



Global Ecovillage Network of Europe e.V.

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Minutes of the General Assembly of Members 2011

July 12-13, 2011 in Tamera, Portugal

The General Assembly was opened by president Macaco Tamerice (Martina Grosse Burlage). 25 full member representatives out of 48 were present (see annex 1), therefore the quorum has been established (50 % of full members, Art. 8.1).

Schedule

	Tuesday, July 12	Wednesday, July 13
09.00 – 12.00	Secretariat Report Statute changes EU directive	Financial Report GEN Europe structures Office Transition
15.00 – 19.00	Feedback to the secretariat Working in small groups	Member visits, other topics Closing circle <u>Bis 16 Uhr</u>
20.30 – 22.00	New member presentations	

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List of Topics

1. Secretariat report
2. Statute changes
3. Financial report: Audit report, approval of the Report 2010 and the Budget 2011
4. Types of membership and membership fees 2012
5. Structures of the organisation, how to organise the secretariat(s), office transition
6. Council election (1 person)
7. Visiting between members (proposal to renew the 2007 decision, brought up by Eva from Sieben Linden)
8. Other topics

Summary of Decisions

1. Secretariat report

Ulrike gave an overview of the activities of GEN Europe from August 2010 to July 2011. The presentation can be downloaded from the website.

2. Statute Changes

For the full text of the Statutes and changes see annex 2.

The suggested changes to the statutes were accepted with 22 yes, 3 standing aside.

A discussion led to several ideas how about future changes that we might want to explore:

- Half of the council members could be elected every year to ensure continuity, or half every two years extending the office term to 4 years
- Decision making processes could be made more explicit in the statutes
- The statutes could be clearer about the auditor
- Proposal: elect substitute council members to get in if necessary.

A group (Lone, Robert, Eva, Sonia Vera) will follow up and send a proposal to the council in time before the 2012 GA.

3. Financial Report

Ulrike presented the financial report for 2010 (see Annex 3) and Lone Samuelson reported as the internal auditor. Lone has examined the book keeping but not yet the receipts. She sees no problems in the book keeping.

The GA releases the council from the responsibility for the year 2010 with 22 yes, 3 standing aside.

Ulrike presented the budget for 2011. Several members commented that more money should be spent for paid staff. The staff hours have been grown too little in regard to the growth of administration of the organization. It was suggested that the budget line 'reserve' should be used for this purpose. It was also suggested that immaterial contributions like voluntary hours or free office spaces should be made visible.

The budget is accepted with 24 yes, 1 standing aside.

4. Types of membership and membership fees 2012

The discussion about changing types of membership categories was postponed to the next GA. The membership fees remain the same until a new decision is made.

5. Development of the organisation and office transition

The current office term expires in 2012 according to our Office Transition Policy. However, stability and continuity seem very important with the rapid growth in activities, and accordingly the budget.

The council suggests extending the current office term and creating satellite offices, which are functional or project oriented. 'Office multiplication instead of office transition' seems a realistic possibility with the rapid growth of the organisation.

The way we work now makes it very inconvenient to change the legal organisation every four years, because many of the funding schemes we use require long term planning.

Therefore, the council suggests that we keep a legal structure that always remains in the same place where only some basic administration is done (invisible background work) while the office as centre of activities keeps rotating among the member communities.

Within the next 3 years, we will search for the best country for the legal place of the organization and research the prerequisites for creating a European organization.

The core office will remain in Sieben Linden until 2014. Accepted with 24 yes, 1 standing aside.

6. Council election (1 person)

In November 2010 Kosha stepped back from the council to become a member of the staff team. Therefore, there are only four council members at the moment.

*The present council suggests continuing with a council of four until the next GA, when council elections will take place anyway.
Accepted with 25 yes.*

7. Visits between communities

Proposal: GEN Europe members invite other members to visit their communities at special conditions: for up to five days, the stay is offered at real costs (costs that members pay themselves, possibly 10-20 Euro) staying in simple accommodation, in exchange for working some voluntary hours, if appropriate (~ 3 hours per day), and only if this is not occupying a place for paying guests.

adhering:

- *Sieben Linden*
- *Tamera*
- *Damanhur*
- *Sudernbyn*
- *Associação 108*
- *Schloss Glarisegg*

Other members are very welcome to join – write to Ulrike. The list will be published on the website.

8. Other topics

Next GA

The 2012 General Assembly has been invited to Schloss Glarisegg in Switzerland. ZEGG and Schweibenalp invite for 2013. Lilleoru would like to invite but doesn't yet have the capacity. During a short discussion it becomes clear that for some communities it is already too late to plan now for next year, we need to plan ahead more.

Schloss Glarisegg's offer is accepted unanimously.

The General Assembly delegates to the council to decide for the place for 2013 unanimously.

Next year, the GA will decide the place for 2014.

EU Declaration

A small group has worked on a proposal of a declaration to the EU. The full text is attached (Annex 5).

Background: A Rio 20+ conference will take place in Rio de Janeiro next year. Politicians need to put on the table something meaningful to avoid another disaster like Copenhagen. The declaration states how to transition Europe to low impact settlements in rural and urban areas.

Building up to the Rio event, there will be another conference in Slovenia in March, to build momentum. The most concrete goal is that the EU will adopt the directive, thus create national laws. We need partners to support our initiative, starting with a declaration of GEN to then invite unity of local municipalities, parties dedicated to change, the Transition Town movement etc to join.

The text is accepted with 24 yes, one standing aside. Some Language editing by native speakers will be done later.

Membership certificates

The work on an improved graphic profile for GEN Europe has led, among other things, to the creation of membership certificates, an idea that has come up at last year's GA. All full members present have been handed their certificates and the others will be sent by post.

Annex 1: List of members present

- 1 Associacao 108
- 2 Association Epidaure
- 3 Damanhur Federation
- 4 Dyssekilde
- 5 Ecovillage Grishino
- 6 Findhorn Foundation
- 7 GEN-Estonia
- 8 Günes Köy
- 9 Hungarian National Network
- 10 Kibbutz Lotan
- 11 Lilleoru
- 12 LOS
- 13 Munksoegaard
- 14 Association Mouvement des Oasis en Tous Lieux
- 15 Ökodorf Sieben Linden
- 16 Red Ibérica de Ecoaldeas
- 17 RIVE
- 18 Russian Ecovillage Network
- 19 Schloss Glarisegg
- 20 Schweibenalp
- 21 Suderbyn Ecovillage
- 22 Tamera
- 23 Torri Superiore
- 24 ZEGG
- 25 Turkish National Network

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Annex 2: Revised version of Statutes

Global Ecovillage Network of Europe e.V. Statutes of Association

Art. 1 – Name and Headquarters

1. The Association holds the name: „Global Ecovillage Network of Europe e.V.“ (Abbreviation GEN-Europe)
2. It's headquarter is in Poppau, Germany.
3. The Association will be enrolled in the German register of associations.

Art. 2 – Aims and Goals

The goal of the Association is the promotion of education, youth work, culture, intercultural understanding between people(s) and environmental protection.

These goals will be implemented by means of coordination of activities of national networks of Ecovillages around the world (with a special focus on Europe, Middle East and Africa). The Association operates as central coordinating headquarters for information exchange and other international initiatives of many kinds – including conferences, meetings, educational programmes, fundraising and allocation of funds, formulation of principles and guidelines for Ecovillages.

An ecovillage is a settlement-community of at least five persons who share the common goal of integrating human activities and the use of environmentally-friendly materials to promote sustainability and the holistic development of human society.

Art. 3 Charitable status

The Association pursues direct charitable goals only according to the article „goals for tax concessions“ of the German tax law. The Association is run as a non-profit organization, and does not primarily undertake economic activities. Funds of the Association are only to be used for the goals described in the Statutes. Members may not receive any financial contributions from the funds of the Association. No person shall benefit from expenses that are not related to the goals of the Association or from unrelated high contributions.

Art. 4 Business year

The business year is the calendar year. The first business year ends on December 31st 2003.

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Art. 5 Members

1- Ecovillage networks and individual Ecovillages recognized and accepted by the Council of the Association and willing to implement the goals of the Association can become members

2 - Any individual, other association or organization willing to implement the goals of the Association can join as „Eco-Village Supporters“ and can become members by decision of the Council.

3 - Membership lasts for a minimum of one business year.

4 - Members shall pay the annual membership fee, decided annually by the General Assembly on proposal by the council.

Art.6 Dissolution of membership

Membership ends:

- When a member does not pay the annual fee despite two subsequent reminders;
- When a member submits a written resignation to the President of the Association;
- Through death of the person or extinction of the legal entity;
- When the Association decides to dissolve itself, according to article 10 of these Statutes.

Art. 7 Organs of the Association

The Organs of the Association are the General Assembly of members and the Council.

Art. 8 General Assembly of members

The General Assembly of members is the highest Organ of the Association; all powers necessary for achieving the Association's aims are vested in the General Assembly.

1. The ordinary assembly of members

- Shall gather once a year.

- Shall be announced in writing (letter, email or fax) at least 21 days in advance of the Assembly. The invitation shall specify the date, time and location of the Assembly and the proposed agenda. The first General Assembly has a quorum when 50% of all members are present. A second General Assembly has a quorum independent of the number of members present.

- Shall approve the secretariat's report, annual accounts of the past year and the budget of the current year, having first heard the Auditor's report.

Ulrike Schimmel 19.6.11 18:13

Gelöscht: budgets and

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- Shall decide [about changes of the](#) amount of the annual fee.
- Shall decide on the general policy of the Association concerning internal organization finances.
- Shall elect the Administrative Council from members with appropriate experience and knowledge of the Association and its activities.
- May dismiss Council members with a 2/3 majority of active members.
- May decide on any topic on the agenda.
- May decide to suspend a member with a 2/3 majority of active members, after giving the member the opportunity to defend him/herself.

Ulrike Schimmel 19.6.11 18:20

Gelöscht: on the

2. The Extraordinary General Assembly:

- shall be convened at least 30 days in advance of the meeting by the Council. Its proceedings are valid in the first convocation with a 2/3 majority of current members, in the second convocation with a 50 % majority.
- decides upon a change of the Statutes and standing orders with a 3/4 majority of members present.

3. Decisions shall be communicated to all members. Resolutions of the General Assembly shall be signed by the chairperson of that meeting and [webpublished by](#) the secretariat at [to be at](#) the disposal of all members.

Ulrike Schimmel 19.6.11 18:14

Gelöscht: entered into a minute book

Ulrike Schimmel 19.6.11 18:15

Gelöscht: held by

Art. 9 Council

1. The Council of the Association is composed of at least 3 and not more than 12 members. The [President](#) and [Vice President](#) represent the Association in all judicial and extrajudicial matters of the Association and both are entitled to act individually. All work for the council is volunteer work.
2. The Council will be elected by the General Assembly for an office term of 2 years. It will stay in office until a new election takes place. Should a member cease to hold office before the expiry of his/her term, the Council [may](#) fill the vacancy with another member [or ask the General Assembly to elect a replacement](#). The new Council member shall hold office until the expiry of the term of the replaced member.
3. The Council meets at least once a year and whenever the President or the majority of Council members considers it necessary.
4. The Council can take a decision with 2/3 of its members present or represented by proxy.

Ulrike Schimmel 19.6.11 18:16

Gelöscht: p

Ulrike Schimmel 19.6.11 18:16

Gelöscht: second

Ulrike Schimmel 19.6.11 18:16

Gelöscht: p

5. Decisions are taken by consensus. If consensus cannot be achieved after repeated attempts the Council shall adopt a qualified majority of “consensus minus one”.
6. The Administrative Council, according to the general aims described in article 2 of the present Statutes, has all powers of ordinary and extraordinary administration and disposal of assets; and it supervises organization and financial management
7. The Council may transfer the management of the current business to one or more of its members or to a third person (Executive Secretary).

Art. 10 Dissolution

In case of dissolution for any reason, all remaining assets and real estates, after payment of all debts, shall be assigned to non-profit goals. Decisions about the future use of assets can only be implemented after the agreement of the German finance office.

Annex 3: Financial Report 2010

P/L statement	Budget 2010	Statement 2010	Statement 2009
Income			
<i>Fees</i>			
Membership fees	6.000	5.303	6.623
Conference fees	17.000	22.100	22.420
Course fees	0	0	
Fees	23.000	27.403	29.043
<i>Donations</i>			
Members	0	8.615	
Gaia Trust	15.150	15.152	16.087
GEN Africa	1.600	1.605	
Donations	16.750	25.371	16.087
<i>EU programmes</i>			
Learning Partnership	2.650	2.289	14.400
Grundtvig Workshops	39.586	39.586	
EU programmes	42.236	41.875	14.400
<i>Funding of projects</i>			
EDE Orissa		5.807	
Congo conference		16.924	
Funding of projects		22.731	0
other income	150	151	147
Total income	83.736	117.531	59.677
Costs			
<i>Staff costs</i>			
Ulrike Schimmel	6.360	7.594	6.325

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Capra Carruba	2.200	2.200	
FÖJ	1.800	1.412	650
Staff costs	10.360	11.206	6.975
Office costs			
Stationery	300	283	230
software/hardware	200	317	652
Rent	420	420	140
Telephone	850	1.843	481
Office costs	1.770	2.864	1.503
Other expenditures			
Administration/Consulting costs	1.200	26	18
Bank charges	100	6	11
Fundraising	3.200	0	746
Other expenditures	4.500	32	775
Activities			
Annual assembly	5.000	6.920	14.170
Extra travel refunds	0	0	2.013
Council and staff meetings	2.500	5.072	968
staff meetings	400	302	
Fundraising	3.200	669	
Website	5.000	1.891	
Video	500	580	
Outreach	2.000	0	
National Network meetings & educational activities (Europe/Africa)	2.700	160	2.400
Emergence of GEN-Africa	10.216	7.020	2.148
UN activities	633	120	166
Printing costs (from 2009)	850	877	150
Activities	32.999	23.611	22.015
Sub-contracting and/or transfer of funds to partners			
GEN IS - Information Services	7.000	6.986	1.901
Learning Partnership	14.164	8.547	236
Ecovillage excellence award	3.300	3.300	3.320

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<i>Sub-contracting and/or transfer of funds to partners</i>	24.464	18.834	5.457
<u>Total Costs 2010</u>	74.093	56.545	36.724
<u>Result</u>	9.643	60.986	22.953
	22.207		

Balance sheet

Assets	31/12 2010	31/12 2009
Bank	95.221	34.405
Cash	181	11
Computer		
Total assets	95.402	34.416
Liabilities		
Equity		
Equity 1/1	34.416	11.463
Result of the year	60.986	22.953
Equity end of year	95.402	34.416
Long term debt	0	0
Short term debt	0	0
Total liabilities	95.402	34.416

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Annex 4: Budget 2011

Income 2011

Calculation

Direct income from Activity

Membership fees	4.500
Conference fees	16.300

From Funders

Contribution Gaia Trust	
via GEN International	18.237
Excellence Award	3.300
GEN Africa	3.300
Learning Partnership Balance	3.600
Grundtvig Workshops 2011 Balance	9.146
Grundtvig Workshops 2012	62.780
NextGEN	6.841
Orissa EDE	3.000
North Africa Project	69.000
Sieben Linden EDE	57.800
EVS	7.302

Total income 2011 **266.106**

Balance 2010 **94.039**

Total **359.145**

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Costs 2011

Calculation

Staff costs

Ulrike Schimmel	9.000
Kosha Joubert	6.300
Capra Carruba	0
Other	2.400
FÖJ	1.000
BFD	1.400

Sieben Linden Office

Stationery	300
software/hardware	250
Rent	680
Telephone	550

Findhorn office

<i>Damanhur office</i>	0
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Other expenditures

Administration/Consulting costs	2.000
Bank charges	50

Activities

GA	2.500
Extra travel refunds	2.000
Conference	5.000

Council and staff meetings	6.000
staff meetings	1.500
Fundraising	900
Outreach	0

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Funding for members projects (Europe)	2.540
Emergence of GEN-Africa	5.957
IT development	3.000
reserve	2.637

Projects

GEN IS - Information Services	5.377
Communications Liaisons	4.469
Excellence Award	3.300
Grundtvig Workshop PDC	24.132
Grundtvig Workshop Games & Dances	24.600
Grundtvig Workshops 2012	62.780
Learning Partnership	9.217
North Africa Project	69.000
Congo Conference	16.924
Orissa EDE	10.807
Sieben Linden EDE	57.800
NextGEN	6.841
UN activities	633
EVS	7.302

Total Costs 2011 **359.145**

Annex 5: Text of EU Declaration

Declaration

of the

Global Ecovillage Network

for Europe, Africa and Middle East made

at the General Assembly on 13 July 2011 in Tamera, Portugal

We, the members of GEN-Europe, concerned about the global challenges facing our society, at the same time encouraged by the solutions and will available, wish to take action to advance the position of sustainable human settlements in Europe.

The General Assembly,

- i. Recalling the Agenda 21 commitments made at Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the Earth Charter and recognizing the urgency to move forward,
- ii. Keeping in mind the four aspects of Ecovillage Design Education (EDE) – ecological, economic, social and worldview,
- iii. Stressing the importance of fulfilling the European commitments to reduce global carbon emissions, especially EU 2020 strategy
- iv. Recognizing that Europe is in the forefront of sustainable development and leading the change needed to transition into low-carbon economy,

seeks to advance European progress towards a sustainable future.

Therefore the General Assembly calls on all states of Europe to support a European transition to resilience and therefore:

1. Suggests that comprehensive and coordinated policy package be launched to facilitate both the creation of low-impact settlements as well transitioning the existing settlements of Europe to settlements having beneficial impact to the environment.
2. Recommends the set-up of sufficient financing mechanisms to support increased private and public investment in the creation of and transitioning to carbon-neutral low-impact settlements throughout Europe and neighboring countries.
3. Urges the adoption of a European Directive on Low-impact Settlements including land-use planning, permitting, promoting the simplification for development projects which substantially reduce the environmental impact, giving clear

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incentives for positive action. For this we call for a European standardized methodology for measuring the environmental impacts of settlements.

Furthermore a common European Union legal status for intentional communities should be established.

4. Invites the implementation of innovative models for experiential and effective learning of sustainability including all age groups in a life-long learning process, which will contribute to the benefit of the surrounding communities as well as to global change.

We invite all the movements, organisations and representative bodies dedicated to the co-creation of sustainable human habitat to jointly work towards achieving these above goals together. We are offering our knowledge, experience and support for transform Europe into resilience and sustainability.

Signatures:

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