

## **Update SIRIUS aisbl and 2.0 project July and August 2020**

### **SIRIUS aisbl**

2020 projection - attached to the e-mail

For this year, we need to make some decisions now:

- 1) We have been paying a fairly high rent to MPG for offices. As I am unable to work from an office till September (and tele-working is likely to be recommended for the unforeseeable future) plus the cost of a co-working situation would be much cheaper, I would suggest cancelling our rental agreement with them effective as soon as is possible. We will need to respect their contract with the current landlord.
- 2) I have been using my personal computer for work as the current one was given by MPG and is not as easy to use. I will need to purchase one as my computer has now lost sound due to over-use (!)
- 3) I am hoping to take a financial management course in September and October. This will hopefully decrease the amount of time Lana needs to take to help with financial issues and allow me to make more strategic decisions about content and financing quicker as we move on...

The projection is very tight but will improve with the UNITO funding. We need to continue fundraising with private foundations and also for projects which can add to our communications capacity. I would like to consider a fundraising board (perhaps made of high profile migrants across Europe) I will bring a proposal to a board meeting at a later time.

### Porticus Grant

The application form went in on the 30th of June, a few questions came back, which were answered. Tom has offered an opportunity to speak over the next few weeks with them. They have asked for our bank forms in preparation if the grant is approved. All progressing well.

### UNITO Kids4ALL proposal

This proposal was accepted. It means around EUR 160,000 over 3 years for SIRIUS aisbl. Much of this will go towards staff positions - communications staff pay, which will bolster our capacity.

### Membership Fees

We will need to address this question with proposals put forward as a group together during another board meeting.

### Website

The podcast will go on the website this week. The site will be redesigned, hopefully by the end of September and we will have everything in the desired 'thematic' format.

### GA

Instead of waiting to set up individual webinars and present them at the same time as the admin side of the GA we should go ahead with the administrative side with a promise of the future webinars.

Thomas will make a video for all the membership and we will ask them to vote on the necessary pieces. As discussed, members will be able to self-organise into themed groups and Mialy will hold calls with them in September and October to start joint work plans.

### **SIRIUS 2.0 project-related**

The EC asked us if we could come up with a proposal to hold a high-level meeting at the end of the year. This could be in replacement of the Policy Conference or the Belgiah NRT. A proposal is attached to the e-mail and it can be done in a shorter format (replacing Belgian NRT) or a larger format. We would still want to hold a Spring or early Summer Policy Conference in Portugal in 2021 to take advantage of the Portuguese Presidency of the EU either way (it would be a year 3 or year 4 conference.) We can give no details on this until the EC has come back with an initial decision/feedback but will keep everyone updated.

In terms of strategy, my personal thought are if we did hold a high-level event at the end of the year it could boost our profile and we could potentially capitalise on this to seek funding from different sources.