

Oikosnet Europe

General Assembly 2024

The Evangelical Church  
of the Augsburg Confession

Warszawa, Poland, 2 – 6 October 2024



## Annual Report 2024

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### **“Carry on differently!”**

Foreword by the President, Rev. Walter Lüssi

“Carry on differently!” (“Anders weiter!” was the motto of Plusbildung Schweiz last September. It stood over an education week with local and language-regional activities as well as a national event in Bern.

“Carry on differently!” Don't just do it the way you used to! Where do you think you should carry on differently in your life – for yourself personally, in your relationships, so that something can change for the better? Where should we do things differently because the old solutions are no longer working, because the challenges in Europe and beyond have become more acute and because fears and threats have increased? And last but not least: Where and how should Oikosnet Europe continue differently? How we can come to reconciliation through all the new and ongoing conflicts between countries, churches and citizens across Europe and the world. How can we ‘witness the hope which is in us and work towards a society which is rooted in reconciliation, justice, inspiring confidence and hope’, as the working group that worked on the implementation of the Action Plan put it?

“Carry on differently!” Not just any more of the same, as the psychotherapist and communication scientist Paul Watzlawick described for us individual people in his legendary “Die Kunst des Unglücklichseins” (“The Art of Being Unhappy”). Personally, I sometimes play mind games and relate individual experiences and insights to systems: For example, if you don't want to be lonely in old age, you either have to have children and cultivate a trusting relationship with them or/and consciously cultivate relationships with younger people. If an organisation like Oikosnet Europe wants to have a chance for the future and do something good for our planet and life on it, it must consciously create space for the younger generations and build and maintain good relationships with them.

Around 25 years ago, when I led the task force that brought the Swiss mission organisations together to form Mission 21 in Basel and when I became the first president of Mission 21, I was profiled in a southern German newspaper. The title of the article at the time was ‘Humorous tenacity’. And yes, that is important to me: humour and a certain tenacity at the same time. And that's why I'm now trying to transfer this to Oikosnet Europe. Even in difficult situations, humour testifies to a certain lightness of life. We bear witness to the fact that we cannot save the world ourselves, but that we know a hope that we do not have from ourselves and that we therefore act out of trust in this hope. And tenacity has to do with perseverance. Despite all the zeitgeist, not to adapt our own commitment to the headlines of the media and the countless news items, but to decide to look out for clever collaborations and to contribute our thoroughly developed expertise to the social discourse and to work on practical and effective implementation “in good and bad times”.

In addition to all these considerations, I would like to conclude with a short story that shows that “Carry on differently” can also work quite simply – provided we trust that others are also trying – and can inspire us to take surprisingly new actions. And and inspire us to take surprisingly new actions”

*When Sheikh Abu Said, one of the most famous Islamic mystics of the eleventh century, once came to Tus, a city in the north-east of what is now Iran, so many believers streamed into the mosque that there was no room left. The usher called out to the crowd: “Everyone should come one step closer from where they are.” The sheikh closed the meeting before it had begun. “Everything I wanted to say and all the prophets have said, the usher has already said,” he explained, before turning and leaving the city: “Everyone should come one step closer from where he is.” (A story told by the German-Iranian writer Navid Kermani in his book “Jeder soll von da, wo er ist, einen Schritt näher kommen. Fragen nach Gott», Hanser 2022).*

## Activities of the Management Board

*Alf Linderman*

### 2023-11-28 Joint Oikosnet Europe and EAEE Board Meeting (Zoom Conference)

#### **OE Board Members present:**

Walter Lüssi, President  
Heinz-Joachim Lohmann (joined 12:18)  
Katerina Karkala, Vice president  
Kjell Riise

#### **EAEE Board Members present:**

Veronika Matějková, President  
Heike Witzel, Treasurer  
Hege Irene Fossum  
Harald Skarsaune

#### **OE Board Members excused:**

Lucia Leonardi

#### **EAEE Board Members excused:**

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#### **Others present:**

Rüdiger Noll, OE Executive Secretary  
Alf Linderman, OE Treasurer

#### **Main themes of the meeting:**

In the joint OE - EAEE sessions at the OE General Assembly and EAEE-study tour in Basel in October 2023, EAEE expressed an interest for their members to work together on adult education issues and, as a result, become members of OE. There was a mutual understanding of that the idea to “join forces” would be strengthening for all involved.

At the same time, it was noted that there still were some concrete issues in need of further discussion. These items discussed were as follows.

#### Structural issues

It is up to each present member of EAEE to decide whether they want to become a member of OE. If so, they all need to apply individually. The fact that members of EAEE represent different kinds and types of organization, from national churches, umbrella organizations, Academic Departments to smaller independent units - all involved in education with adults - is not a problem.

#### Financial issues

Membership fees: It is of course important for EAEE members to know the financial implications of changing to membership in OE rather than in EAEE.

Walter Lüssi explained that he as OE President will suggest for EAEE members to have the same membership fees in OE as they have had in EAEE. Heike Witzel, the EAEE Treasurer, thanked the OE President for this offer.

Remaining EAEE Funds after 2023: It was concluded that these funds could be transferred to the OE Administration, but then as project funds for a so-called EAEE-project within OE. Thus, these funds would still be under the mandate of the group of the former EAEE members.

### Content issues

The work of EAEE have been focused on Adult Education, and there would be an interest for that to also be an important dimension of the work within the joint OE organization. It was concluded that this area of work is inherently a part of the work done among many, if not most, OE members.

### **2023-12-19 Oikosnet Board (Zoom Conference)**

#### **Board Members present:**

Walter Lüssi, President  
Katerina Karkala, Vice president  
Lucia Leonardi  
Heinz-Joachim Lohmann  
Kjell Riise



#### **Others present**

Maria-Pia Anderloni, Secretariat  
Sofia af Geijerstam, Secretariat  
Alf Linderman, Treasurer  
Rüdiger Noll, Executive Secretary

*Photo: Kjell Riise*

#### **Main themes of the meeting:**

##### Relationship with EAEE (EAEE members in Oikosnet)

Decisions made at the previous EAEE – Oikosnet Europe joint board meeting were reiterated.

##### Implementation of the Action Plan from Basel through a Working Group)

Members of the steering committee for the Working group were selected, and early next year, they will work on a proposal for the structure and composition of the Working Group to be presented to the board.

### General Assembly 2024 (Venue?)

The dates were set to 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> of October. Several options as to potential locations were discussed, but no decision was taken at this point.

### Finances

Membership Fees 2023: It was discussed that some of the members are not paying their membership fees, and this is obviously problematic.

Accounts from the Basel General Assembly: It was concluded that the Basel event was very successful, but also very expensive.

### Changes at the Sigtuna Secretariat

The Sigtuna Secretariat will still be managing the accounting and bookkeeping for Oikosnet Europe. However, information and other administrative tasks must be taken over by another member institution.

### Reports

There were reports about the Arab-European Citizens' Dialog (past and future), CPCE (Community of Protestant Churches in Europe), CEC Relations and the European Christian Convention.

### 2024-04-03 Oikosnet Board (Zoom Conference)

#### **Board Members present:**

Walter Lüssi  
Katerina Karkala (Vice president)  
Lucia Leonardi  
Heinz-Joachim Lohmann, Ex. Secr.  
Kjell Riise

#### **Others present**

Sofia af Geijerstam, Secretariat  
Alf Linderman, Treasurer  
Rüdiger Noll



*Photo: Kjell Riise*

## **Main themes of the meeting:**

### Contract with and New Members from EAEE

The contract was finalized, and member applications have started to come in.

### Working Group of the Action Plan from Basel: 20.03.2024; 15-17h

The Working Group of the action plan has been formed and participants have been selected.

### General Assembly 2024 Date and Place

The previously decided dates were confirmed, and the Venue was decided to be Warsaw, Poland. This would give the association significant opportunities to strengthen Oikosnet Europe's relations to members and partners in Eastern Europe.

### General Assembly 2025 in September in Wittenberg?

The idea of having the 2025 General Assembly in Wittenberg, Germany, was introduced. The exact dates for the 2025 General Assembly must be explored further given the opportunities given in Wittenberg, but there is still time until this must be settled.

### Projects for Young People

Two ongoing projects focused on young people were presented.

### Finances

The financial situation was discussed.

### Reports

The present plans for the upcoming Arab-Europe Citizens' Dialogue conference at the Orthodox Academy of Crete from May 8 (arrival) to May 11 (departure) were presented.

## **2024-05-27-29 Oikosnet Europe Board Meeting (Warsaw, The Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Republic of Poland)**

**Board Members present:**

Walter Lüssi (President)  
Katerina Karkala (Vice president)  
Lucia Leonardi  
Heinz-Joachim Lohmann (Ex. Sec.)  
Kjell Riise



*Photo: Alf Linderman*

**Others present**

Alf Linderman, Treasurer  
Ewa Śliwka (for the upcoming General Assembly in Warsaw only)  
Grzegorz Giemza (for the upcoming General Assembly in Warsaw only)

**Main themes of the meeting:**Planning for the next General Assembly

The following items were discussed: Venue and Practical Details, Invitation and Registration, Worship Life, Main Theme (Study Day/Excursion), Scheme of the overall Program, Business Sessions, Annual Report, Elections and Guests to be invited to the General Assembly.

Future of Oikosnet – Working Group

The content and discussions of the first two meetings of the Future of Oikosnet Working Group that was assigned by the General Assembly in Basel 2023 was presented and discussed.

Involving (future) Members in Central and Eastern Europe

There was a constructive conversation with Ewa Śliwka and Grzegorz Giemza from Poland as to how to create stronger links to Central and Eastern Europe.

New members from the former EAEE association

Five applications have arrived at this point.

Oikosnet Europe Priority Themes

Education and the ongoing youth projects were discussed

Finances (2023/Budget 2025)

The present financial situation and a preliminary budget for 2025 were presented.

Oikosnet Website Improvement

The work to find a functional way organize the work and administration of the Oikosnet Europe website, OIKOSNET.EU, continues.

Consulting Contract with Rüdiger Noll

A consulting contract for the previous Executive Secretary, Rüdiger Noll, has now been established and signed.

## Relations

Arab-European Citizens' Dialogue and the Conference at the Orthodox Academy of Crete earlier in May this year was discussed together with CPCE and its 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Communion of Protestant Churches in Europe will take place in Sibiu, Romania, 27 August to 2 September 2024.

## 2024-06-27 Oikosnet Board (Zoom Conference)

### **Board Members present:**

Walter Lüssi, President  
Katerina Karkala, Vice President  
Lucia Leonardi  
Heinz-Joachim Lohmann, Ex. Secr.  
Kjell Riise



### **Others present**

Alf Linderman, Treasurer  
Maria-Pia Anderloni, Secretariat (from item 3)  
Rüdiger Noll, Consultant

*Photo: Kjell Riise*

### **Main themes of the meeting:**

The main points focused at this meeting was primarily the same as in the May Board meeting in Warsaw. Given the time for this meeting, the discussion on the preparation of the General Assembly took up most of the time at this meeting. In addition to this, the Working Group, New members, Priority themes and the Finances were discussed.



## Activities of the President

Walter Lüssi

As usual, I will briefly discuss special activities from the perspective of the Chairman and the Board in the Annual Report, followed by more detailed reports from other responsible persons

### CHANGE OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND CHANGE IN THE OFFICE:

*Rüdiger Noll* stepped down as Executive Secretary at the end of last year. In the first quarter of this year, I was able to invite him to Switzerland for a few days and thank him for his many years of commitment with a great deal of Swissness. At the same time, we negotiated an agreement with Rüdiger under which he can offer his expertise as a consultant. Rüdiger is ready to continue working in the network:

- Participate in the working group for the further development of Oikosnet,
- Advise the Executive Board in its activities to strengthen the network and contribute
- his European contacts from politics, the church and civil society to the discussion and
- planning processes,
- Work for Oikosnet Europe in the Arab-European Dialogue (AECD) and in the EDU
- network.
- He contributes relevant aspects from his work at the German Protestant Church
- Congress to the work of Oikosnet Europe.
- Recruitment of new members.

On the other hand, *Heinz-Joachim Lohmann* has taken on the role of Executive Secretary with a great deal of energy, intelligence and negotiating skills. The challenges are not only great because of the action plan that needs to be implemented, but also because there have been fundamental changes in the staffing of the Office. We owe him and the Evangelische Akademie zu Berlin, which has made him available, a big thank you!

Towards the end of last year, we spoke to Sigtuna, which has also been home to the Oikosnet Europe office since our legal domicile in Sweden, about upcoming changes. *Sofia af Geijerstam*, we were told, would only be available to us for knowledge transfer in relation to addresses, communication and administrative

tasks in preparation for the General Assemblies. We are grateful that *Maria-Pia Anderloni* will continue to take over the bookkeeping in Sigtuna.

Board member *Kjell Y. Riise* is to thank for the fact that the communicative tasks will be continued and persistently expanded with various social media activities. On the other hand, it is again thanks to the efforts of the Evangelische Akademie Berlin and the new Board Secretary that the administrative tasks could be taken over. However, the workload is very high. A permanent solution has yet to be found.

#### APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP / EAEE:

We remember: In Basel, the EAEE decided to disband and invited its former members to apply for membership of Oikosnet Europe. In a joint agreement, we defined the opening of Oikosnet to members with a special focus on adult education and how the funds we received after the dissolution of the EAEE should be used. Many thanks in particular to Veronika Matějková and Heike Witzel for this successful process!

I am very pleased that three new members of Oikosnet Europe will be presenting themselves in Warsaw. These are:

- *The Christian Association for Adult Education in Norway*
- *Die Evangelische Erwachsenenbildung – Bundesverband e.V. (EE Bundesverband / Protestant Adult Education – Federal Association)*
- *The Church and Hussite Theological Faculty of Charles University, Prague*

### **Work of the new Executive Secretary**

Heinz-Joachim Lohmann

The main topics of the work of the Executive Secretary in 2024 have been:

1. The Shift of Tasks from the Office in Sigtuna to Berlin. Here has Kateryna Stulnikova taken over some of the tasks of Sofia. She is answering now the mail to the office and keeps the website on track.
2. The work on the action plan took place since the beginning of the year. The steering committee and the working group worked on a foundation statement and the following tasks of the working group for the next year. Both documents will be received with the documents of the General Assembly.

3. The preparation of the General Assembly in this year started in April in Warszawa together with Anna Wrzesińska and Ewa Śliwka from the church of the Augsburg Confession in the Republic of Poland. Both worked very hard to get the General assembly in place and especially Anna was in a permanent contact and track on all details of organisational stuff.
4. The Oikosnet Youth Project went on in 2 Parts. One happened in Agape in June, the second in Potsdam in September. Reason for the 2. Part was to take organisations in who work with young people but are not part of oikosnet now and to open new ways of finances. Both parts had been really successful and you will hear more on General Assembly.
5. I visited the General Assembly of CECE in Sibiu at the end of August. There was some agreement with Mario Fischer, the General Secretary on working together in several topics in the future, e.g. program for young people, democracy and civil society. There was a real impressive spiritual life on the GA, some conflicts on Gender issues and a thrilling work process on the agenda for the next decade.

## **Report on the Oikosnet Advisor**

Rüdiger Noll

By the end of 2023, Rüdiger Noll retired as the Executive Secretary of Oikosnet Europe after roughly 10 years of service in this position. In order to further include his expertise in Oikosnet Europe, the Board decided to offer him a contract as an advisor with a special emphasis on bringing in his networks and contacts and supporting the Oikosnet Board and the Working Group on the Future of the Network. He will also continue to represent Oikosnet Europe in the Arab-European Citizens's Dialogue (AECD) and the German Kirchentag. The agreement came into effect on 1 July 2024 and will be reviewed by the end of 2025.

In these capacities, Rüdiger Noll attended all meetings of the Oikosnet Board (except the residential meeting in Warsaw) and all meetings of the Working Group on the Future of Oikosnet Europe.

The German Kirchentag is at present undergoing a substantial reform process, in which he is participating as member of the Präsidialversammlung. For the next Kirchentag in Hannover, he is member of the project group on ecumenism.

Besides numerous zoom conferences, two meetings were held in the framework of the AECD were held in Crete: a preparatory meeting and a conference on “The Role of Religions and Civil Society at Times of War and Conflict”. Rüdiger Noll was the main drafter of the final communique of the conference.

As reported t other places in this report, the OE Working Group in the Future in its first phase looked very much on priority issues for OE. In its now beginning second phase issues of structure and membership will be reviewed, where the Advisor – according to the Agreement – is asked to especially bring in his expertise.

## **Financial Report**

*Alf Linderman, Treasurer*

### *Finances and Accounts 2023*

The deficit of the Oikosnet Europe operation in 2023 was EUR 25,317. There are two main reasons for the relatively high deficit for last year. One is that several members did not pay their membership fees, and the other that the General Assembly in Basel became very expensive for the association – albeit in many ways very successful. Since there are still financial reserves to draw from, the problem is not impossible to deal with in a short-term perspective. But for obvious reasons, it cannot continue to be like this for several years to come. If it does, the association will soon be bankrupt.

### *Recommendations*

The recommendations from the Treasurer are twofold: First, a dialogue with the members is needed to explore in what ways the member engagement can be strengthened. This would most likely also lead to stronger financial commitments in member organisations. Secondly, a revision of the fees paid by members should be considered. Presently, there are many different levels of membership fees but not clear enough as to the basis for this diversity and these differences.

## **Communication Issues (Kjell Rise)**

*The website [www.oikosnet.eu](http://www.oikosnet.eu) and newsletters:* The Secretariat in Sigtuna has so far administered the OE website. Efforts are now being made to transfer these

tasks to the Berlin office. After the General Assembly in Basel, a newsletter was sent out, which is also available on the website. In December, a letter was published under the heading: Farewell to the previous Executive Secretary and welcome to the new one - and a pre-Christmas greeting from the President.

*Facebook:* <https://www.facebook.com/oikosneteuropa/> – Kjell Riise has tried to revitalise our Facebook page. However, activity from the members is low.

*Instagram:* An Instagram account has also been established: @oikosneteuropa. There are currently very few followers on this account.

*Teams:* Gernot Meier has established a common platform on Teams. This platform has been adopted by the working group working on the future of Oikosnet.

## **Further development of projects**

### **Arab-European Citizens Dialogue (AECD) (Katerina Karkala)**

The Arab-European Citizen's Dialogue/AECD is an ongoing process in the last 14 years and OIKOSNET is a leading figure in this dialogue, together with the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services/CEOSS.

This year the 10th Consultation of the AECD took place in the Orthodox Academy of Crete, from 8 to 11 May 2024, with 35 participants from different European and Arab countries. The theme was "Religion and Civil Society in Times of Conflict and War", in regard to the present wars in Gaza/Palestine and in the Ukraine.

Representatives from civil society organizations in the Middle East and in Europe came together in order to make the voice of civil society to be heard and to engage a dialogue with decision makers, underlining the important role of religious organizations as a part of civil society.

A communique has been issued at the end of the consultation (see attachment), pointing out the role of religion as a mediator in times of war and conflicts, promoting peace and reconciliation.

The dialogue process of the AECD will continue and a new meeting of the Steering Committee is planned for November 10 to 13 in Cairo, in order to plan the further steps. The Swedish Ambassador in Cairo is inviting the AECD for a business meeting. Members of the Committee are Dr Andrea Zaki, Samira Luka,

Dr Alf Linderman, Ruediger Noll and Katerina Karkala. The next Consultation shall be planned for 2025.



The 10th Consultation in the Orthodox Academy of Crete

### *Oikosnet Youth Projekt (Lucia Leonardi)*

From 4 to 8 September took place in Potsdam the residential workshop Social minorities, solidarity and new cohabitations. European perspectives, organised by the Protestant Academy of Berlin and Oikosnet in cooperation with the Iona Community and WSCF Europe (Word Student Christian Federation). The event was funded by Oikosnet and AEJ public funding.

The organising team included Hannah Schilling (Berlin), Lucia Leonardi (Oikosnet), Catriona Robertson (Iona) and John Delap (WSCF).

The idea for the workshop was born during Oikosnet's annual assembly held in Basel (October 2023) in response to a long-standing need to involve the younger generation and to listen to their demands regarding the major socio-political urgencies of the moment, such as the rise of ultra-right-wing parties and the issue of immigration in Europe.

The workshop was attended by 13 young people aged between 16 and 29 from Germany, Italy, Scotland and France, of different nationalities, ethnic origins and social status (including one Kenyan, one Nigerian and one Syrian, the latter two with refugee status). The leitmotif of the work is summed up in this question: 'How can we activate ourselves from our differences, to create communities of solidarity and fight together for a more just society?'. During the workshop, the topics of immigration, human rights and social minorities were explored through non-formal and experiential activities, and social inclusion projects in Berlin (Global Village, Refugio) and Italy (Mediterranean Hope, Federation of Evangelical Churches in Italy) were presented. A good group atmosphere was created, and it was precisely this being together starting from the inequalities already present in the group itself that made it possible to recognise in empathy, in the practice of listening, in the recognition of discrimination and the valorisation of differences, some of the fundamental elements for creating communities of solidarity that already constitute a fairer society.

Overall, participants expressed very positive feedback and some the desire to continue on a common path. We hope that this work will also promote an intergenerational dialogue should some of the participants decide to come to the next Oikosnet General Assembly (Warsaw 2024).

### *Dialog for peaceful change (Colin Craig)*

*Organisational Development:* Yet again, a year on from my last report, it remains unfortunately clear, to us all, that the division, fractures, and tensions that continue to impact our human and ecological world are only still growing in intensity. The potential for current level of ongoing and protracted violence to only deepen continues to be of deep concern. Our world continues to heat up and the destructive impact of the climate crisis only increases. While we know that the capacity building that our DPC programmes can offer is just a relatively small part of what is needed globally, the need to help strengthen our collective ability to meet these challenges remains an imperative. In DPC Global, we continue to be surprised and humbled by the range of opportunity and requests that this work is being called to respond to.

As I shared last year, in order to rise to this challenge and the potential expansion of our own organisational capacity to meet these emerging demands, the old organisational system Jaap and I had undertaken to support DPC, was no longer fit for purpose and we now needed to enter a period of restructuring.

*The new DPC Global Company Structure:* Consequently, I am delighted to report that over the last year, we have therefore been consolidating a number of the development plans we reported on in last years Annual Report. We have now formally registered our new Company, DPC Global, within the UK and have appointed 5 Directors to oversee the future evolution of our work.

The new Directors will be Courtnae Dunn [USA], Eric Nilsson [Sweden], Shaunagh Craig [Ireland], Linda Skogsby [Sweden] and myself Colin Craig [Ireland]. While I will remain actively involved, this wider team will take on the strategic and operational oversight of the further development of our work increasingly over the coming years.

We are currently finalising our new communications plan and expect to launch the new DPC Global Company web site and online outreach more formally through LinkedIn etc in early September.

*Current Programme Development:*

UK and Ireland: We have continued to work in partnership with Corrymeela offering DPC Training for their staff and volunteers. Annually we continue to run at least one International Open Facilitator programme at the Ballycastle Residential Centre. This may further expand in 2025. As the Republic of Ireland is beginning to experience increasing tensions over migrant community issues. There have been some [as yet] minor clashes emerging around access to housing etc and the wider dynamics of cultural change. We are now in discussion about running an Open DPC Facilitator programme in Dublin early in 2025. Lastly and also under the oversight of Michael Gibbs, a DPC Coach and Trainer, we have also been delivering a number of DPC programmes for a UK wide Ecumenical Network under the project title of Journey of Hope.

Sweden: Our work in Sweden has, once again, continued to go from strength to strength. Our main organisational partnership in Sweden is with Fryshuset work across the breadth of Sweden. As I reported last year, their work is mostly focussed on gang and youth violence that has been compounded by the pressures of community and political fracturing. I am delighted to now report that they have now become a Centre of Practice and together we have signed a formal Partnership agreement. Through our partnership, we are continuing to work on further developing in 2025 a range of DPC programme modules with various Municipalities, the Police and the Education sector.

USA: Once again under the primary leadership of Michael Gibbs, our work with the Presbyterian Church in Baltimore and Washington DC has continued to build and consolidate. Two of their Associate Trainers have now graduated to become



fully Accredited DPC Trainers. They are now engaged in developing a number of Facilitator trainings across the region.

Lithuania: Our partnership work with the LCC University Peace Centre based in Klaipeda on the Baltic Coast in Lithuania has continued to evolve and develop. We had six of their Faculty and Peace Centre staff complete a Training of Trainers programme in 2023. Two of this team are now moving forward to become Accredited Trainers in the near future. As anticipated, we also ran two very successful workshops for the British Council in Lithuania in Vilnius in late March 2024. These two programmes were designed specifically for the Education and NGO sectors that the British Council currently support. The British Council Country Directors from Estonia and Latvia also came to observe the workshop programme and indicated they too would be interested in exploring how we might develop some additional DPC workshops with an ongoing focus on building mediative skills and understanding conflict dynamics.

*Future Programme Development:* The fears and fractures that are intensifying across the world continue to generate interest and requests for both the DPC Training of Facilitator [ToF] and our Training of Trainer [ToT]. We have long recognised that while our two core DPC modules [Understanding Conflict and Empathic and Mediative Communication] that underpin the Facilitator Training programme continue to provide a bedrock entry level to our work. However, we have also been working up a range of further support and skills building modules. A number of our new modules will be ready for piloting through the Autumn and New Year period. They include:

- Strategic Pathways through Conflict and Change Resistance
- Skills building towards a SAFER world
- Orientating Trauma Informed Practice within Conflict and Change management

The current intensification of violence, especially across the Middle East and Gaza, in particular, has meant that the proposed development of introducing DPC to the staff of Amnesty International has now been put on hold for the moment. If this does come back into an active possibility it will significantly increase the potential demand, we will have to further develop our pool of Accredited Trainers.

On behalf of the DPC Global and our network of Facilitators and Trainers, we sincerely appreciate the ongoing impact that Oikosnet is seeking to make in helping to heal the social hurt and divisions that fracture so many lives.

Looking forward, the Ecological Crisis, that we are collectively generating in our world, will inevitably, continue to further feed the destructive potential and collective fears, that the increasing environmental systems breakdown is already generating. The potential of violent social breakdown almost certainly will only then intensify. As we look forward, this is not something that either DPC Global or Oikosnet can afford to ignore. In so far as we can help with this deepening challenge alongside Oikosnet, we are fully committed to exploring that further with you.

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September 2024 / WL