EuroDIG General Assembly

The annual General Assembly (GA) of the non-profit EuroDIG Support Association having its registered seat in Schächlistrasse 19, 8953 Dietikon / Switzerland, was held virtually on 29 June 2020 from 14:00-18:30 (CEST / UTC +2).

Agenda

1. Assignment of the Chair of the GA, if other than the (two Co-) President(s),
2. Assignment of the minute keeper and two vote scrutineers
3. Verification of the voting list (roll call of voting members in attendance)
4. Approval of the agenda
5. Approval of the minutes of the previous General Assembly [Annex Minutes]
6. Report on the activities in 2019 / 20 and outlook for planned activities in 2020 / 21
7. Reporting on and approval of the 2019 audit report [Annex Audit Report]
8. Discharge of the Board and the Secretariat for the year 2019
9. Approval of new members accepted by the Board in the preceding 12 months
10. Board statement on the election procedure
    BREAK
11. Discussion and approval of the 2020 expected costs and budget [Annex Budget]
12. Discussion and approval on the revision of statutes [Annex Statutes]
13. Election of the Board of Directors [Annex EoI's of 8 candidates for the Board]
14. 15. AOB

Meeting Minutes

1. **Assignment of the Chair of the GA, if other than the (two Co-) President(s)**
   The GA was chaired by Thomas Schneider, President of the EuroDIG Association

2. **Assignment of the minute keeper and two vote scrutineers**
   Giacomo Mazzone, board member, was assigned as the minute keeper of the GA.
   Chris Buckridge and Yrjö Länsipuro were appointed as vote scrutineers.

   Because it was a virtual GA it was decided to use the BigPulse Application for the Board election. Chris Buckridge was involved in testing the BigPulse settings before the elections. The result of the election was published automatically by the application.
   All other votes were conducted with a show of hand and by using the Zoom integrated tools.

3. **Verification of the voting list (roll call of voting members in attendance)**
   Out of 24 voting members 15 participated, whilst 4 of them holding proxy for members not present. 1 out of 1 Associate Member was present. (See list of participating members in annex to this document.)

4. **Approval of the agenda**
   The agenda was sent to members 3 weeks in advance. No additional points (AOB) have been suggested. The agenda was approved by the participants of the GA .

5. **Approval of the minutes of the previous General Assembly**
   The minutes from the last EuroDIG General Assembly which took place in Den Haag on 20 June 2019, were approved by the General Assembly. No objection was raised by the participants.

6. **Report on the activities in 2019/20 and outlook for planned activities in 2020 / 21**
   The Chair handed over to Sandra Hoferichter, the Secretary General (SG), who reported on the EuroDIG activities since the 2019 EuroDIG meeting including outreach activities, the developments of EuroDIGs communications, governance and membership. Present Members were invited to comment.

   The SG reported about the work undertaken by the Secretariat in cooperation with Mark Carvell to collate European views on Recommendation 5A/B of the UN High Level Panel on Digital Cooperation (HLPDC) (see also https://www.eurodig.org/index.php?id=750).

   The SG reported on the virtual 2020 EuroDIG meeting:
   In total, 1296 people had registered for the meeting. Most participants did not follow all sessions during the three days, but chose the sessions that they were interested in. In general, the participation at the sessions was around 100. This means that, there had been more participants in the virtual (workshop) sessions than in the previous physical meetings.
   In addition to the Zoom rooms, the sessions were also streamed on YouTube and via ISOC. A detailed report on the virtual meeting will be compiled and made public.
   The navigation through the EuroDIG website had worked well. There had been many ways to access the Zoom rooms. There had been no cases of Zoom-bombing. The Forum as additional tool for exchange among participants was used less than expected, so this should be reconsidered for a next time.

   Survey of participants feedback of the virtual 2020 EuroDIG meeting:
   The survey was answered by around 100 persons. Most participants had the view that the virtual meeting worked very well. The studio hosts were considered to have done a remarkable job. Also, the setting, that had the feel of a Eurovision song contest, was considered very well done. Finally, the closing ceremony with handing over a ball from the Studio The Hague to Studio Berlin and then to the Studio Trieste had been considered a very nice alternative to the usual handing over of the flag from the current to the next host.

   On behalf of all EuroDIG members, the Chair thanked the Secretary General and all members of the Secretariat for their amazing work.

   Outlook for future activities planned:
   The host originally planned for a physical 2020 meeting (Trieste) will remain the host for the (hopefully physical) 2021 meeting. It is planned to hold a community meeting in the autumn, to discuss the experience of the 2020 virtual meeting and to prepare the 2021 meeting, taking into account the learnings from 2020.

7. **Reporting on and approval of the 2019 audit report**
   The Secretary General presented the 2019 annual accounts previously reviewed by external auditors. She highlighted that the financial situation of the EuroDIG was sufficient and

substantial financial reserves are in place. However, she noted that, due to uncertainty of sponsor engagement, the long-term situation is challenging.

The General Assembly approved the annual accounts 2019 and the audit report.

8. **Discharge of the Board and the Secretariat for the year 2019**

   The necessary quorum of two-thirds of members present or represented being reached, the General Assembly agreed to grant discharge to the Board and the Secretariat.

9. **Approval of new members accepted by the Board in the preceding 12 months**

   The board proposed to the GA to accept current Associate Member Sorina Teleanu as a new Full Member and to accept Roberto Gaetano, Michael Oghia and Mark Carvell and Gergana Petrova as new Associate Members. All were accepted by the GA with no objections.

   With this, the EuroDIG Support Association has now 25 Full Members and 4 Associate Members

   In the discussion, participants agreed that efforts should be further increase to enlarge the membership of the Association to underline EuroDIG's spirit of openness and to include new forces and new ideas. In this regard, it was noted that, given that the Association is not in charge of the EuroDIG programme (this is up to the whole community) but responsible for organizational, structural and financial matters, it is not easy to find people willing and able to work on a voluntary basis. In addition, effort need to be made that enlarging the membership of the association does not create additional work and financial burdens to the already scarcely funded association.

   The GA decided to separate the list of Founding Members from the statutes, as this list, being integrated in the statutes, could wrongly be interpreted as them having more rights than newer Full Members – which is not the case. In order to attract more members, further amendments to the statutes may be discussed and decided in the future. In addition, it was decided to develop a profile of capabilities expected from new members to be prepared before the next GA in order to promote new demands for membership.

10. **Board Statement on the election procedures**

    The Board presented the procedures of the election, including an introduction of the BigPulse voting tool that was used for electronic elections. Using this tool allowed each member to cast the vote individually by using personalised credentials that were sent out 3 days in advance. Voting was possible from Friday 26 June 2020, 6:30 am until Monday 29 June 2020, 6:30 pm (CEST = UTC+2) the day of the GA.

    This year we have received more Expression of Interest (8) than Board Seats available (7). The term for all Directors is expiring, but all of them are willing to conclude and submitted an EoI. Therefore, the Board proposed to introduce staged terms for Directors in order to avoid a departure of all Board Directors at the same time. The longest terms of 3 years shall be given to the new Directors. If approved by the GA this would include a slight modification in art. 9 of the statutes of the organisation.

11. **Discussion and approval of the 2020 expected costs and budget**

The Secretary General presented the financial forecast for EuroDIG in 2020 and explained that the budget for 2020 presents an unusual situation due to the Corona pandemic:
By the end of 2019 we started the simulation for a 2020 budget from a best-case scenario of 250.000 EUR, then we reduced in March 2020 to 180.000 EUR and are now expecting costs of around 160.000 EUR. In opposite we can only expect an (confirmed) income of 130.000 EUR for 2020 due to drop out of donations. The difference will be taken from the reserve funds.
We were hoping to make more savings on travel, but then we discovered the reality, that it is not true that virtual meetings are less costly then the physical ones.
We have been able to keep at a lower level of spending for the virtual meeting (around 20.000 EUR) because we benefited of support in kind from RIPE NCC equipment, from the NL IGF, which is our Dutch former host, from the German Association for Informatics (GI) and from our host team in Trieste at ICTP. In addition, we rent a company in Leipzig for a special price of 8.000 EUR. So, we have been able to kept the virtual meeting costs within around 20.000 EUR, included captioning and moderators in each studio.

Being aware of the uncertain situation related to the pandemic the GA approved the budget estimation of around 160.000 EUR for the year 2020. In case expected losses will be confirmed the assembly agreed to take this amount from the reserves.

12. Discussion and approval of the revision of statutes

The GA unanimously approved the introduction of staged terms for Board directors and to change article 9 of the Statutes respectively. "*The Multistakeholder Board is a group composed of up to 7 individuals elected for UP TO 3 years, …*"

In addition, the Swiss local authority required changes in the exact wording in some parts of the Statutes in order to underling the non-profit nature of the association. The GA also approved these changes.

The SG will send the revised statutes to the Swiss local authority for reference.

13. Election of the Board of Directors

The BigPulse poll closed at 18:30 CEST and results were sent to each voter automatically by email and the results were also shared in the Zoom meeting room for non-voting member. Only one voting member did not cast the vote.

Results of the 2020 Board elections

Report date: Monday 29 June 2020 18:35 CEST
Poll ID: 160431
As at Poll close: Monday 29 June 2020 18:30 CEST
Number of voters: 24 · Group size: 25 · Percentage voted: 96.00
Vote counting method: V1 FPTP (first-past-the-post)
Ranked by votes

Rank	Candidate ID	Candidate	Votes	%

1	16055006	Olivier Crepin-Leblond	23	95.83
2	16055003	Chris Buckridge	22	91.67
2	16055008	Thomas Schneider	22	91.67
4	16055007	Tatiana Tropina	19	79.17
5	16055010	Yrjö Länsipuro	16	66.67
6	16055004	Giacomo Mazzone	15	62.50
7	16055005	Michael Rotert	13	54.17
8	16055009	Sebastien Bachollet	2	8.33

According to the Board statement as described in point 10. Tatiana and Yrjö will be elected for the three years term. The other Directors will have to decide (by straw) who shall go for two years and who only for one year. The decision will be taken between the 4 outgoing members at the next board meeting.

14. AOB

Giacomo Mazzone, Thomas Schneider, Sandra Hoferichter
June / September 2020

List of members as of June 2020

No	Voting Member	Present	Proxy assigned to:
1	Sebastien Bachollet		Olivier Crepin-Leblond
2	Wolfgang Benedek	x	
3	Chris Buckridge	x	
4	Olivier Crepin-Leblond	x	
5	Bertrand de La Chapelle	x	
6	Avri Doria	x	
7	Patrik Fältström		
8	Paul Fehlinger	x	
9	Letizia Gambini		
10	Ayesha Hassan		Chris Buckridge
11	Sandra Hoferichter	x	
12	Wolfgang Kleinwächter	x	
13	Markus Kummer	x	
14	Yrjö Länsipuro	x	
15	Wolf Ludwig		Sandra Hoferichter
16	Giacomo Mazzone	x	
17	Juuso Moisander	x	
18	Ana Neves	x	
19	Ana Olmos		
20	Vladimir Radunovic		
21	Paul Rendek		
22	Michael Rotert		Wolfgang Kleinwächter (alt. Olivier Crepin-Leblond)
23	Thomas Schneider	x	

24	Tatiana Tropina	x	
	Associate Member (non-voting)	**Present**	
1	Sorina Teleanu (was confirmed as Full Member during the GA)	x	
	Newly assigned during the GA as Associate Members		
1	Gergana Petrova		
2	Mark Carvell	x	
3	Roberto Gaetano	x	
4	Michael Oghia	x	