

Minutes

Welcome and presentation of the day

Sirius' President, Thomas Huddleston, opened the General Assembly welcoming all members and explaining the programme of the day. He also asked members for approval of last General Assembly's minutes.

He highlighted the fact it was a historic General Assembly; the first one as SIRIUS as a legal entity.

Accepting new members

Thomas invited the organisations that had recently sent their application expressing their interest in becoming members of the Sirius network to present their organisations.

After the presentations, full members voted on the acceptance of new members. All new members were accepted by hand rise of our full members. Sirius network counts now 31 members in 18 countries.

New Members are:

- New Community Partnership: Ireland (NCP);
- Fryshuset: Sweden;
- University of Lapland: Finland;
- Educational Research Institute: Slovenia;
- High Commission for Migration: Portugal;
- Forum for Freedom in Education is Education: Croatia

Presentation of the Work Plan for Sirius network activities and respective Budget for 2017

Thomas presented the Work Plan that had been prepared by Sirius' Head of Secretariat and previously discussed and approved by all Board members.

The Work Plan was presented with two versions: activities with only OSF funds and activities if we receive the EC funds.

SIRIUS Activities (see workplan attached):

- SIRIUS website is being worked on, restructure in a simpler format.
- Infographics on activities.
- Reprint the Handbook on "Helping Children and Youth with Migrant Background Succeed: Making School Matter for All" with the outputs from Sirius previous project.
- Additional board meetings.
- If EU funding: few peer learnings, over the 4 years every participant has the chance to do one peer learning. We want to fund the areas where there is a policy change.
- Two policy workshops in 2017.

- Erasmus+ NAOS end conference
- Topic yet to be defined: refugees, leadership, etc.
- We do not intend to do a national workshop this year
- Policy briefs: NAOS, Key competences or something else.
- SIRIUS monitoring report.
- With EC funding another conference probably in 2018 with extra key stakeholders.
- If any conference, event deals with 'SIRIUS topics', please contact the board for comparative information and/or additional help.
- Work program can be changed.

Points that came out the discussion on the Work Plan:

- **A Policy Advisory Board** we would like to establish.
- We will ask you for a **RECOMMENDATION** to find policy makers to join this group.
- We should think what questions we want to raise if based on policy workshops, we want to write policy briefs. I.e. the policy brief on School Leadership could not be based on a lot of data. NAOS will give a lot of information as input for briefs etc.
- Open calls in the field of migration and education will be sent out to the members if feasible. Monthly news brief will be in progress.
- We do not have a partner in France yet. Members are asked to name a France national agency.
- East of Europe is missing as member. As well as Denmark, Malta
- List of members attached.
- Email-addresses are being sent of new members if agreed upon by these members.

Discussion on Proposal EU commission:

Bureaucratic application, 18 countries covered. SIRIUS Aisbl were established later than the deadline for the application, so MPG applied as the project manager. They will run the secretariat, but membership fees will go to the SIRIUS aisbl. If we are successful on the EU proposal, we will have a half time program manager. We will work out who is responsible for activities, either by MPG or the SIRIUS Aisbl. Decision making will be by MPG and the SIRIUS board. We expect the decision from the Commission proposal to arrive in May/June. Start in/ after summer.

⇒ After discussion, the Work Plan and budget were voted by full members and duly approved.

Presentation of the draft of the “Rules of Procedures” for Sirius network activities

The “Rules and Procedures” document was mainly prepared by one of our Board members, Lana Jurko, with additional inputs from the Head of Secretariat. Before putting it into discussion at the General Assembly, all members of the Board had first discussed it and approved it.

The main goal of the document is to establish clear rules on the functioning of Sirius as a legal entity.

SIRIUS policies and procedures:

Lana presented the document to all members explaining first that Belgian law is difficult, statutes are not easily changed due to payments and majority of voters to agree on change, so we decided to keep the “rules and procedures” as simple and comprehensive as possible.

Lana took us then through the document. Members discussed its content, made very few amendments and voted positively on the “Rules and Procedures” of Sirius Network activities.

Other Businesses

Members took the floor and proposed additional activities/ideas for workshops.

Additional workshop:

Topics:

- Grassroot organisation on building inclusive schools for December 2017
- Refugee education in higher education for December 2017
- Website for parents portal where they can questions on school policies. Active in 70 countries. Combination in 2018 with results Erasmus+ and ALFIRK project.

Members said Sirius should focus on areas where it has already contributed on.

Establish a workgroup on key competences framework for answering the EC online consultation as Sirius. Members will send draft answers to Head of Secretariat who will compile a final document before answering the online EU consultation on Key Competences Framework.

Members proposed creating a closed Facebook group for further discussions.

Closing of the day

Thomas closed the meeting.