

**The minutes of the eighteenth Annual General Meeting of the
European Distance and E-Learning Network (EDEN) which took place on
Thursday, 11 June, 2009 in the Music and Congress Centre, in Gdansk**

Present: Alan Tait (Chair), András Szucs (Secretary General), further

Institutional members entitled to vote:

Anadolu University; Budapest University of Technology and Economics; Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg; Centre for Educational Development, Lund University; Centre National d'Enseignement a Distance – CNED; Die Berater; Eotvos Lorand University, Federation Interuniversitaire de l'Enseignement a Distance – FIED; Formation Universitaire a Distance Suisse; HCI Productions OY; Institute for Learning Innovation (FIM – NewLearning); Madrid Open University; MENON; NADE; NKI Distance Education; Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research; Scienet; The Open University, The Pennsylvania State University; TKK Dipoli; Universal Learning Systems; Universidad Politecnica de Valencia; Universidade Aberta; Universita degli Studi di Genova; Universitat Oberta de Catalunya – UOC, University of Barcelona; University of Gdansk; University of Hildesheim; University of Leicester; University of Urbino; Videscop – Université Nancy 2; Virtuelle Hochschule Bayern; Wilhelm Büchner Hochschule

and Ulf Ehlers; Agnieszka Landowska; Teemu Patala; Alexander Romiszovszki; and Stefano Tardini - Individual members of EDEN

In attendance: EDEN Secretariat staff members

Alan Tait welcomed all those present, especially new members of the Association who joined EDEN since the last Annual General Meeting. He announced that there was a necessary quorum for the meeting. Andras Szucs reminded that members and those present representing an institution were entitled to vote and speak, individual members to speak. The Agenda and supporting papers had been circulated electronically in due time. The agenda of the meeting was approved as sent out.

Patricio Montesinos representing Universidad Politecnica de Valencia has been introduced as host of the next EDEN Annual Conference in 2010

1. Minutes

1.1 resolved: to approve, as a correct record, the minutes of the seventeenth Annual General Meeting, held on 14 June 2008 in the Belém Cultural Centre, Lisbon

2. Matters Arising

2.1 noted: that there were no matters arising

3. President's Report

3.1 received: a report with evaluation of developments of the Association since the last Annual General Meeting from the President (AGM/18/1)

3.2 noted: that Alan Tait highlighted the hard working of and good strategic decisions taken by the Executive Committee and the enormous support received from the Secretariat. He remembered with sadness about the death of Professor Valerio Grementieri, former President of EDEN and Professor Armando Trindade, former EDEN Vice-President, saying that both had left their fingerprint on the development of the Association that the following elements from the written report were highlighted:

- Membership – the past year was a very successful one. EDEN had more than 200 institutional members, from among which 30 newly joined. The number of NAP members increased to over 1200, representing altogether 441 institutions from 58

countries. Few newly joined flagship institutions mentioned were: University of Greenwich, Sheffield Hallam University, University of Reading, Encyclopaedia Britannica and Polytechnic University of Valencia. It was also found to be a good sign that new institutions from countries like Latvia, Egypt and Israel also joined EDEN

- Fellow awards – the presentation of the awards, as sign of professional appreciation has continued and proven as well appreciated
- Partnership, international visibility and networking – most significant the EDEN-ICDE relation, Secretary Generals’ at their meeting confirmed the intention renew and activate the partnership. Good collaboration was maintained with ELIG – European Learning Industry Group, OBHE – The Observatory on Borderless Higher Education, EFQUEL – European Foundation for Quality in E-learning. EDEN officials were invited to different forums and conferences that made possible to open new co-operations
- EU project work – is a continued significant job. In 2008-2009, besides accomplishing contributions in ongoing and just finished projects, quite a few invitations were received to take part in the new Calls of Lifelong Learning Programme and 7th Framework Programme. There were 15 new applications submitted with EDEN’s participation
- Conferences – remained outstanding showcases of academic and professional developments. The Lisbon Annual Conference in 2008 was characterised by high attendance and strong presence of sponsors, the Research Workshop in October in Paris was supported by CNED and organised in partnership with UNESCO. The balanced programme of the workshop showed that it was successful both in academic and networking terms and attracted professionals to join the Association. The LOGOS project conference on strengthening the integration of ICT research effort, generated great interest. Regarding the 2009 Gdansk conference, the number of submissions was nice (almost identical to that of Lisbon, last year), however the number of delegates was lower than in 2008
- Finances – the effects of the economic crisis in 2009 have their influence on the Association, as well. A negative balance for 2008 was reported, mainly due to the collapse in GBP/EUR exchange rate. Issues however stayed under control, the financial situation would be confidentially managed. As the business review stated: *in the problematic economic environment, the performance and achievements of EDEN remained within acceptable limits. Indicators like membership development, project involvement and conference results are satisfactory. Financial results for the year show warning signs. Stability and careful decisions for safeguarding balanced operation are the most important guidelines for the coming year*
- Communication, publications – the monthly newsflash was an excellent tool for keeping members informed about new developments, useful resources, interesting events. The President’s blog was going on with quite a number of visitors. The EDEN Book “Distance and E-learning in Transition – Learning Innovation, Technology and Social Challenges”, published right before the Gdansk Conference proved to be a nice momentum of EDEN’s scholars, with an excellent selection from over 2000 articles presented during previous conferences.

4. Network of Academics and Professionals

- 4.1 received: a report on the developments concerning NAP from the Chair of the NAP Steering Committee, Ari-Matti Auvinen
- 4.2 noted: that the newly elected NAP Steering Committee, Alan Bruce, Thomas Fischer, Montse Guitert, Sofoklis Sotiriou, Anne Gaskell and Morten Paulsen, (Morten representing the Executive Committee), started their work in 2008. Their main aim was to renew and improve the NAP members’ area, in collaboration with the Secretariat. The purpose was to enable better networking within members, to enhance their finding each others, profiles, etc. They were devoted to the idea of improving NAP presence. The development should be accomplished by the end of the year.

5. European Journal of OPEN, Distance and E-Learning

- 5.1 received: a report on the progress of the Journal from the Chair of the Editorial Board, Alan Tait
- 5.2 noted: that there had been 33 articles published in the web based journal, after refereeing and amendments. EDEN was pursuing recognition by ERUC, the Education Resources Information Centre and BEI, the British Education Index.
- that the re-structured and re-designed new website was launched in May 2009. Its services would be going beyond its current version later this year. It was planned to publish themed issue and members were encouraged to volunteer for guest editing

6. Finance

6. 1. 2008 Financial Statements and appointment of auditors

- 6.1.1 received: the audited statement of EDEN's accounts for the year 2008 and the appointment of the auditors (AGM/18/2) from András Szucs, Secretary General
- 6.1.2 noted: that members received the final draft of the audited Financial Statements, endorsed by the Executive Committee. The Committee discussed in details the Statement (Business review) and the referring report of the Secretariat and approved the following about the sustainability "*Stability and careful decisions for safeguarding balanced operation are the most important guidelines for the coming year*".
- that the document was assembled by the auditors according to the rules valid for small companies in the UK, identically as in previous years. The order of magnitude of financial operation did not change
- that the following elements were highlighted with a view of explaining why the year 2008 presented a negative balance
- the dramatic change of GBP/EUR rate late December 2008 that caused substantial loss in the books for the reserve account
 - bad debts (that were difficult to predict) and project instalments arriving according to different schedules have also had influence on the balance. Auditors in the meantime made a deep analysis on basis of legal documents and suggested accordingly the project monies to appear in the book of the given year or to shift to the income of the subsequent one
 - the strong local currency in which staff payments and majority of operational costs were realised, also had substantial effect on the 2008 financial balance
 - years 2006 and 2007 were exceptionally successful in financial terms, due to the success of the Vienna conference and several projects starting in those years, that yielded considerable income
- that no danger for EDEN's liquidity emerged
- that the daily operation was strictly controlled and balanced and EDEN was also feeling the signs of the economic downturn
- the Secretariat was regularly reporting to the EC about arrangements and measure for safe-guarding EDEN finances
- that, concerning the auditors, it was confirmed that the experience of the collaboration with GP Financial Management has been positive during the past three years and it was recommended to approve their appointment for 2010
- 6.1.3 resolved: to endorse the audited accounts unanimously
- 6.1.4. resolved: to approve the appointment of the auditors, GP Financial Management Ltd. for another year

6.2. Membership Fees for the year 2010

6.2.1 received: the membership fees for 2010 recommended by the Executive Committee (AGM/18/3)

6.2.2 noted: that the Executive Committee recommended not to change the basic membership fees, and introduce a new fee category for SMEs' with less than 20 people employed. The fee proposed would be 400 Euros

that though there was a change in the approaches in the membership categories two years ago for institutions from CEE countries and new categories were introduced according to the income for them, the membership interest have not decreased in spite of the higher fees

6.2.3 resolved: to endorse unanimously the recommendation of the Executive Committee to set the membership fees for the year 2010 as follows:

Institution 1 – Educational institutions with more than 3000 students, national or international institutions, networks and associations, commercial organisations	EUR 550
Institution 2 – Educational institutions with less than 3000 students, non-profit bodies, scientific and research institutions	EUR 400
Educational institutions, non-profit bodies, scientific and research institutions from the following countries: Croatia; Czech Republic; Estonia; Hungary; Latvia; Lithuania; Poland; Romania; Russian Federation; Slovak Republic; Turkey	25 % discount
Educational institutions, non-profit bodies, scientific and research institutions from the following countries: Albania; Belarus; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Georgia; Macedonia, FYR; Moldova; Montenegro; Serbia; Ukraine	50 % discount
Small companies, with less than 20 employees	EUR 400
Affiliate membership fee borne by EDEN member national association	EUR/institution
1-5 nominated institutions	250
6-10 nominated institutions	200
11-15 nominated institutions	150
over 15 nominated institutions	100
Associate members (outside Europe)	EUR 300
Individual members	EUR 100 (*)

(*) *Individual membership is free for students and applicants from educational institutions of Central and Eastern European countries*

6.3. EDEN 2010 Budget

6.3.1 received: the proposed budget for 2010 recommended by the Executive Committee (AGM/18/4)

6.3.2 noted: that until the current year a modest percent increase had been made from year to year. The proposed budget for 2010 was lower than for previous years, in the meantime no negative balance was planned.

that it was deemed to keep membership fees and conference income on the previous year level. It was however difficult to give strong estimation of project incomes. Only a slight decrease was planned in the staff costs, which was partly due to the home-working colleagues' remuneration and the new contract of the Office Manager. It was also supposed that the rate of HUF/EUR remained more realistic

that, following the request of the Executive Committee, it was proposed to present the budget line Conference with registration fees expected on the income side and conference running costs and permanent and temporary staff costs related to the organisation on the expense side instead of the conference surplus budget line

6.3.3 resolved: to endorse unanimously the budget for 2010, recommended by the Executive Committee

7. Election of officers

7.1 received: nominations to the EDEN Executive Committee (AGM/18/5) presented by the Chair, Alan Tait

7.2 noted: that the supporting document for this agenda item had also been circulated. According to the document, continuing members were: Alan Tait, Danguole Rutkauskiene, Morten Paulsen, Martine Vidal and Antonio Teixeira. The retiring members were: Ulrich Bernath, Albert Sangra, Andrea Karpati, Tapio Koskinen
that Andrea Karpati and Tapio Koskinen terminated their first three year term of office and both confirmed their willingness to continue, further the Executive Committee supported their re-election

7.3 resolved: to support by unanimous voting the re-election of Andrea Karpati and Tapio Koskinen

7.4 noted: that Ulrich Bernath and Albert Sangra terminated their second three year term and were not eligible for re-election

that on behalf of the Executive Committee thanks were expressed and recognition given for the most valued contribution to the work of the Executive Committee during the past six years to both Uli and Albert, appreciating their committed involvement in the leadership of the Association

that for the two vacancies the following nominations were received:

- Professor Dr. Mehmet Kesim, Faculty Member and Vice Dean of Open Education Faculty by Anadolu University, Turkey
- Dr. Alan Bruce, Director, by Universal Learning Systems, Ireland

that both nominees were willing to serve in the Executive if elected

7.5 resolved: to support unanimously the election of Alan Bruce and Mehmet Kesim to be member in the Executive Committee

8. Future EDEN Conferences

8.1 received an introduction of the invitation from Universidad Politecnica de Valencia, by Patricio Montesinos, to host the next EDEN Annual Conference, on 9-12 June 2010.

9. Any Other Business

that there was no other business

President Alan Tait thanked to all for attending and closed the meeting

APPENDIX
to the
Minutes of the eighteenth Annual General Meeting of the
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At the above Annual General Meeting, following his having been nominated by the Anadolu University, Professor Mehmet Kesim was elected as new member of the EDEN Executive Committee for the period of 2009-2012. There was an understanding that Mehmet Kesim accepted the nomination and confirmed his willingness to serve if elected.

Following his being elected at the Annual General Meeting, Mehmet Kesim sent the enclosed fax to the EDEN Secretariat on 18 June, explaining that according to legal limitations in Turkey of academic staff employed at a government university, he is legally disallowed to take position which constitute legal representation of Anonymous Companies or Limited Companies.

It was therefore not possible to complete the formal arrangements for the appointment of Mehmet Kesim at the Companies' House as Director of EDEN Ltd. The EDEN Executive Committee has noted the above development with disappointment and launched the procedure to fill in the unexpected vacancy by co-option (EDEN Constitution Article 7.6. - *The Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint any eligible person to be an Executive Committee member to fill an unexpected vacancy*).

Budapest, 18 June 2009



Alan Tait
President, EDEN



Andras Szucs
Secretary General, EDEN