
NKA 8/25	Internasjonalt arbeid Saksdokumenter.	a Minutes Oikosnet Europe General Assembly 2024
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Forslag til vedtak: Årsmøtet tar informasjonen til orientering.



Participants

1. Voting Representatives

<u>Representative</u>	<u>Member Organisation</u>
Monika Appmann	Ev. Akademie Bad Boll; GE
Alexei Bodrov	St. Andrew's Biblical Theological Seminary, RU
Knut Refsdal	Norwegian Church Academies, No
Katerina Karkala	Orthodox Academy Crete, GR (OE Vice Pres.)
Alf Linderman	Sigtuna Stiftelsen, SW (Oikosnet Treasurer)
Walter Lüssi	Plusbildung, CH (Oikosnet President)
Kalliopi Mavraga	Inter-Orthodox Center of the Church of Greece,
Gernot Meier	Ev. Akademie Baden, GE
Annegreth Schilling	Ev. Akademie Frankfurt, DE
Catriona Robertson	Iona Community, GB
Aafje van den Boogert	Armenius Institut, NL
Hannah Schilling	Ev. Akademie zu Berlin, GE

2. Proxies – Voting Representatives

<u>Representative</u>	<u>For Member Organisation</u>
Catriona Robertson	Ecumenical Center Agape, I
Catriona Robertson	Corrymeela Community, GB
Gernot Meier	Ecumenical Academy Prague, CZ

3. Voting Representatives as from agenda item 6 (Election of New Members)

Participants	New Member
Heike Witzel	Bundesverband Ev. Erwachsenenbild., DE
Harald Skarsaune	Christian Ass. For Adult Education, NO
Gernot Meier	for Hussite Theological Faculty, CZ

4. Ex Officio Participants – Non Voting

Heinz-Joachim Lohmann, Executive Secretary

Rüdiger Noll, Adviser

Lucia Leonardi, Board Member

Kjell Riise, Board Member

Ewa Sliwka, staff

Kateryna Stulnikova, staff

Anna Wrzesinska, staff

5. Additional Member Representatives/Guests/Speakers – Non Voting

Bishop Pavlo Shvarts, Luth. Church of Ukraine

Rev. Piotr Gas, Trinitatis Church Warsaw

Grzegorz Giemza, Polish Ecumenical Council

Frank Grimstad, Norwegian Church Academies

Anna Herzer, Potsdam Project

Rev. Michal Jablonski, Reform Church in Poland

Boguslaw Milerski, Ecumenical Academy Poland

Helena Olvzak-Woltman

Rafal Pankowski

Agnieszka Wisniewska

Alice Jahir, Youth Project

Draft Minutes

1. Opening and Welcome

Walter Lüssi as President of Oikosnet Europe (OE) and Anna Wrzesinska on behalf of the hosts welcomed all participants at the business sessions of the General Assembly (GA). The opening of the Assembly was marked by an opening worship service in the Lutheran Trinity Church, followed by greetings from several churches in Poland.

2. Roll Call

At present, Oikosnet Europe (OE) has 34 members. 12 members are present at the General Assembly (GA), 3 members have transferred their voting rights to other participating representatives. Therefore, according to the Oikosnet statutes, the quorum is reached.

As from agenda item 6 (Election of New Members), the actual number of OE members is 37 and the number of members represented at the GA, through physical presence or proxy vote, is 18.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda for the business sessions as sent out before the meeting was adopted unanimously without any changes.

4. Election of Co-Signers of the Minutes

Aafje van den Boogert and Knut Refsdal were unanimously elected as co-signers for the minutes of this meeting. The minutes are taken by Rüdiger Noll.

5. Adoption of the minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the GA 2023 in Basel were adopted unanimously without any changes.

6. Elections of New Members

The two of the three candidate organisations (Bundesverband der Ev. Erwachsenenbildung Deutschland, Christian Association for Adult Education in Norway, the Hussite Faculty of the Charles University Prague) presented themselves briefly. The Hussite Faculty was presented by Gernot Meier and other participants. Following their presentations, they were elected unanimously as new members of Oikosnet Europe. They are eligible to vote in the GA from thereon.

7. Presentation and Discussion of the Annual Report

There were no general comments to the Annual Report. The OE President went through section by section. Discussion arose around the projects, in which OE is involved: The Arab-European Citizens' Dialogue (AECD): there is an interest, that more OE members – or other European or church related organisations – should be involved. Therefore, the dates of meetings and invitations should be issued early. If possible, the Dialogue should be brought closer to and more owned by OE. What could we learn from the process in Europe? When Sigtuna drops out as a supporting institution, OE cannot be the only financing institution. Heinz-Joachim suggests for him to approach “Bread for the World” again regarding financial support for European participants. The Board will evaluate the process as part of the overall review process and report back to the GA. The OE members also want to profit from the DPC Project: Could there be a DPC training at a GA? The expertise of DPC staff

is needed in OE. There could be country specific invitations to and custom-tailored courses of DPC. The Annual Report also provided the presentation and discussion of the OE Youth Project(s): Thanks were expressed to all who organised and participated in the youth projects. The manifestos from recent meetings are meant to be internal documents, though they are publicly available. A main concern is as to how to involve more young people, especially through the world of the Academies and Member Organisations, in OE youth projects and Assemblies. It was suggested to Academies to also send young people to GAs. Could there also be two young people in the future OE Board? The GA suggested a cooperation with European Christian Youth Organisations, such as EYCE and WSCF Europe, and to follow-up on the talks with EAD, which took place at the time when Heinz-Joachim took over as Executive Secretary. Open ends with regard to the youth project(s): What is the role of the manifestos? How can youth participation in GAs be assured? What does OE expect from youth, what can youth expect from OE? How can issues of the youth exchange be addressed in a structural form? How could the youth exchange reach out beyond the Christian context?

Kjell Riise, who has taken over the responsibility for the social media communication, invites participants to sign up as followers for Oikosnet and to like and share postings. OE is also present on Instagram. The responsibility for the OE newsletter rests with the Board as a whole, the responsibility for the website with the OE office. Hannah Schilling announced that she is ready to assist Kjell.

After these discussions the Annual Report was received by the GA unanimously.

8. Finances

The Treasurer introduces the accounts for 2023 as presented to the meeting with an income of 19.8884 Euros and an expenditure of 45.201 Euros. He commented that not all membership contributions were received, but the percentage is better than in previous years. The 2023 GA proved to be expensive despite the funds that could be raised by Walter Lüssi in Switzerland. Due to the amount which had to be taken from reserves in 2023 (25.317 Euros), it is evident, that OE will be bankrupt in a foreseeable future, if income and expenditure develop in the same way. At present, OE has reserves at about 130.000 Euros. Members of the GA remarked that accounts and budgets should be

issued well in advance of GAs in order to also discuss them prior to GAs within member organisations. More transparency and a better explanation might lead to more debate and more commitment on how to deal with finances in OE. With these comments, the OE accounts for 2023 were adopted with three abstentions.

The Treasurer then introduced the OE Budget for 2025 with an income and expenditure of 54.250 Euros. He explained that this budget is build according to previous years. The amount to be paid to the Sigtuna Secretariat is cut by half, because the Secretariat will render less services as from 2025. As Treasurer, he is recommending the membership fees to be reviewed. Discussions arouse about the figure of 20.000 Euros for “investments in projects”. No concrete project are envisaged up to now. What is meant by certain budget lines should be made more transparent in the future. The way the budget is build and future membership fees, will be part of the overall review process. It was suggested, that a five-year’s budget plan might be helpful for planning and to oversee resources. The GA also adopts unanimously the recommendation from the floor, that funds from the budget line “investment in projects” can also be used by the Board for purposes related to the revision process and the development of the media presence, items which are not separately budgeted. The Board is asked to report about this fully to the GA. With these comments and recommendations the Budget 2025 was adopted unanimously with one abstention.

9. Elections

Following the decision of last year’s GA, no elections are due this year. However, many Board members including the president will retire next year. The process to find new members has already started. Interested members as well as suggestions are welcome by the moderator of the Nominations Committee, Alexei Bodrov or by Board members.

10. OE Review Process Plan and Action Plan

The Executive Secretary introduced the process thus far. The Working Group of the review process met several times in zoom conferences. Its work resulted in two documents, which were distributed before the GA: “Theology, Education and civil society at the heart of Oikosnet Europe” and “Tasks for the ongoing meetings of the Working Group”. The GA looked at the process and its results in smaller groups and in plenary. The results of the smaller groups are captured separately. In the business session, it was mentioned to add the topic “advocacy work” to the list of

tasks. As to the future process, the Working Group will continue its work. Members are still invited to join. In the future there might be the need to split into subgroups on specific topics. Future changes should be related to the financial plan. The relation between the working group and its steering committee as well with the Board should be clarified. A small group, consisting of Katerina Karkala, Knut Refsdal and Veronika Maejkova will revise the document on theology, education and civil society in light of the result of the small groups during the GA.

11. Reports from Projects and Common Activities

These were dealt with as part of the Annual Report (cf. above)

12. Relationships

Heinz- Joachim Lohmann reported that he had a meeting with Mario Fischer, Gen. Secr. of CPCE. There might be a joint youth project.

13. Date and Venue of the next GA

The next GA is scheduled to take place 17 - 21 September 2025 in Wittenberg with the working title: War and Peace. It will possibly be held in the Ev. Akademie Sachsen-Anhalt or in the Lothar Kreyssig Ökumenezentrum (<https://www.oekumenezentrum-ekm.de/>) – of the EKM.

Nov. 2024