

Board Call 6th April 2020 -

Present: Lana, Hanna, Mialy, Michalis, Thomas, Milos & Tomislav

Agenda

- 1) **Check-in** - how is everyone and what are your working hours looking like given the current pandemic?
- 2) **Policy conference ideas** - Update from Miloš on the options from EPA and decision about how to move forward.
- 3) Update on other affected activities given Covid-19 (NRT and PLA)
- 3) **GA for SIRIUS aisbl** In line with the decision on Policy Conference for this year, how to move forward
- 4) **See attached Comms Strategy**
- 5) **Fundraising** - Update from Tom/Mialy
 - REACH initiative at Harvard connection
 - MFGCHANGE planned call for advice on philanthropy
 - Addressing foundations as a leader in the field in the current Covid-19 situation - see below text for example

Check -in Everyone is healthy although capacity is low for extra work!

Policy conference EPA are interested in continuing the collaboration. Options are Madrid in December where they already have a planned meeting (pandemic allowing), Chania in the Spring of next year or at the end of the year. We have also thought about Lisbon for 2021 and a collaboration with ACM as partner. So far for this year there is a preference for 2021 Portugal but wait and see what will happen with the pandemic for this year.

action check in with ACM about a Portuguese conference next year instead of this year.

NRT

Currently all partners are dealing with the Covid-19 situation in different ways and their capacity for communications is varying. In terms of NRTs, many have had to be cancelled but many are thinking of moving them online as momentum has been built with confirmed participants e.t.c.

action Miloš will liaise with Cath and Michalis and National Roundtables – what will be the proposal in terms of discussing impacts of Covid-19 – hopefully doing them online and moving a focus to the covid-19 response.

PLAs

Update from Miloš

PLA in Netherlands? 4th and 5th of June – highly unlikely that it will be organized by then but probably can do it in 2nd half of the year

PLA in Stockholm 2nd half of year – should be ok?

How is the Watch effected?

Hanna explained that it requires mostly digital access – some partners organizing over the phone interviews instead of face to face interviews – should be feasible and there is a good window built in for delays so hopefully it will work.

Mialy come back with information on GA

Overall impacts on the 2.0 project will result in some changes to the project.

action Miloš is going to work with commission on changing/annexes to contracts with partners for year 3.

General Assembly

Mialy highlighted the main administrative issues

1) We only need 3 board members at any one given time (below copied from statute)

"The board is composed by minimum three members and maximum five members. The mandate of the members of the Board is two years, renewable once."

Therefore if undertaking board elections during a pandemic period seems too ambitious, we can wait until next year to elect a new board member.

One mandatory activity is the approval of finances for 2019. This is the only thing that needs to be done administratively. \

Discussion around whether it would be fair to leave the elections till later but everyone agreed if we have an earlier GA next year (before end of Feb 2021) it should be fine for this year.

2) The Mandatory activity is approval of finances. But there are no other mandatory activities for the GA.

- We also need to work on developing thematic groups - Mialy (calls with members and discussion last week)

3) I would also like to work on developing thematic groups (calls with members show that this is something they would appreciate and a discussion last week with the EC showed that they would appreciate this so that we can better highlight our work on our website.

4) We should present the workplan and budget for this year.

action Mialy and Miloš should get together to ensure the workplan is ready for the GA and also planning of the GA.

Presentation of Comms Strategy

Mialy presented the strategy highlighting that -the bold is the strategy and the workplan/activities for this year 2020 is in non bold

Feedback and questions from board is:

What are the dg eac expectations on our website and communications in terms of the project but also in general having had another meeting with them?

Their needs are that items are themed better and easier to find. They would like us to show publications, activities under specific themes of

- teaching and learning (in the classroom, pedagogy, curriculum, new-comer assessment issues e,t,c)
- whole community issues (whole school, parental participation, non-formal education, involving other stakeholders)
- socio-economic linkages

Can we have a review of the website and look at what is static and what needs improving? It seems a little out of date?

Yes, we will be doing this slowly as we move on changing the themes – we hope things will be themes a little better.

Do we have budget for website renewal/refresh in the 2.0 activities budget?

action point – Milos will check for this and get back to Mialy/Thomas

Can we showcase members and get to know the network better and some of their work and show faces of real people. Doing real work?

action point Mialy will work out how to include this in the themed pages

Fundraising

Tom and Mialy have planned a call with MFG Change a consultancy that helps philanthropists and organisations connect to each other. They also hope to connect with the HARVARD REACH initiative which is trying to build a similar platform to SIRIUS to help practitioners and policy-makers in the US that work with refugee communities.

Mialy has suggested that Sirius could take stronger stance and produce a statement in relation to covid-19 – Thomas suggests contacting members for initial experiences, thoughts, viewpoint and collating that into some thoughts and reactions. Mialy had written a piece on medium and can circulate that as food for thought to members for feedback on a future piece.