

**The minutes of the twentieth Annual General Meeting of the  
European Distance and E-Learning Network (EDEN) which took place on  
Monday, 20 June, 2011 in O'Reilly Hall of University College Dublin, Ireland**

Present: Morten F. Paulsen (President), Ari-Matti Auvinen (Chair, NAP Steering Committee), Alan Tait (Chief Editor, EURODL) András Szűcs (Secretary General), further

*Institutional members entitled to vote:*

*Budapest University of Technology and Economics; Consorzio FOR.COM. ; Ellinogermaniki Agogi; EuroEd Foundation; EuroPace; Federation Interuniversitaire de l'Enseignement a Distance – FIED; Free University of Bozen-Bolzano; HCI Productions OY; Lambrakis Foundation; Moscow State University of Economics, Statistics and Informatics (MESI) ; NKI Distance Education; NKS Online Studies; NADE – Norwegian Association for Distance and Flexible Education; Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research; Scienler; The Estonian Information Technology Foundation; The Open University, The Pennsylvania State University; Universidad Aberta; Università degli Studi di Genova; Universitat Oberta de Catalunya – UOC; University of Hildesheim; University of Porto; University of the Aegean; Videscop – Université Nancy 2; Vytautas Magnus University (26)*

*and Ebba Ossiannilsson, Elsebeth Korsgaard-Sorensen, Steve Wheeler, Kristijan Zimmer, Helga Dorner – Individual members of EDEN*

*In attendance: EDEN Secretariat staff: Anna Wagner, Ildiko Mazar, Eva Suba and Livia Turzo*

*Morten Paulsen welcomed all those present at the 20<sup>th</sup> AGM, 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 and reminded that institutional members present 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.*

## **1. Minutes**

**1.1 resolved:** to approve, as a correct record, the minutes of the nineteenth Annual General Meeting, held on 10 June 2010 at the Universidad Politecnica de Valencia, Spain

## **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/20/3)

3.2 noted: that Morten Paulsen highlighted the following elements from the written report:

- Executive Committee – the extension of the Committee resulted five new members. A dynamic work with widened capacities has started, whilst the efficient collaboration with the Vice-Presidents continued. Well prepared EC meetings were held in Budapest, Athens and Dublin, supported by several online ones. Roles and responsibilities in the Committee have been discussed and agreed
- The strategic aims, namely organisation building, international networking, membership services supplemented by professional development, moderate policy work, have not changed
- The following main operational tasks have been identified:
  - membership development – enlarging the number of NAP members and strengthening the community
  - EU projects – to promote EDEN's services

- Conferences – content and policy development, supplemented by stronger marketing of the events
- Open Classroom – reform the Working Group, with special regard to the 2011 Open Classroom Conference in Athens
- 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – action plan to launch the high impact and strategic evaluation of the past two decades
- Communication – website renewal as main element
- Sponsors – systematic co-operation
- Secretariat – maintenance of the good standard of office and management
- Membership – the development and improvement of services have been high on the agenda. There was a considerable development in the affiliate membership structures, in particular in Norway, Lithuania and Russia. The membership in 2010-2011 was stable. A strict procedure for approval (and denying) membership request was followed. Since the last AGM 33 institutions joined the Association
- EDEN Fellows – the system of fellow awards has been continued, new members of the exclusive group were recognised. The first meeting of Fellows was organised in Dublin on 18 June – the aim was to discuss how to support and promote EDEN by policy advice, experience and develop the Fellows’ activities. It was an ambition to develop the Fellows’ meeting as a tradition
- Management, Finances, Secretariat – the three main sources of income have been: membership fees, conferences and projects. The cash flow of the Association has been stable. The finances were checked closely, strict chasing has been necessary for the collection of the membership fees. The Hosting Service Agreement with the Budapest University of Technology and Economics has been renewed for the next five years, offering a solid background for the functioning of the Secretariat
- European Projects – EDEN has been participating in eight Commission funded initiatives, focusing on communication, dissemination, valorisation, networking. The good performance in dissemination and exploitation issues was recognized by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency at a seminar organised in Brussels for the new LLP projects, as well. The number of invitations received to participate in new projects was exceptionally high this year, which was an encouraging sign of EDEN’s reputation in this field of activities
- Conferences – the Annual Conference in Valencia attracted close to 400 delegates, the programme was excellent. The Research Workshop in Budapest in October 2010 was also well-attended, some delegates were coming from Canada, US, Australia. The event focused on the themes of quality management of the peer production and online course evaluation. The Dublin conference with 420 delegates and a complex theme and approach that was well understood will maintain and improve the momentum of EDEN events. The organisation of the Open Classroom Conference in October 2011 in Greece, in co-operation with Ellinogermaniki Agogi, was well in progress. Awarding Best Research Papers in support of academic quality has been maintained
- Communication, Web – the renewal has been one of the major developments. A new and refreshed layout was developed, ensuring better visibility and more contemporary appearance. The content and relevance of the monthly newflash have also been improved
- 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year – important special “messages” have been characterising the anniversary year with exclusive services to members. It is also considered as a good tool for looking forwards, to develop a kind of visionary summary for the future

#### **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 legacy of NAP was laid in the direct election process, with direct nominations and voting from and by the members, with the direct representation of NAP Members not only in the NAP Steering Committee but in the Executive Committee, as well. The main vehicle for communication was the NAP members’ area. The EDEN EC had an observatory representative in the NAP SC, as an active member

that thanks have been expressed by the newly elected Chair of the Steering Committee to the outgoing members: Alan Bruce, Thomas Fischer, Anne Gaskell, Montse Guitert, Sofoklis Sotiriou and, as EC representative, to Morten Paulsen

that the key activity has been the assistance in the construction of the NAP Member Area, by:

- identifying the design and design principles
- launching and network activation
- follow-up and gradual improvement

that the representation of the NAP interests in the EDEN work, in particular in the EDEN Executive Committee was strong

that the three main working themes of the newly elected NAP Steering Committee would be:

- empowering NAP members to work in NAP members' area and social media
- learning from NAP members by listening to NAP members
- encouraging young professionals and young researchers

that the activation of the work in the NAP Members Area would be implemented by functional and technological improvements, by positioning the NAP work in the social media environment, including the elaboration of a "social media strategy" for the NAP work, enhanced by NAP SC champions: Elsebeth Korsgaard Sorensen and Steve Wheeler

that as the community of NAP members was a wide and representative professional body, an improvement was needed both in listening as well as in the dialogue with the NAP members but also between the NAP members. NAP SC champions for this strand would be: Ebba Ossiannilsson and Ari-Matti Auvinen

that the key objective of NAP mission 2.1 was to improve social media presence and to learn the needs of young researchers in their work. NAP SC champions: Helga Dorner and Anders Nome

that it was decided to invite permanent experts to the NAP SC to assist in areas that were required and needed

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

5.1 received: a report on the progress of the Journal from the Chief Editor, Alan Tait

5.2 noted: that there had been 65 submitted articles, from among which 18 were rejected, 14 accepted and evaluation of 33 articles was in progress

that the web carried, open education resource with very important contributions of EDEN members was a significant part in EDEN achievements and development. The number of visitors was over 40.000 during the last 12 months

that the following themed issues had been announced/planned:

- Best of 2010 – collection of the enhanced versions of the final candidate and winner research papers of the Best Research Paper Awards 2010
- Creativity and Open Educational Resources – a very strong response was experienced, the articles received were being edited
- Doing Diversity in Open, Distance and E-Learning – the call will be launched soon, the theme leader of this issue will be Mirjam Hauck

that the secretariat of the Journal was moved to the EDEN Secretariat

that though the Chief Editor was working with a very good editorial board, more referees were always needed, thus Alan Tait invited members to inform him if there would be colleagues volunteering for that work. He also asked members present to recommend the journal to other professionals

## 6. Finance

### 6.1. 2010 Financial Statements and appointment of auditors

6.1.1 received: the audited statement of EDEN's accounts for the year 2010 and the appointment of the auditors (AGM/20/6-1)

**6.1.2 resolved:** to endorse the audited accounts by unanimous voting

**6.1.3. resolved:** to approve the appointment of the auditors, GP Financial Management Ltd. for another year

### 6.2. Membership Fees for the year 2012

6.2.1 received: the membership fees for 2012 recommended by the Executive Committee (AGM/20/6-2)

6.2.2 noted: that the Executive Committee recommended a modest increase in the membership fees that Ari-Matti Auvinen emphasised that more flexibility should be given to one issue related to the membership fee and services. He found vital to be more flexible with the number of nominations from member institutions and proposed that the Secretariat should formulate a rule that no potential NAP members are left out because of any restrictions concerning the maximum number of nominees

that in reply, Andras Szucs informed members that in the presented document on bottom of the page a paragraph was indicating the maximum number of nominees by different categories of member institutions. He proposed to delete the paragraph and leave the issue as stated in the Constitution:

“Article 4.1.2.2 *Nominated NAP members* – Members of Institutions Section shall be entitled to nominate members to the NAP Section. The Executive Committee specifies the admissible number of nominated NAP members”

**6.2.3 resolved:** to endorse by unanimity of votes the recommendation of the Executive Committee to set the membership fees for the year 2012 as follows:

Institution 1 – Educational institutions with more than 20.000 students, commercial organisations	800
Institution 2 – Educational institutions with more than 4.000 students, national or international institutions, networks and associations	650
Institution 3 – Educational institutions with less than 4.000 students, non-profit, scientific, research institutions and small companies with less than 20 employees	450
Educational institutions, non-profit, 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, scientific and research institutions from the following countries: : Albania; Belarus; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Kosovo; FYR Macedonia; Moldova; Montenegro; Serbia; Ukraine	50% discount
Affiliate membership fee ( <i>born by EDEN member national association</i> )	EUR/institution
1 - 5 nominated institutions	250
6 - 10 nominated institutions	200
10 - 15 nominated institutions	150
over 15 nominated institutions	100
Associate members (outside Europe)	300
Individual members	100
<i>Individual membership is free for students and applicants from the above countries with discounted fee</i>	

### **6.3. EDEN 2012 Budget**

6.3.1 received: the proposed budget for 2012 recommended by the Executive Committee (AGM/20/6-3)

**6.3.2 resolved:** to endorse by unanimity of votes the budget for 2012, recommended by the Executive Committee

## **7. Election of officers**

### **7.1. Election of EC members**

7.1.1 received: nomination to the EDEN Executive Committee (AGM/20/6) presented by the Chair, Morten F. Paulsen

7.1.2 noted: that the supporting document for this agenda item had also been circulated. According to the document, continuing members were: Andrea Karpati, Tapio Koskinen, Alan Bruce, Wim Van Petegem, Morten F. Paulsen, Daborah Arnold, Ene Koitla, Gilly Salmon, Costas Tsolakidis and Airina Volungeviciene.

that Antonio Teixeira terminated his first three year term of office and was eligible for re-election. He confirmed his willingness to continue, further the Executive Committee supported the re-election

**7.1.3 resolved:** to support unanimously the re-election of Antonio Moreira Teixeira

## **8. Future EDEN Conferences**

8.1 received report on the preparations for the upcoming conferences organised by EDEN from Andras Szucs

that it was encouraging that EDEN was receiving invitations for future conference well in advance, mainly from members and not only for co-operation to organise the event, but suggestions concerning the theme and concept of the conference, as well

that the next Open Classroom Conference would be organised in October 2011 in Athens (Pallini) in co-operation and with strong support from Ellinogermaniki Agogi, celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their establishment. The conference concept has been elaborated in collaboration with them, the event had already been pre-announced and the call for papers circulated

the 2012 Annual Conference, following the invitation of University of Porto, will be organised in Porto in Alfandega Congress Centre, based on our good experience with the Open Classroom Conference held there in 2009. As 2012 will be the year of “European Year of Active Ageing and the Solidarity between Generations”, the concept of the Porto conference would be elaborated according to this theme. It was the intention to emphasise the openness between generations. Regarding the learning generations we can make approach in two directions, age gap and generation Y coming to schools. The proposed title of the Conference will be, accordingly: “Open Learning Generations – Passing over the gap from Generation “Y” to the Mature of Lifelong Learners”

that the Research Workshop in 2012 will be held, following the invitation from K.U. Leuven, in Leuven, Belgium

further proposals for 2013 were under consideration and events of that year would be also announced in due time

## **9. Any Other Business**

that there was no other business

*President Morten F. Paulsen thanked to all for attending, reminding about two interesting sessions on the following conference day, the one about EDEN's 20 years and the other on EDEN-USDLA global strategy and declared the AGM closed.*