

EuroDIG General Assembly

The annual General Assembly of the non-profit EuroDIG Support Association having its registered seat in Schächlistrasse 19, 8953 Dietikon / Switzerland, was held on 7 September 2022, 13:00 – 15:15 CEST as a virtual meeting.

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
6. Report on the activities in 2021/ 22 and outlook for planned activities in 2022/23
7. Reporting on and approval of the 2021 audit report
8. Discharge of the Board and the Secretariat for the year 2021
9. Discussion and approval of the 2022 expected costs and budget
10. Approval of new Associate Members accepted by the Board since the last GA
11. Election of the Board of Directors
12. AOB
13. Strategic discussion about EuroDIG

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 vote scrutineers
Rainer Rodewald and Jörn Erbguth were assigned as vote scrutineers and Auke Pals as the minute keeper.
3. Verification of the voting list (roll call of voting members in attendance)
Out of 29 voting members 14 were present, whilst 4 members transferred their proxy. 3 out of 3 Associate Member were present.
(See list of members in annex to this document.)
The GA is open to the public; guests signed up in presence list enclosed to these minutes.
4. Approval of the agenda
The agenda was sent to members 3 weeks in advance. No additional points (AOB) have been suggested. However, a suggestion was made by Robert Gaetano to discuss the YouthDIG follow-up in the next debriefing of EuroDIG. Synergies with AccesNow / RightsCon will be discussed in point 6. The agenda was approved.

5. Approval of the minutes of the previous General Assembly

The minutes from the last EuroDIG General Assembly which took place as a virtual meeting on 7 October 2021, were approved by the General Assembly. No objection was raised by the participants.

6. Report on the activities in 2022 and outlook for planned activities in 2023

The Chair handed over to the Secretary General, Sandra Hoferichter who reported on the 2022 EuroDIG meeting which took place in Trieste and presented the facts and figures from the meeting. (see: the presentation enclosed to these minutes) Around 150 persons joined onsite in Trieste, which was lower than before the pandemic due to exists of the hybrid meeting concept. Overall, around 700 people registered for EuroDIG 2022.

Outlook for the future activities planned:

The Secretary General continued with an outlook of activities planned in 2023 including the EuroDIG event from 6-8 June 2023, Tampere University / Finland, with aims to include in the next cycle: better involvement of local community, cooperation with RightsCon, which has overlapping dates, more participants to attend on-site by creating value of meetings in person. There are also plans to re-think the programme building process to make it less demanding for the community.

Yrjö Länsipuro, who is part of the Finish host team, described in more detail the potential of the Host city Tampere. The first outreach to the local community for this EuroDIG will be during the upcoming site inspection and the Finish Internet Forum on the 29th of September. Moreover, stakeholders are invited to comment on the Global Digital Compact (GDC). Mark Carvell introduced the European Stakeholder Consultations on the Global Digital Compact which can be found at <https://comment.eurodig.org/global-digital-compact>, and explained the commenting platform.

Sandra continued on giving an update on other events in the coming period: Community debriefing October, publications and IGF participation.

Present Members were invited to comment. Besides from comments in the chat no other comment was made.

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

Andrea Beccalli commented on overlapping EuroDIG with the European presidency in Sweden and suggests to coordinate with the EC and member states to get them involved. The chair reacted that we will be in contact with the key actors.

7. Reporting on and approval of the 2021 audit report

The Chair / Secretary General presented the 2021 annual accounts previously reviewed by external auditors. The year ended with a positive result due to the fact the 2021 EuroDIG meeting was fully online, the year 2022 costs have been higher than last year due to rising travel costs.

The General Assembly approved the annual accounts and audit report 2021.

8. Discharge of the Board and the Secretariat for the year 2021

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

9. Discussion and approval of the 2022 expected costs and budget

The Secretary General presented the financial forecast for EuroDIG in 2022.

There have been some changes in the list of donors. Some donors dropped out completely, whilst at least one new donor came in and others could increase a bit. However, the fundraising was expected to be higher we have to operate with a minimum budget.

As a consequence, travel support was not considered, while that is not doable again with increasing costs and lower amount of donations compared to before the pandemic. In youth participation funds were lower due to sponsorship on accommodation by ICTP.

During the period 2018-2021 (since we moved to double entry accounting) a surplus of around 17.000 EUR has been accounted. The board suggested to transfer the surplus of 17.000 EUR towards the income of FY22, to balance costs and income for the FY22. The SG explained the numbers in detail. At the end of FY 2022 a negative result of minus 4.000EUR is expected, which needs to be transferred from the reserve fund.

Further financial considerations to be made by the Board may impact the budget with some adjustments.

The chair pointed out that fluctuations may occur due to exchange rates. Moreover, the chair pointed out that the pandemic caused fluctuations in the budget and hybrid meeting increased the costs, including unforeseen costs by the technical facilitating companies.

Members raised questions; It was suggested to rethink the efforts a hybrid format demands.

Marco Hogewoning, asked the question if the board can institutionalise contributions by MoUs.

The chair reacts that funding is a challenge and making these agreements are not easy. The SG reacts that some MoUs are in place, some organisations cannot due to their statutes engage into long-term relationships.

The General Assembly approved the annual budget estimation for 2022, including the surplus transfer.

10. Approval of new Associate Members accepted by the Board since the last GA

The board proposed Jörn Erbguth and Jacques Beglinger as associate members, which gave an introduction. After the introduction they have been accepted as Associate Members.

Moreover, the GA accepted Auke Pals as Full Member of the EuroDIG association.

In addition, causing clarity the board to was asked to revise the Rules of Operation to further specify the time limits (if any) between admission as an "associate member" and admission as a "full member", as well as the steps necessary to initiate such a procedure (formal application letter, time limits, etc.).

11. Election of the Board of Directors

It was announced that the terms for two directors are expiring. Both are eligible for re-election, and both have submitted an Expression of Interest (Eol) to continue as Board Director. No other Eol's were received.

The GA confirmed Olivier Crepin-Leblond and Chris Buckridge by acclamation for a 3 years term.

12. AOB

No AOB was discussed

13. Strategic discussion about EuroDIG

Multiple questions are asked:

- How would we like to develop the conference of the future?
- Are panels and workshops organized by the community still the right format to address the current issues?
- How can we conduct multistakeholder dialogue across Europe with the resources that are available?

The chair proposed to have a retreat to discuss the above questions.

Mark Carvell, thinks this is a good idea, meanwhile his suggestion is to survey the target audience to investigate if the right audience is reached and funding might be secured more easily.

SG asked the question if we should spend money on an in-person retreat which will cost around 10.000 EUR.

Roberto Gaetano, suggested to continue this discussion on the mailing list and initiate a focussed virtual meeting.

The chair closes the meeting.

Signed Auke Pals

Amsterdam, 07-09-2022

List of participants

No	Founding Member (voting)	Confirmed	Present	Proxy to:
1	Sebastien Bachollet		No	Olivier Crepin-Leblond
2	Wolfgang Benedek		No	Sandra Hoferichter
3	Chris Buckridge	Yes	Yes	
4	Mark Carvell	Yes	Yes	
5	Olivier Crepin-Leblond	Yes	Yes	
6	Bertrand de La Chapelle		No	
7	Avri Doria		yes	
8	Patrik Fältström		No	
9	Paul Fehlinger		No	
10	Roberto Gaetano	yes	yes	
11	Letizia Gambini	no	no	
12	Ayesha Hassan	no	No	
13	Sandra Hoferichter	Yes	yes	
14	Wolfgang Kleinwächter		No	Yrjö Länsipuro
15	Markus Kummer	No	partly	
16	Yrjö Länsipuro	Yes	yes	
17	Wolf Ludwig	No	No	
18	Giacomo Mazzone	Yes	yes	
19	Juuso Moisander		No	Yrjö Länsipuro
20	Ana Neves	Yes	no	
21	Michael Oghia	Yes	Yes	
22	Ana Olmos	no	no	
23	Gergana Petrova	yes	partly	
24	Vladimir Radunovic	tentatively	partly	Giacomo Mazzone
25	Paul Rendek	no	No	
26	Michael Rotert	No	no	
27	Sorina Teleanu	tentatively	No	
28	Tatiana Tropina	Yes	Yes	
29	Thomas Schneider	Yes	Yes	
	Associate Member (non-voting)			
30	Livia Walpen	No	No	
31	Auke Pals	No	Yes	
32	Marco Hogewoning	No	Yes	
	New associate Members			
33	Jacques Beglinger		yes	
34	Jörn Erbguth		yes	

	Institutional Partners			
	Nicola Frank		Yes	
	Andrea Beccalli		Yes	
	Adam Peake		Yes	
	From the Secretariat			
	Rainer Rodewald		Yes	
	Nadia Tjahja		Yes	