

LEDA PARTENARIAT (LDnet) ASSOCIATION

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Held at 260 Chaussée Saint-Pierre, 1040 Brussels, 10 October 2018 at 18:30

Present: Urszula Budzich-Tabor, Katalin Kolosy, Robert Lukesch, Jean-Pierre Pellegrin, Maria Joao Rauch, Haris Martinos, Danielle Borrelli

Gave proxy: Rosalba La Grotteria, Filippo Strati, Bert Verbrugghe, Alistair Adam-Hernandez, Yves Champetier, Anastasia Chatzinikolaou

Sent apologies: Eileen Humphreys, Peter Ramsden, Toby Johnson, Michael Dower, Elena Patatouka

MINUTES

1. Agenda, Proxies, Apologies

Urszula Budzich-Tabor was elected to chair the meeting. The draft agenda was adopted. Members' proxies and apologies received were reported.

2. Annual Report

The attached annual report for 2017-2018 was presented by the secretary of the association, Haris Martinos.

The financial information included in the report showed a total expenditure of €877 during 2017-2018 with a remaining bank balance of €6,005. The treasurer of the association, Jean-Pierre Pellegrin, informed the assembly that, after the finalisation of the report, a payment of €1,000 had been made to AEIDL as LDnet's share of the internship costs of Noemie Bassette. Therefore, the funds currently available stand at €5,005.

The report was discussed, including the need to consider options for replenishing the financial resources of the association in the course of 2018-2019, and was approved unanimously (with one abstention) by the assembly.

3. Priorities for 2018 - 2019

3.1 Research links

Last year's initiative to develop stronger links with the research community included the compilation of material for an inventory of universities, research centres and qualifications relating to local development, as well as a special session at the annual conference of RSA in Lugano (June 2018) and the internship of Noemie Bassette.

The assembly discussed the scope for, and potential benefits from closer links with the research community. It was agreed to continue attaching priority to this topic but it was felt that links with applied research are more likely to produce tangible results.

The assembly also discussed the state of play with the compilation of the inventory and agreed that the existing material should be circulated for members to familiarise themselves and that a skype discussion should be organised to decide how to take it further.

3.2 Traineeships

The assessment of the internship of Noemie Bassette, Sciences-Po Rennes, over a four-month period from March to July 2018, was positive.

The assembly discussed the framework for future internships and agreed that, in principle, they should be pursued within the following parameters:

- Cooperation with a Brussels-based organisation that could host the intern;
- Specifications with the topics to be covered by the internship;
- Total cost to LDnet: up to € 500 per placement, e.g. as LDnet's share of costs or a top-up of Erasmus+ grant;

Different channels to be used for identifying potential interns, including bilateral contacts with universities as in the past and by approaching university contacts established through the above inventory; announcing the traineeship offer on the LDnet website was also mentioned as a possibility.

3.3 Local development course

The possibility of LDnet participating in offering a local development course was discussed. This was initially raised by Nicola Francesco Dotti, VUB & RSA, and we have also established that AEIDL is interested in pursuing talks on a local development course.

It was agreed that, in principle, this is a good idea but LDnet could not play a leading role. It is worth exploring whether we could complement a university wishing to offer such a course at European level.

3.4 Participation in events

- a. RSA annual conference:** The conference announcement has been published. The conference will take place in June 2019 in Santiago de Compostela. It was agreed that LDnet should consider proposing a special session as last year. A skype meeting to be convened to discuss the focus of our proposal.
- b. EWRC 2019:** It was agreed in principle to prepare a proposal, following the announcement of the call for proposals which is expected in January 2019. A potential theme could be linked to innovative tools of local development financing (including financial instruments, but also other forms of financing) – there is potential to cooperate on this theme with AEIDL, which is providing TA to fi-compass.
- c. OECD local development forum:** Maria Joao Rauch and Jean-Pierre Pellegrin to explore the possibility of LDnet participating in the next OECD forum.
- d. Other events:** Members and friends to be asked for their suggestions.

3.5 Participation in project proposals

Following discussion on the extent to which LDnet could participate in project proposals within its limited resources, it was agreed that a limited involvement in project proposals, not

as a lead or main partner, should be considered on a case-by-case basis assuming that the necessary implementation resources will be drawn from project budgets.

It was also agreed that we should make it known that we are willing to be associated with proposals in which LDnet's involvement will focus on sharing of knowledge and EU-level dissemination (including e.g. the possibility of looking at the long-term effects of local development in areas where it has been implemented over several funding periods).

4. Next general assembly

It was agreed to consider holding next year's general assembly via teleconferencing to increase the level of participation, which in the past has been constrained by travel costs and time availability that affect physical meetings of an international nature.