

The minutes of the twenty second Annual General Meeting of the European Distance and E-Learning Network (EDEN) which took place on Thursday, 13th June at the University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway

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; Campus NooA; Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg; Centre for Academic Studies or Yehuda; Computer Technology Institute and Press "Diophantus"; Consorzio FOR.COM; EuroEd Foundation; Federation Interuniversitaire de l'Enseignement a Distance (FIED); HCI Productions OY; Information Technology Foundation for Education; Katholieke Universiteit Leuven; Lithuanian Distance and eLearning Association; MENON Network EEIG; Mondragon University; Moscow State University of Economics, Statistics and Informatics (MESI); Politehnica University of Timisoara; SCIENTER; The College of Estate Management; The Open University, The Pennsylvania State University; Universal Learning Systems; Universidade Aberta; University of Applied Sciences Zwickau; University of Burgundy; University of Duisburg-Essen (UDE); University of Erlangen-Nuremberg; University of Leicester; University of the Aegean; University of Zagreb; University of Zurich; Vytautas Magnus University (31)

and Dragana Kupres, Rita Misuilene, Stella Porto, Marci Powel, Sally Reynolds, , Marius Sadauskas, Jana Weber, Steve Wheeler and Kristijan Zimmer – Individual members

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

Morten Paulsen welcomed all those present at the 22nd 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 twenty first meeting, held on 7th June, 2012 in the Alfandega Congress Centre, Porto, Portugal

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 – represented a good balance in terms of experience, leadership and gender. Well prepared meetings resulted in important strategic decisions and contributed to the successful running of the Association. Economic issues have been put in the focus, Ari-Matti Auvinen assigned to co-operate with the Secretariat in this matter
- Membership – during the past year remained stable, the new "Easy joining to NAP" exercise resulted a considerable increase in the number of NAP members. There were 430 institutions and 59 countries represented in EDEN. The NAP Steering Committee was a strong and competent body

- Conferences – the Annual Conference in Porto was a decent success but attracted less delegates, than expected, the Leuven research workshop was a remarkable event, the involvement of students meant an added value. The relatively modest financial performance was due to economic difficulties. EDEN joined the group organising the next ICDE SCOP meeting. The Annual Conference in 2014 was planned in Zagreb. The tradition of awarding the best research paper has been maintained
- EURODL – the journal was an important tool for strengthening EDEN’s academic and professional credibility. With the leaving of Alan Tait his post as Chief Editor, an Acting Chief Editor, Dr. Ulrich Bernath would be serving until the end of 2014. A well established technical and organisational background from the Secretariat was reported
- European Projects – this work has been a significant and coherent strand of activities. EDEN had received growing number of invitations to be partner in projects, finally 25 new project applications were submitted with EDEN’s involvement. It was foreseen to participate in 3-6 new projects
- Conclusion – EDEN remained economically stable and a considerable organisational evolution could be witnessed. Maintaining the financial sustainability became a priority in the Executive Committee

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 the Steering Committee invited two permanent advisors, Antonella Poce and Paulo Simoes to support their work
- that regular audio-meetings during the year helped to review tasks completed and design future activities
- that three main task forces within the Steering Committee worked on the issues of NAP members area and strengthening social media presence, further the ways of encouraging early career professionals and listening NAP Members’ view
- that it was also decided to develop the idea of an “Un-conference” event, aiming:
- to widen the scope of the EDEN conference by member-driven activities
 - to develop a programme based on the direct needs and aspirations by members
- and thus to investigate the potential and technical possibilities to run the conference by various media – to provide access and openness

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 70 submitted articles, from among which 36 were rejected, 15 accepted, seven withdrawn and evaluation of 9 articles was in progress
- that the overall acceptance rate was 27,7 %
- the journal represented a valuable contribution to the field, enriching the identity of EDEN
- that the Best of EDEN 2011 special issue was published late 2012
- that the editorial support provided by the EDEN Secretariat was highly appreciated

6. Finance

6. 1. 2012 Financial Statements and appointment of auditors

6.1.1 received: the audited statement of EDEN's accounts for the year 2012 and the appointment of the auditors (AGM/22/6-1)

that the audited Financial Statement had been circulated for EDEN members

that according to the Business review: "In the past years significant attention was paid by the Executive Committee to safeguarding the reliable financial operation of the Association...."..... "A certain re-arrangement of priorities in order to generate new incomes was necessary." "The Board notes with approval that the efforts resulted sustained liquidity and improvement of the financial indicators. The EC requests to maintain the efforts and believes that the ongoing processes will result further development and sustainable resource management."

that from management point of view there were no real crucial situations, the main goal was not to reduce dramatically the costs but raising further income and manage the resources in an economic way

that the operating surplus was few thousand Euros. In the previous year a negative balance was reported, however the Association was not faced with liquidity problems. Project incomes were arriving in a hectic way, thus income according to the books can be due in the current financial year or in the subsequent one

that member subscriptions increased by 8 per cent and the increase in the fees introduced two years ago did not cause many institutions' leaving the Association. Increase in the project incomes was almost 8 per cent, as well

that enhanced services for EU projects have been provided, tools to increase EDEN's visibility and credibility were introduced, good synergy existed between membership services, project works and conferences

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 2014

6.2.1 received: the membership fees for 2014 recommended by the Executive Committee (AGM/22/6-2)

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 2014 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 2013 Budget

- 6.3.1 received: the proposed budget for 2014 recommended by the Executive Committee (AGM/22/6-3)
- 6.2.2 noted: that the structure of the proposed budget was not following the structure of the audited statement. Basis of the proposal was the already existing contracts, commitment in projects, etc. The main message was: no reason to plan negative balance for 2014. The surplus can and should be used for the support of the operation according to the aim of the association, given EDEN's non-profit company character
- 6.3.2 resolved:** to endorse by unanimity of votes the budget for 2014, recommended by the Executive Committee

7. Election of officers

7.1. Election of EC members

- 7.1.1 received: nominations to the EDEN Executive Committee (AGM/22/7) 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: Antonio Teixeira, Alan Bruce, Wim Van Petegem, Lisa Marie Blaschke, Grainne Conole, Fabio Naschimbeni
that Deborah Arnold, Ene Koitla, Costas Tsolakidis and Airina Volungeviciene terminated their term of office and were eligible for re-election. They all confirmed willingness to continue, further the Executive Committee supported their re-election
- 7.1.3 resolved:** to support unanimously the re-election of Deborah Arnold, Ene Koitla, Costas Tsolakidis and Airina Volungeviciene
- 7.1.4 noted: that for the vacancy the Secretariat received two valid nominations: Sandra Kucina from the University of Zagreb and Diana Andone from the Politehnica University of Timisoara
the short introductions received from Sandra Kucina and Diana Andone
that the Executive Committee recommended to the AGM to elect by voting, using voting sheets
- 7.1.5 resolved:** that upon counting the votes (altogether 30, two of which were not valid) the following result was announced:
- Sandra Kucina – 21 votes
 - Diana Andone – 7 votes
- that accordingly the newly elected member of the Executive Committee was announced: Sandra Kucina The Chair congratulated to the new EC member and wished lots of success in her new position

7.2 Endorsement of President

- 7.2.1. noted: that with the expiry of his second three year term of office in the Executive Committee, Morten F. Paulsen would no longer continue as President of EDEN after the AGM. The Executive Committee at their online meeting of 17 April, unanimously voted to nominate Antonio Moreira Teixeira as the next President of EDEN from June 2013. This nomination was presented for the AGM for endorsement
- 7.2.2 resolved:** to endorse Antonio Moreira Teixeira as ne President of EDEN

7.2.3. noted: that as Antonio's second term of office in the Executive would expire in 2014, the Executive Committee was recommending to the AGM the application of the exception as outlined in the EDEN Constitution, Article 7.2 and to extend his mandate until June 2016

7.2.4 resolved: to approve the application of the exception and extend the mandate of the new President, Antonio M. Teixeira until June 2016

that Antonio thanked for the confidence and told it was a great honour and privilege for himself and the institution, Universidade Aberta, he was representing. He emphasised that EDEN had always great presidents and it was a big task to continue their great job. Antonio mentioned the big challenges these years EDEN was facing and highlighted that the Association should be more open, collaborative, innovative and global. He was confident in receiving support from colleagues in the Executive, the NAP Steering Committee and the Secretariat, being a great asset, as well

8. Future EDEN Conferences

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

that it was recalled that EDEN Annual Conferences were organised on basis of invitation of members. For 2014 EDEN received such invitation from the University of Zagreb/University Computing Centre. A supportive and progressive atmosphere had been experienced during the preparatory visit and discussions and very promising circumstances found for the organization. Conference dates would be chosen according to the majority of replies received to the question put on the Oslo survey, about the preferred starting date

that in October 2013 a Synergy Conference would be organised in Budapest – built on professional and project experience. Announcement and details would be soon circulated.

9. Any Other Business

that there was no other business

President Morten F. Paulsen thanked to all for attending and closed the Annual General Meeting