Greece
Stefan Grotefeld	Plusbildung - Ecumenical Learning in Switzerland	Switzerland
Walter Lüssi	Plusbildung - Ecumenical Learning in Switzerland	Switzerland
Grzegorz Giemza	Polska Rada Ekumeniczna	Poland
Istvan Elter	Reformed Conference Center of Monoszlo (MEIK)	Hungary
Sofia af Geijerstam	Sigtunastiftelsen	Sweden
Alf Linderman	Sigtunastiftelsen	Sweden
Svaitoslav Rogalsky	Sts. Methodius and Cyril Educational Center	Belarus
Christodoulos Christodoulou	Cultural Academy, Saint Epifanios	Cyprus

Proxies

Walter Lüssi	Proxy for TeCum	Switzerland
Sören Lenz	Proxy for Liebfrauenberg	France
George Wenz	Proxy for St Andrews	Russia
Rüdiger Noll	Proxy for Lux Mundi	Spain
Rüdiger Noll	Proxy for Akademie Sachsen-Anhalt	Germany

1. Opening and Welcome and Introduction

The President Walter Lüssi welcomed all participants and the General Assembly to the Business meeting held in conjunction with the Annual Conference (AC) at the Orthodox Academy of Crete, Greece.

2. Roll call and Quorum

Rüdiger Noll informed the General Assembly (GA) that there are 37 members of the Association, and if one new member will be accepted during the meeting, this will mean that there will be 38 members. According to the Constitution of Oikosnet Europe (OE), The GA has a quorum when at least one third plus one of the members are represented by delegates or by written proxy. This would imply that 13 members are needed for the GA to meet these conditions. If one new member is accepted during the meeting, this will imply that 14 members are needed. Since there were 16 members present, and in addition 5 proxies, the GA decided that the conditions for quorum were fulfilled.

3. Acceptance of New Members

The Reformed Conference Centre of Monoszlo has applied for membership in OE. This academy is the property of the Reformed (HB) Congregation of Monoszlo, a parish of the Reformed Church of Hungary. The director Istvan Elter gave a short presentation of the Monoszlo academy. The centre is committed to the education of the new generations in the spirit of mutual tolerance and understanding among all Abrahamic confessions and beyond, through sincere and open-minded discussion. With an interdenominational approach it works on deepening social responsibility towards the values of the created world, with a special focus on environmental questions. In its activities, the centre attempts to overcome obstacles that are the result of various kinds of political divisions. The GA welcomed Monoszlo as a member of OE.



4. Adoption of the Agenda

Walter Lüssi informed about the lack of conclusive information from the Nominations Committee that was elected at the AC of 2017. The GA decided that we despite this could continue also with elections based on nominations made by the board in conjunction with the present AC. Lüssi also said that the present Treasurer, Nicola Murray, was unable to attend this meeting. Furthermore, the accounts for 2017 had not been properly scrutinized by the Auditors, and the budget for 2019 was created by the Secretariat just before the AC. Lüssi also informed that since the present Treasurer was not present, Alf Linderman was asked to present the accounts for 2017 as well as the budget for 2019. After this information was given, the GA decided to adopt the suggested agenda.

5. Election of the Co-signers of the Minutes

Konstantinos Zormpas, Orthodox Academy of Crete, Greece, and Christodoulos Christodoulou, Cultural Academy, Saint Epifanios, Cyprus, were elected by the GA to be Co-signers of the minutes. (This part of the agenda was chaired by Konstantinos Zormpas.)

6. Adoption of the Minutes of Last Meeting

The GA decided to adopt the Minutes of the last meeting taking place in Flehingen, Germany. (This part of the agenda was chaired by Konstantinos Zormpas.)

7. Presentation and Discussion of the Annual Report

The different sections of the Annual Report, which had been sent out in advance to all members of the association, were presented by those involved in writing these sections. For each section, it was possible for participants to ask questions about the content of the report. The GA decided to adopt the Annual Report as it was.

8. Finances

8.1 Accounts 2017 – see Appendix I below

Alf Linderman presented the financial accounts for 2017. These accounts were completed by the Sigtuna Secretariat and signed by the board already at the board meeting in Strasbourg in March 2018. The treasurer, however, had not been present in Strasbourg and had therefore not been able to sign the accounts. Furthermore, the auditors, Karolina Silna and Günter Renz, had not been asked to review the accounts for 2017.

Given this situation, the President suggested that the GA could adopt the accounts for 2017 under the condition that the auditors will not have any critical remarks after having reviewed the accounts. The GA decided in line with this suggestion.

8.2 Budget 2019 – see Appendix II below

Alf Linderman presented the proposed budget for 2019. This budget is in line with previous budgets for the association. The GA decided to adopt this budget for 2019.

8.3 State of Affairs 2018

Alf Linderman gave a brief presentation as to the state of affairs for the current year. There are at present no significant diversions from the budget for 2018.

9. Elections

Walter Lüssi presented the nominations made by the board based on previous communications with the elected Nominations Committee. The board had the following propositions:

Vice President: Kristin Gunleiksrud Raaum, Norway, Treasurer: Karolína Silná, Czech Republic, Auditors: Sara Marta Rostagno, Italy.

Lüssi also stated that one additional auditor was needed, and that the association also needed one additional member of the Nomination Committee. It was during the meeting proposed that Birgit Weinbrenner should be one additional Auditor and that Metropolitan Ioannes Sakellariou should become a member of the Nominations Committee. The GA decided in accordance with the suggestions as follows:

Vice President: Kristin Gunleiksrud Raaum, Norway

Treasurer: Karolína Silná, Czech Republic

Auditors: Sara Marta Rostagno, Italy, and Birgit Weinbrenner, Germany

Additional member of the Nominations Committee: Metropolitan Ioannes Sakellariou, Greece (Sakellariou will serve together with Alexei Bodrov, Russia/The Netherlands, who was elected at the previous AC)

10. Vision, Mission ... of Oikosnet Europe

This part of the agenda was introduced by Walter Lüssi and Sören Lenz. This item referred to a document that had been sent to all members prior to the AC. It was decided that Sören Lenz should try to sum up comments made during the meeting in a document that then should be discussed by the board in an upcoming board meeting. Furthermore, it was decided that all participants and members could send any comments and suggestions directly to the Sigtuna Secretariat. Such comments should then be made available to the board prior to the next board meeting (which will take place in Warsaw 21 November 2018).

11. Oikosnet Inclusion Policy: Gender and Diversity

Sören Lenz and Kristin Gunleiksrud introduced this workshop on Gender and Diversity. The background is the previous Women's Network that organized a pre-conference to the Annual Conference. This network was followed by the Gender and Justice Network who operated in a similar way, but these pre-conferences were open for all participants. After that these separate parts of the AC ended, it was assumed that these dimensions should be included in the regular program of the ACs, but this had not really been the case.



Lenz and Gunleiksrud organized a regular workshop around this item in the agenda. This workshop was looking into the following themes; diversity matters, making sense of diversity, mapping diversity, prioritization for our work, working groups. This workshop and its outcome and conclusions will be discussed by the board in subsequent board meetings.

12. Reports from Projects

12.1 Civil Society in Central Europe

This item was also part of the general AC programme, with Rüdiger Noll and Alf Linderman as responsible delegates, and was therefore not discussed at this point in the Business Meeting.

12.2 Arab-European Citizens' Dialogue

Alf Linderman gave a short report on the last dialogue consultation that took place at the Sigtuna Foundation in early May this year. The Coptic Organization for Social Services (CEOSS) in Egypt and Oikosnet Europe are the two responsible partnering institutions for this project. For OE, Katerina Karkala and Alf Linderman are appointed as their primary representatives. The Sigtuna event was funded by Bread for the World, Germany, supporting Arab participation with EUR 15.000, and the Sigtuna Foundation, Sweden, supporting both Arab and European participation with EUR 30.000. The next event is planned to take place in Beirut in late March next year.

12.3 DPC

Walter Lüssi gave a very short presentation of the written statement on the project Dialogue for Peaceful Change (DPC) that was sent out to all participants prior to the AC. He announced that DPC has an opportunity to present its activities at the International Peace Centre at the German Kirchentag 2019.

13. Membership

13.1 Membership Developments

13.2 Developments within Members

Rüdiger Noll made the following comments regarding membership issues.

- There should be the aim that a European network should represent as many contexts, regions and confessions as possible. With the present 38 members this is no longer the case, which also hampers a broader pan-European exchange.
- There is a likelihood that Oikosnet will lose some more members in the near future (two further have already announced their resignation), not at least due to the fact often a membership is related to a particular person
- Any attempts after the discussions at the Board meeting in Friedberg (Nov 2015) did not lead to any new membership, equally the Eastern European Consultation (Liebfrauenberg), nor the invitation of potential new members to ACs
- Monoszlo became a new member due to its involvement of the civil society project and due to the Board meeting in Hungary

The discussion on membership led to the strong plea of Georg Wenz and Gernot Meier to discuss again the raison d'être of Oikosnet.

In the context of this item on the agenda, Walter Lüssi also stated that in the general AC programme, there is a special session devoted to exchange among members. This item is included in the program to make it possible to learn more about what is going on within other OE members.

14. Dates of future Oikosnet ACs

Under this item, Sara Marta Rostagno first gave a presentation of the venue for the next Annual Conference of Oikosnet Europe: Agape. This AC is scheduled for 11-15 September 2019. Agape was and is an important point of reference in Italian Protestantism, for 70 years a place of education and development, theological exploration, political engagement, of acceptance and validation of differences.



Agape was built after the Second World War as a sign of hope and of reconciliation between people, thanks to the voluntary work of many young men and women; a resident group still lives at Agape throughout the year and the dimensions of community and voluntary service remain central. The name Agape indicates the love of God for humankind that "never fails". The Centre expresses a strong lay spirituality, where believers and non-believers feel equally at home. Agape is in Prali, a small village of the Cottian Alps (nearly 1600 metres above sea level), encircled by fir trees and south-facing meadows, with an architecture that is rich in symbols. The materials are typical of the Waldensian Valleys, wood and stone, with large expanses of glass and wide-open spaces – according to the architect's definition of space as something that is generated "by the use that is made of it". Being thought as a centre for community, the Open-air Church and the great hall are the core of all the activities leaving private spaces such as the bed rooms essentials. The building offers 100 beds, with bathrooms on each floor, a great hall, a modern kitchen, a fair-trade bar and a library. Around twenty conferences are organised during the year including camps, seminars and study weekends. Agape offers educational programmes to schools and is also open to individuals and groups who provide their own programme of events.

For 2020, the GA has already decided that the Annual Conference will take place on September 9 till 13 in Bad Boll, Germany, which will celebrate its 75 anniversary.

Under this item, Alf Linderman also presented the outcome of the survey concerning different options for having the AC. The result was as follows:

Last week of August 1,95

First week of July 2,0

Last week of June - 2,7

First week of September - 2,45

Second week of September - 2,9

First week of October - 3,8

Thus, it was concluded that the early October option was preferred among the members but also that the second week of September, a timing used for many previous ACs, is the second best option. It was decided that this information should be given to the hosting Academy, but that there must be some leverage for the hosting Academy to determine specific dates for the AC.

With this, the AC was concluded and the President Walter Lüssi conveyed his and the board's appreciation for the interest and engagement by all participating members.



Signatures

Walter Lüssi, President

Alf Linderman, minute writer

Kostas Zorbas, co-signer

Christodoulos Christodoulou, co-signer

Resultaträkning

Profit and loss statement

	Not	2017 SEK*	2017 EURO
Verksamhetens intäkter/income			
Membership fees	1	304 872	31 650
Donations		1 084 188	112 554
Participation fees, annual meeting		68 873	7 150
Other income		<u>2 745</u>	<u>285</u>
Summa intäkter/total income		1 460 678	151 639
Verksamhetens kostnader/expenses			
Secretariat fees		-97 665	-10 139
Conferences			
board meetings		-37 741	-3 918
annual conference		-101 142	-10 500
Travel			
Travelling cost		-17 570	-1 824
Administration			
Supplementary bank charges		-3 391	-352
Other expenses			
Other costs		<u>-6 261</u>	<u>-650</u>
Summa kostnader/Total expenses		-263 769	-27 383
Verksamhetens resultat/Surplus+ / Defecit -		1 196 909	124 256

Balansräkning

Balance sheet

	2017-12-31 SEK	2017-12-31 EURO
TILLGÅNGAR/assets		
Receivables	11 559	1 200
Bank balance	1 210 038	125 619
Total current assets	1 221 597	126 819
SUMMA TILLGÅNGAR/total assets	1 221 597	126 819
EGET KAPITAL OCH SKULDER/Equity and liabilities		
Balanserat resultat / Balanced surplus or deficit		0
Årets resultat/Surplus or Deficit	1 196 909	124 256
Summa eget kapital/ Capital of Oikosnet Europé Idelle förening	1 196 909	124 256
Kortfristiga skulder/short term liabilities		
Oikosnet International	24 688	2 563
Summa kortfristiga skulder/total short term liabilities	24 688	2 563
SUMMA EGET KAPITAL OCH SKULDER/	1 221 597	126 819
Totalt Equity and Liabilities		

* exchange rate 9,6326

Not I Members 2017

Country	Code	Member	Fee	Paid 2017
Austria	AU 01	Evangelische Akademie Wien	500	1
Switzerland	CH 03	tecum – Zentrum für Spiritualität, Bildung und Gemeindebau	750	1
Switzerland	CH 04	EREN-Theologie Education Formation	500	1
Switzerland	CH 05	plusbildung - Ökumenische Bildungslandschaft Schweiz	1 200	1
Cyprus	CY 01	Metropolis of Constantia - Ammochostos	500	1
Czech Rep.	CZ 02	Ekumenická Akademie Praha	500	1
France	FR 03	Le Liebfrauenberg, Centre de Rencontres et de Formation	750	1
UK	GB 03	Corrymeela Centre	750	1
Germany	GE 01	Evangelische Akademie Frankfurt	1 200	1
Germany	GE 02	Evangelische Akademie Bad Boll	3 300	1
Germany	GE 03	Evangelische Akademie Baden	1 200	1
Germany	GE 05	Evangelische Akademie zu Berlin	1 700	1
Germany	GE 09	Evangelische Akademie Hofgeismar	750	1
Germany	GE 10	Evangelische Akademie Villigst	2 200	1
Germany	GE 11	Evangelische Akademie Loccum	3 000	1
Germany	GE 13	Evangelisch Akademie im Rheinland	1 700	1
Germany	GE 14	Evangelische Akademie Oldenburg	500	1
Germany	GE 15	Evangelische Akademie der Nordkirche	500	1
Germany	GE 16	Evangelische Akademie Haus am Schüberg	750	1
Germany	GE 17	Evangelische Akademie der Pfalz	500	1
Germany	GE 18	Evangelische Akademie Meissen	300	1
Germany	GE 19	Evangelische Akademie Sachsen-Anhalt	500	1
Germany	GE 21	Evangelische Akademie Thüringen	500	1
Greece	GR 01	Orthodox Academy of Crete	500	1
Hungary	HU 02	Megbekeles Haza House of Reconciliation	500	1
Italy	IT 01	Agape Centro Ecumenico	500	1
Norway	NO 01	Norske kirkeakademier	500	1
Russia	RU 01	St Andrew's Biblical Theological Institute	500	1
Sweden	SE 05	Sigtunastiftelsen	2 200	1
Finland	SF 01	Suomen Kirkon Seurakuntaopisto	1 700	1
Finland	SF 04	Valamo Lay Academy	1 200	1
Belarus	BL 01	Saints Methodius and Cyrill Christian Educational Cente	500	0
Spain	ES 01	Centro Ecuménico Los Rubios	200	0
Greece	GR 03	Interorthodox Centre of the Church of Greece	500	0
Italy	IT 02	Casa Cares	500	0
Netherlands	NL 02	Stichting Oikos	1 200	0
Poland	PL 01	Suprasl Academy / Fundacja Oikonomos	500	0

Appendix II

OIKOSNET Europe - BUDGET 2019

01.01.2018 - 31.12.2018 (in EURO)

	2016 Budget		2017 Budget		2018 Budget		2019 Budget	
	Items	Totals	Items	Totals	Items	Totals	Items	Totals
Income								
Income		€ 32 100		€ 34 100		€ 27 100		€ 32 100
Church agencies	0		0		0			
Church subsidies	0		0		0			
Project Related subsidies	0		0		0			
Membership fees	32 000		34 000		27 000		32000	
Administration costs subsidies	0		0		0			
Donations	100		100		100		100	
Other Income	0		0		0			
Interest		€ 750		€ 250		€ 100		€ 0
Other interest and similar income	750		250		100			
Income from investments	0		0		0			
<i>Taken from the reserves of Oikosnet Europe</i>		€ 111 500		€ 12 850		€ 9 400		€ 16 500
Total Income		€ 144 350		€ 47 200		€ 36 600		€ 48 600
Expenses								
Salaries		-€ 10 000		-€ 10 000		-€ 10 000		-€ 10 000
Fees secretariat at Sigtuna Stiftelsen	-10 000		-10 000		-10 000		-10000	
Other fees								
Conferences		-€ 24 000		-€ 26 000		-€ 18 500		-€ 33 000
Board meetings	-5 000		-5 000		-3 500		-4000	
Annual Conference	-2 500		-3 000		-3 000		-3000	
Oikosnet International	-1 500							
Ecumenical learning							-2000	
Investments in Projects*	-10 000		-12 000		-6 000		-18000	
Initiatives from bring together possible members in Eastern Europe	-5 000							
Arab-Euro Dialogue			-4 000		-4 000		-4000	
Developing new relationships with possible new members			-2 000		-2 000		-2000	
Travel		-€ 6 000		-€ 6 000		-€ 5 000		-€ 2 500
Travelling costs staff	-2 500		-2 500		-2 000		-500	
Travelling costs board	-3 000		-3 000		-2 500		-1500	
Travelling costs others	-500		-500		-500		-500	
Representation		-€ 2 000		-€ 2 000		-€ 2 000		-€ 2 000
Representative expenses	-500		-500		-500		-500	
Ecumenical guests	-1 500		-1 500		-1 500		-1500	
Administration		-€ 1 600		-€ 1 200		-€ 100		-€ 100
Internet, other costs of telecommun	0		0		0			
Legal costs and advice for the change towards a Swedish entity	-1 000		-1 000		0			
Data processing	-400							
Supplementary bank charges	-200		-200		-100		-100	

Other Expenses	-€ 100 750	-€ 2 000	-€ 1 000	-€ 1 000
Training expenses	0	0	0	
Other costs	-750	-2 000	-1 000	-1000
Transfer part capital to Oikosnet Europe Swedish entity	-100 000			
	€ 144 350-	€ 47 200-	€ 36 600-	€ 48 600-

*These investments are earmarked to three specific projects: 2.800 for the civil society project (not used in the previous year), 5.000 for a project of Plusbildung on civil society, 10.000 for a conference in Hermannstadt/Sibiu prior to the 2019 EU Summit on the future of Europe (rounded up to 18000)