



## **EIDD – DESIGN FOR ALL EUROPE**

ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH DESIGN FOR ALL

**5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
Milan, 22 May 2015**

### **Membership Policy**

#### **Foreword**

The crisis has hit many of our smaller members very hard indeed. Resignations have been arriving not so much because these members do not want to continue in EIDD, but because they cannot pay the membership fee. We in EIDD must not ignore this: our policy is inclusion and it would be hypocritical of us to preach this principle while allowing the economically weaker members of our family to suffer through no fault of their own.

In addition, a European umbrella organisation like EIDD needs to have a presence in a certain number of countries if it is to maintain a credible critical mass when speaking with decision-makers in Brussels and elsewhere.

In the last two years, EIDD has lost its members in Hungary and Latvia. A note of resignation has also arrived from our Lithuanian member. There is a real risk that we may lose our members in Serbia, Greece and Turkey. We have also lost CSD in the UK and our Dutch member, but the reasons for this are different.

#### **A possible solution**

In cases when a member is interested to remain in EIDD but cannot afford to do so, it is worth studying the option of payment in kind. It is often said that certain services are cheaper in some countries than in others: EIDD has not yet been able to make full use of this potential benefit.

By way of example, these solutions may comprise the organisation of an event, the hosting or other organisation of web services, specific design and execution services for EIDD and, in exceptional cases, an exchange of membership. The members in question are requested to make their proposals as soon as possible, in the interests of correct budgeting and accounting and of maximising EIDD's ability to use the services offered.

#### **Proposal**

The EIDD – Design for All Europe GA, meeting in Melzo, Milan, on 22 May 2015, mandates the Executive Board to explore alternative possibilities for paying part or all of the membership fees of those members who can provide reasonable evidence of economic difficulty and to put them into practice. The Executive Board shall issue a full report on any such steps taken to the General Assembly following on the decision. These solutions shall be temporary, until alternative sources of funding arrive for the member(s) in question, and shall be subject to annual ratification if they are practised for more than one year.