

The minutes of the twenty first Annual General Meeting of the European Distance and E-Learning Network (EDEN) which took place on Thursday, 7th June in the Alfandega Congress Centre, in Porto, Portugal

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:

Aalto University; Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg; Dennis Gabor College; EuroEd Foundation; HCI Productions OY; Institute for Learning Innovation (FIM-NewLearning) ; Katholieke Universiteit Leuven; Lithuanian Distance and eLearning Association; MENON Network EEIG; Moscow State University of Economics, Statistics and Informatics (MESI); Mykolas Romeris University; NKI Distance Education; NKS Online Studies; NADE – Norwegian Association for Distance and Flexible Education; Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research; Politehnica University of Timisoara; The Centre of Academic Studies; The Estonian Information Technology Foundation; The Open University, The Pennsylvania State University; Universal Learning Systems; Universidade Aberta; Universitat Oberta de Catalunya – UOC; University of Burgundy; University of Leicester; University of Hildesheim; University of Maryland University College; University of the Aegean; Vytautas Magnus University (26)

and Jack Koumi, Maruja Gutierrez-Diaz – Individual members of EDEN

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

Morten Paulsen welcomed all those present at the 21th 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 twentieth meeting, held on 20 June, 2011 in O'Reilly Hall of University College Dublin, Ireland

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/21/3)

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

- Executive Committee – the new composition of the Committee represented an increased leadership, experience and operative capacity and good balance. Regular meetings (both physical and virtual) had been organised. Formal contacts with other international associations have also been extended.
- Membership – during the past year remained stable, several new applications, amongst them leading institutions in the field, had been received. There were 186 institutions and 1124 NAP members in the membership.
- 20th anniversary of the Association – several activities had been implemented in 2011, the Anniversary Conference with the Fellows' meeting and seminar in Dublin, renewal of the website, the Best of EDEN 2010 Special Issue of EURODL (also in hard copy), Anniversary Certificate for members
- EDEN Fellows – first meeting held in Dublin, a successful event. Fellows' group has proven its potential value, a continuation in Porto, special workshop with the participation of EDEN Fellows was foreseen

- Young Researchers – systematically working on the strong involvement of young scholars, both in Porto and in Leuven special emphasis is put on this group, their specific interests
- NAP – Steering Committee elected in 2011, strong and competent leading body that had improved operational process and mobilised membership. Also had an active role in initiating better visibility of EDEN on the social web. Easy access to the NAP community had been developed on the EDEN web
- Management, Secretariat – structure of membership services has been reconsidered, increasing demand for open access to resources has been taken into account, the newflash and conference proceedings made available online. Regarding finances, a strict and systematic management was required to maintain a sustainable operation in a difficult economic environment
- Conferences – the Annual Conference in Dublin attracted 450 delegates, a great success, to which substantial support of the host institution, IADT was received. The Open Classroom Conference in Athens was a special kind of event, Ellinogermaniki Agogi, the host institution had contributed generously and greatly mobilised the Greek professional community. Financial performance of the conferences remained relatively modest.
- EURODL – the main ambition to augment its academic value, visibility and increase the number of publications, has been completed, the journal was an important tool for strengthening EDEN's academic and professional credibility
- European Projects – EDEN had received 43 invitations to be partner in projects, finally from among the 21 submitted ones 9 were accepted for funding, thus EDEN was participating in 12 EU projects running in 2012-13. Some of the new initiatives represented new requirements, knowledge and competence for EDEN. The joint project seminar organised in September 2011 offered a good opportunity to benefit from the synergies between projects and promote the Association
- Conclusion – 2012 will require continuous efforts and further improvement in services to maintain the momentum of activities and impact of the Association in order to safeguard its leading position in Europe

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 nominations and voting from and by the members, with the representation of NAP Members not only in the NAP Steering Committee but in the Executive Committee, as well.
- that regular audio-meetings during the year helped to review tasks completed and design future activities
- that three main task forces had been established within the NAP SC for the different tasks, along the following working themes:
- 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 as outcomes in the above fields, the following achievements were reported:
- The social media presence has been strengthened
 - Young researchers had been activated, a networking opportunity ensured in Porto during the conference by organising the "Early career" corner where mapping of various related activities was implemented
 - the work in the NAP area had also been activated. It was planned to measure and evaluate the use of social media presence in EDEN activities
- that as decided last year, permanent advisors had been invited to the NAP SC to assist in different areas

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 39 submitted articles, from among which 20 were rejected, 12 accepted, one withdrawn and evaluation of 6 articles was in progress that together with the 28 earlier reviewed and accepted articles a total of 40 new articles were published in the journal

the journal represented a valuable contribution to the field, enriching the identity of EDEN

that the following themed issues had been published:

- 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 – launched in December 2011 with 8 articles from among the submitted 21

that the editorial support provided by the EDEN Secretariat was highly appreciated

6. Finance

6.1. 2011 Financial Statements and appointment of auditors

6.1.1 received: the audited statement of EDEN's accounts for the year 2011 and the appointment of the auditors (AGM/21/6-1)

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 2013

6.2.1 received: the membership fees for 2012 recommended by the Executive Committee (AGM/21/6-2)

6.2.2 noted: that the Executive Committee recommended not to change the membership fees

6.2.3 resolved: to endorse by unanimity of votes the recommendation of the Executive Committee to set the membership fees for the year 2013 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

Individual membership is free for students and applicants from the above countries with discounted fee

6.3. EDEN 2013 Budget

6.3.1 received: the proposed budget for 2013 recommended by the Executive Committee (AGM/20/6-3)

6.3.2 resolved: to endorse by unanimity of votes the budget for 2013, 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/21/7) 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: Morten F. Paulsen, Deborah Arnold, Ene Koitla, Costas Tsolakidis, Airina Volungeviciene and Antonio Teixeira

that the term of office of Andrea Karpati and Tapio Koskinen was completed and they were not eligible for re-election

that Gilly Salmon resigned in January 2012, due to her moving to Australia

that Alan Bruce and Wim Van Petegem terminated their term of office and were eligible for re-election. They both confirmed willingness to continue, further the Executive Committee supported their re-election

7.1.3 resolved: to support with 24 votes the re-election of Alan Bruce, for a second three year term and Wim Van Petegem for his first three year term

7.1.4 noted: that for the three vacancies the Secretariat received four valid nominations: Lisa-Marie Blaschke from Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, Grainne Conole from University of Leicester, Sandra Kucina from University of Zabreg and Fabio Nascimbeni from MENON Network

the short introductions received from Lisa-Marie Blaschke (via video), Grainne Conole and Fabio Nascimbeni

that the Executive Committee recommended to the AGM to elect by voting, using voting sheets

that upon counting the votes the following result was announced:

- Lisa-Marie Blaschke – 27 votes
- Grainne Conole – 23 votes
- Fabio Nascimbeni – 24 votes
- Sandra Kucina – 8 votes

that accordingly the newly elected members of the Executive Committee were announced: Lisa-Marie Blaschke, Grainne Conole and Fabio Nascimbeni. The Chair congratulated to the new EC members and expressed thanks to Andrea, Tapio and Gilly for their committed work in the Board

8. Future EDEN Conferences

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

that, following the invitation received from NADE and University of Oslo for the collaboration, it was decided to organise the Annual Conference in Oslo in 2013. Generous support had been offered by the University, providing conference facilities for free. With the support of NADE, the involvement of the national professional community will be ensured on a high level

that the Seventh Research Workshop will take place in Leuven, 21-23 October 2012. The event is co-organised with the host institution, KU Leuven.

9. Any Other Business

that there was no other business

President Morten F. Paulsen thanked to all for attending