

SIRIUS aisbl. Board Meeting
September 10th 2020, 14h CEST online

Present:

Board: Lana, Thomas, Michalis, Hanna

Secretariat: Mialy, Tom, Miloš

Activities

Miloš update

EC – Year 3 possibly needs to finish by February instead of January. Our contact person at the EC is moving on – to coordinating the European Education Area. We will have a new PO who has 30 years experience in ERASMUS+ projects.

Partners – We have a provisional yes about a replacement activity from the Commission but we are awaiting a full yes from Gyula – acting director of unit. We have communicated with partners about the event– we have a few complaints but we will be able to go forward after some phone calls and communications to partners

Lana What were the complaints about and how many complained?

Miloš About 5/6/7 complained

Mialy Complaints were about topic, time-scale and necessary requirements – we did not specify in our initial communication that the inclusive education aspect was to be focused on migrants but we have clarified this with those who have asked. The time-scale is very short and many feel that they don't have enough time to get things done. The requirements were not that clear – our initial communication was not clear on exactly what was required of national partners and how much time we will expect from them but that has now been clarified.

We have learnt lessons on communicating even when things might be unsure with the EC as perhaps this updates people and they can plan their time accordingly.

Year 3 -

PLA update

23rd -25th November with Laurindhe in Netherlands - France may not be able to come, Slovenia also may not be able to come. In general partners possibly unable to come so we are seeing how things progress.

Sweden – no communication from Monique and Bulgaria are not able to come before Spring of next year to Sweden.

Austria EPA have said they could possibly host something instead of Sweden.

Miloš This a conversation that moves to the steering committee and we have a meeting next week.

Tom – if there is a replacement activity it will be something completely different and so will we be able to do it?

Lana – They are very unlikely to happen given the circumstances – so what do we do? For example, do we get partners to write a report and then have a webinar with discussion with a presentation of the case and then move forward? We would have an outcome of a good practice and we could use that with all the members even.

Tom – There could be something like a peer counseling - multilingualism - the topic in the Netherlands is something that everyone is interested to sharing it with all members could be interesting.

Thomas – Peer to peer element – MPG did a peer event with benchmarking last year . A webinar outside of a classroom could be useful.

Mialy – Should we consider not doing PLAs this year, focusing energy on the replacement activity and refining a good creative concept for a PLA that could be really effective next year?

Thomas –if people are willing to give an alternative a try – it may be important to try - there may be a complications with funding for next year otherwise. We need to avoid financial risk and that is something we need to communicate to the steering committee.

Lana – We do need to let the steering committee know what our preference is – especially about financial considerations and year 4 continuing. I am also concerned that Covid-19 is an excuse consistently for people not getting work done. At some point we will need to learn how to move forward and continue with our work.

The conversation will move to the Steering committee next week.

NRTs

Some have moved online – Miloš – can you fill in here as I was struggling to keep up with everyone’s comments. Sorry...

Michalis update - No confirmed news yet on replacement for Catherine. Employing and finalizing contact for a replacement is complicated process with HR but there is someone who hopefully will be able to replace Catherine at least temporarily. Catherine can kindly continue to be involved for a few

more weeks however. Michalis will meet with Cath next week and can offer an update.

Year 4 plan -

We will send the plan to the EC by Tuesday 15th September.

Administration of the aisbl

Tom update

Porticus grant was approved and contracts have been sent! It will start in October. We have already had a call with the OECD and Porticus. Tom believes if we undertake activities successfully that we will be able to secure multi-year funding.

Thomas

What do we need to do activities-wise?

Mialy

Bolstering our DE and NE roundtables,
Identification of Holistic models,
Identification of gaps in research – (For gaps on refugee education, you should talk to the MPG colleagues Alexander Wolffhardt and Carmine Conte since they have lots of analysis and data from our NIEM (National Integration Evaluation Mechanism).
Covid-19 research on refugees
We should discuss with Hanna some of this and see who or how we would best achieve this and which members would be worth involving – Tom would also like to be involved in this conversation too.

Thomas

What do we need to do to achieve multi annual funding?

Tom

More migrant organisations in our network. stronger and better German partners, More work on e refugee-related education models e.t.c.

Mialy

Yes. They were also interested in legitimacy of our members – making sure we have the best ones in DE and NE. They were also very interested in hearing that SIRIUS aisbl was a 'learning organisation' and able to develop and grow as an organisation, proving that we are moving and changing and implementing new things when we see it is necessary.

Thomas

Let's think about who do we need to bring in as members? Whether people want to join and become members of SIRIUS – and will depend more on our networks and our relationships,. We will need to have time to discuss this in the future.

Hanna - We wanted also to update the SIRIUS Clear Agenda and be more vocal about emerging threats and so this should be in line with what PORTICUS would like.

Thomas One point - PORTICUS has made clear we should not mention them as being a donor!

Kids4All update - Kids4all starts in April 2021 - It is EUR 160,000 and fits perfectly with SIRIUS goals and strategic actions and is based on implementation and based on relationships with the EU. Great to move forward with them.

Lana Are we a dissemination partner or research as well? Are we or can we be on the steering committee/board?

Tom We are on the board/steering committee and we are just doing dissemination.

Lana Are our members involved? We need to explain why we are taking part in projects where we don't have members involved - perhaps we can pick up a new partner?

Tom Yes it looks like we could pick up a new member in Hungary

Michalis It sounds a very good way to improve our visibility and in some ways is better than Porticus - As long as we have been involved in good applications this is great for us. How will we achieve all these tasks?

Thomas We will need to schedule all this work in over the next year and this goes into discussions about staffing which I can address now instead of later in the meeting.

Thomas We are currently looking at available funding from Porticus and H2020 and what tasks are required and staffing is necessary. Mialy has prepared a background document with roles, staffing considerations and Lana and I will look at budget and remuneration for staffing and Mialy's role as Director in the future. I would like to suggest in October we can have a meeting to consider staffing, budget roles, governance once we have done some more detailed research into this. Also the board has taken a heavy role in past and are now moving more to oversight and governance as opposed to operational role. This will need to be discussed in October too.

General agreement to use October meeting for staffing, remuneration, governance e.t.c.

Mialy update

1) Changing of Office

Given the current expense of office and current restrictions on access it seemed wise to change space. A new space in Montgomery has been found EUR 200 a month cheaper and unlimited access. A personal service and fewer people in the building in total allowing for a safer environment in these uncertain times.

Lana If the team grows is there space for that and would we need to pay more for that?

Mialy Yes there is space although currently the plan is not to have anyone full-time so a desk could be shared.

The board acknowledges and approves of the legal change of address of SIRIUS aisbl and Mialy will update the Belgian Monitor accordingly.

2) GA update and any instructions/dates - 1 more document to go out this week - 2020 finances (attached) please comment or add questions if you have any.

Thomas will do a welcome and explain how the GA will move forward and let everyone know about secretariat and steering committee changes. Q for Hanna – Is Cosmin still going to take part in the steering committee? Q for Michalis - if possible it would be good to have the ‘latest’ update on the Catherine/NRT replacement person. Hanna Cosmin – is continuing to work on the WATCH but Justinas is more involved. They are both still on the steering committee.

Thomas I will do an online presentation and an organigram that will explain the structure of the aisbl and also the project. And also how the board is changing and how Tom and Mialy’s roles will change with Mialy moving in as director. Mialy – are there other things to go through?

Yes, there are a number of things coming up I wanted to just let everyone know about

3) So, GA should be finalised by September

Office move should be done this month

The budget for 2021 finalised by end October

Porticus funding kicks in October

Hiring intern for membership survey, if you know anyone (we are looking for a student) we can send the pdf.

New Website restructuring by end of October with new e-mail addresses at end October

Upcoming webinar and events

Reminder - new members procedure – members needs to write a letter to the Chair of the board with reasoning for why they should become new members. This needs to be done by March 31st of the year they apply. The board will need to approve the membership and the it will go to the GA for a final vote. Can everyone send the members that they had suggested to me again? I will make a list.

Thomas As coordinators of the European Website on Integration, we at MPG have asked our 28 country coordinators to create a mapping database of the most important migrant and refugee-led organisations in their countries. I think

the final database will contain around 200 migrant-led NGOs. Good for you-- we asked the country coordinators to indicate the types of activities of these NGOs, including whether they handle 1) education and 2) advocacy. The database will probably not be public but you and I can access it to identify potentially strong migrant-led NGOs working on education in order to invite them to join as SIRIUS members

AOB

Tom is looking into a proposal that brings together The Hague University , Coventry University in the UK, University of Groningen, _Netherlands and Queen Rania Teacher Academy _Jordan. The title would be : Learning from Jordan how to psychologically and socially support refugee children to meet their right to high quality education and advance Sustainable Development Goals. SIRIUS would be the dissemination partner of the project. It could bring a good financing in with it.