



## EIDD – DESIGN FOR ALL EUROPE

ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH DESIGN FOR ALL

### 3<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly Avila 28-29 June 2013

#### Minutes

#### 1. Opening and welcome of participants, apologies for absence

The President, Finn Petrán, declared the 3rd General Assembly open at 16.30 on 28 June and welcomed the participants. Apologies for absence were noted.

#### Present

Finn Petrán	EIDD President, Design for All Sverige	Sweden
Ewa Golebiowska	EIDD Vice-President Administration, Cieszyn Castle	Poland
Pete Kercher	EIDD Ambassador, Design for All Italia	Italy
Jesus Hernandez Galan	EIDD Special Projects, ONCE Foundation	Spain
Markus Haas	Freiraum	Austria
Veronika Egger	Design Austria	Austria
Terhi Tamminen	Avaava	Finland
Marjo Kivi	Avaava	Finland
Josyane Franc	Cité du Design	France
Peter Neumann	EDAD	Germany
Sakis Kostaris	Panhellenic Union	Greece
Paul Hogan	EIDD President Emeritus	Ireland
Pepetto di Bucchianico	DdA, University of Chieti-Pescara	Italy
Nuno Sa Leal	Portuguese Design Museum	Portugal
Francesc Aragall	Design for All Foundation	Spain
Imma Bonet	Design for All Foundation	Spain

#### In attendance

Sami Virtanen	Finnish Federation of Hard of Hearing	Finland
Carmen Martinez Lopez	CSD	UK

#### 2. Apologies for absence

Name	Organisation	Country	Proxy
Chris Ramsden	EIDD Vice-President	UK	Finn Petrán
Daina Vitolina	EIDD VP Finance, DIC	Latvia	Finn Petrán
Avril Accolla	EIDD Research	Italy	----
Jasmien Herssens	EIDD Belgium	Belgium	Finn Petrán
Karin Bendixen	Design for Alle.dk	Denmark	Francesc Aragall
Ilona Gurjanova	Estonian Designers	Estonia	Finn Petrán

Anna Hernádi	Moholy-Nagy University	Hungary	----
Finn Aslaksen	EIDD Norway	Norway	-----
Onny Eikhaug	NDC	Norway	Francesc Aragall
Alexander Bogdanovic	CRID	Serbia	Pete Kercher
Miodrag Pocuc	Centre Living Upright	Serbia	Peter Neumann
Nora Busturia	Creativity Zentrum	Spain	----
Rama Gheerawo	Helen Hamlyn Centre RCA	UK	Francesc Aragall

## 2. Agenda

The agenda was approved as proposed.

## 3. Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> GA in Helsinki

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly, held in Helsinki Riga on 25 May 2012. Francesc Aragall proposed approval of the minutes and Markus Haas seconded. They were accepted as a true and faithful record of the proceedings.

## 4. President's Address

The President, Finn Petrén, presented the President's Report, which ended with a round of applause.

After lengthy discussion, Francesc Aragall proposed approval of the President's report and Veronika Egger seconded. They were accepted into the minutes by the assembled members.

## 5. Annual Financial Report

5.1 Due to last-minute modifications made to the Financial Report subsequent to the receipt of overdue documents by the VP Finances, the final version had been received by the President only on the same day as the GA and included one item that none of those present was capable of clarifying, in the regrettable but motivated absence of the VP Finances. As a result, the GA decided to accord conditional approval to this report, pending clarification to the new Executive Board by the retiring VP Finance. The proposal to proceed in this manner was moved by Finn Petrén from the chair and seconded by Francesc Aragall.

### 5.2

Appointment of the Auditors

Finn Petrén

proposed that the current auditor, Pat Clarke, continue in their position and Pete Kercher seconded. The motion was carried.

## 6. Ratification of new memberships and new applications

The GA was requested to ratify the following memberships granted by the Executive Board since the previous GA:

### 6.1 Avaava, Finland

The application was pre-approved during the previous GA in Helsinki and accepted by the Executive Board upon completion of formalities. The organisation was presented by Terhi Tamminen and Marjo Kivi, whereupon the GA ratified the new membership.

## 6.2 Design for All Austria

Veronika Egger gave a short presentation of the work of Design for All Austria, whose membership had been approved by the Executive Board and was now ratified.

## 6.3 City of Paredes, Portugal

Finn Petrén explained how the Mayor of Paredes had decided to apply for membership after hearing a presentation about EIDD made by its President. The application had been approved by the Executive Board and was now ratified. A question from Francesc Aragall regarding the criteria for acceptance of city members was referred back to later discussion or the next Executive Board for clarification.

## 6.4 Portuguese Design Museum

Nuno Sa Leal presented the new Portuguese Design Museum, whose application had been approved by the Executive Board and was now ratified.

## 6.5 University of Jaén

Finn Petrén introduced the university's application, explaining that he had not, however, received the formal document. Francesc Aragall asked who had signed the application, indicating that Spanish law required it to be signed by the Rector, Vice-Rector or other responsible person. As this was not clear, the GA mandated the Executive Board to ask the University of Jaén to complete the application formalities and then proceed accordingly.

## 6.6 French Designers Alliance

As this application was received after the last meeting of the Executive Board, it had not been approved yet. Finn Petrén reported that the formalities and payments had been completed in due course and on this basis moved the formal proposal for membership, seconded by Pete Kercher. The application was approved with the Cité du Design abstaining.

## 7. Objectives and priorities

At this stage, the General Assembly decided to amend the agreed agenda to postpone the election of the new Executive Board, in order to provide ample opportunity for members to discuss the association's objectives and priorities before identifying the individuals to be chosen to carry these out. Finn Petrén expressed a preference not to chair this session and was replaced in the chair by common agreement by Pepetto Di Bucchianico.

An extensive, frank and open discussion ensued, both continuing that pursuant to the President's Report and identifying a broad alternative of options.

Carmen Martinez Lopez, speaking on behalf of the CSD, introduced an offer discussed with Finn Petrén during his recent visit to London. This offer comprised the availability of premises for meetings in London and administrative work of half to one day per week. This offer was conditional on Finn Petrén continuing in office as President for an interim period of six months to one year. Finn Petrén specified that he would only consider this option if the GA were to ask him to do so unanimously. Francesc Aragall pointed out that he had already disagreed with Finn Petrén's re-election in 2011 and would certainly oppose it now with his own vote and the proxy votes he was mandated to cast in the same way.

Since he had to leave very soon, at 20.00, Finn Petrén said he wished to make a closing statement, reiterating his offer to remain as President and strongly recommending the abolition of the title of EIDD Ambassador and its replacement with a title referring to the role of liaison with the European authorities, which he felt would be more effective. The meeting was adjourned at 20.15, so that delegates could prepare for a joint dinner, when they were asked to continue informal discussions.

In leaving, Finn Petrén passed his proxy to vote on behalf of the CSD to Carmen Martinez Lopez and the proxies to vote in behalf of EIDD Belgium, the Estonian Association of Designers and the Latvian Design Information Centre to Pete Kercher. It was not clear whether this list also the proxy for included EIDD Sverige.

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The meeting reconvened on Saturday 29 June at 9.15 with Ewa Golebiowska in the chair, pursuant to the Bye-Laws, which require that the GA be chaired by the Senior VP in the absence of the President and by the VP Administration in the absence of both.

## **8. Elections of the Executive Board**

From the chair, Ewa Golebiowska reported on the results of the informal discussions held during dinner the previous evening, expressing a list of potential candidates for the various positions, whose names were discussed by the delegates. While being very appreciative of the constructive offer made by the CSD, there was a general 's agreement among members that the condition of a continuation Finn Petrén's presidency was not feasible, both because the GA would not make a unanimous request for him to stay on and because it was felt that the association was in need of a change, but she hoped that the CSD would partner actively in working with and in EIDD in any case. Carmen Martinez Lopez thereupon withdrew the offer, indicating that she was not mandated to discuss alternative scenarios.

The GA then proceeded to the elections, for which Ewa Golebiowska invited Pete Kercher to take the chair temporarily.

### **8.1 Election of President**

The chairman asked the meeting for nominations and received that of Ewa Golebiowska.

There were no other nominations at the meeting.

Ewa Golebiowska accepted the nomination and was elected.

### **8.2 Election of Senior Vice-President**

Peter Neumann was nominated. There were no other nominations at the meeting. Peter Neumann accepted the nomination and was elected, abstaining with the two votes he held.

### **8.3 Election of Vice-President Administration**

Josyane Franc was nominated. There were no other nominations at the meeting. Josyane Franc accepted the nomination and was elected.

### **8.4 Election of Vice-President Finances**

Markus Haas was nominated. There were no other nominations at the meeting. Markus Haas accepted the nomination and was elected.

#### 8.5 Special Projects team

The chairman asked for nominations for the special projects.

Pepetto Di Bucchianico, Jesús Hernández Galán and Terhi Tamminen were proposed as Special Projects Officers. There were no other nominations at the meeting. All three accepted the nominations and were elected.

#### 8.6 Explanation of abstentions

Francesc Aragall explained that he had cast an abstention vote for the Design for All Foundation and his proxies (Design for All.dk, the Helen Hamlyn Centre at the RCA and the Norwegian Design Council) because these four members had agreed in advance to vote in this way. However, in the light of the evident wind of change, which the four members supported, he wished to express their full support for the new President and her team. Pete Kercher stated that he had voted in favour for Design for All Italia and for CRID, but abstained with the three proxy votes passed to him by Finn Petrén (EIDD Belgium, Estonian Designers Association, DIC Latvia, as he had received no instructions or mandate to vote in any particular manner. The total of abstentions cast in each of these votes was therefore seven.

#### 8.7 Appointment of EIDD Ambassador

Ewa Golebiowska asked Pete Kercher to continue in his role as EIDD Ambassador. Discussion ensued about the name and nature of this responsibility. Pete Kercher stated his belief that the role needs to be easily identifiable by a single title that is recognisable to the EIDD's external dialogue partners, this being of paramount importance compared to the perception of the role internal to the EIDDs members. The GA supported this view and Pete Kercher stressed that his actions would always be subject to the approval of the President and Executive Board, to whom he would be answerable, as always. Nuno Sa Leal then made the formal proposal that Pete Kercher continue as Ambassador, it being clear that this does not now entail membership of the Executive Board. Pete Kercher agreed and the meeting approved, with the same abstentions as explained at point 8.6 above.

#### 8.8 Meeting of the new Executive Board

Markus Haas suggested that the new Executive Board could meet in Linz after the 4 October celebration of the tenth anniversary of Freiraum. His proposal was accepted by the members of the new Executive Board.

### **9. Reports from Members**

The following member organisations presented:

Design for All Austria, Design for All Foundation, Cité du Design St-Etienne, Portuguese Design Museum, Fondation ONCE, EDAD, Avaava, the DdA at the University of Chieti-Pescara, Freiraum, Zamek Cieszyn and Design for All Italia. A report was also made by the Finnish Federation of Hard of Hearing, in attendance.

#### 9.1 Matters Arising from Member Reports

##### 9.1.1 Book Project (Fondacion ONCE)

Jesus Hernandez reported that the editorial board voting had been completed, although only 5 of 11 members had expressed their preferences. Regrettably,

much of the material received was not pertinent to the topic and of that part a large proportion was poor quality or failed to comply with the editorial guidelines for the abstracts (e.g. submitting a product's user manual instead of a proper abstract). As an extreme solution and so as to avoid losing the funding and creating a regrettable precedent for unreliability, the GA decided as follows:

- to appoint an emergency editorial board, comprising those members who had been active to date, plus Pepetto Di Bucchianico and Terhi Tamminen,
- to amend the title of the book from "Best Practices" to "Case Studies in Design for All",
- to allow one further week for abstracts to be sent to Fondacion ONCE (deadline 4 July), making specific mention of holders of the Design for All Italia Quality Label but not limiting the call to them.

#### 9.1.2 ECA conference

Peter Neumann informed the GA that the European Concept for Accessibility Network will be presenting a new book about "Design for All in Practice" in the framework of a conference to be held in Berlin on 7-8 November and encouraged EIDD members to make use of the opportunity for networking by attending.

#### 9.1.3 Cities for All Exhibition and Roadshow

Terhi Tamminen reported on the progress of the EIDD Cities for All exhibition and roadshow, which had now visited 14 locations around Europe. Discussion ensued about how to use this exhibition further and when would be the suitable moment to end it, as it is linked to the occasion of Helsinki World Design Capital 2013. Peter Neumann suggested partnering with Eurocities, while Pete Kercher reported that he had discussed a potential transfer to the Netherlands when meeting with Rob Huisman in Amsterdam in May. He also encouraged Ewa Golebiowska to use her good offices with Jan Olbrycht MEP, President of the European Parliament's Urban Intergroup, to organise a joint event with that group using the exhibition at the European Parliament. He then described the project established by Design for All Italia to organise a roadshow for the Italian version of the exhibition, each time holding a conference or workshop and in the process creating a network of venues to be visited by future editions, once every two years.

#### 9.1.4 Internationalising the Quality Label

Pete Kercher explained in greater detail how the Design for All Italia Quality Label functions, informing that basic introductory material is available in English. It was suggested that the model could be internationalised, subject to suitable rules for franchising and quality assurance. This option will be explored with Terhi Tamminen.

### **10. Budget 2013 and preliminary budget 2014**

The budget was approved in principle, subject to the proviso that certain figures are likely to change in the light of changing circumstances. As there was uncertainty about the meaning of at least one term, it was agreed that Markus Haas would contact Daina Vitolina to establish continuity, then generate a new budget and circulate it.

### **11. Venue and date for the General Assemblies in 2014 and 2015**

EIDD had received a proposal from Daina Vitolina to hold the 2014 conference and GA in Riga in the framework of Riga European Capital of Culture. As she was not present herself to confirm and answer any questions, Pete Kercher

proposed that the GA mandate the Executive Board to make the necessary agreements and decisions.

Pete Kercher then reiterated a proposal mentioned the previous day in the President's Report, to the effect that Design for All Italia invites EIDD to hold its 2015 Annual Conference and GA in Milan in the framework of the Expo 2015. As Finn Petrán had reported, a preliminary proposal had also been received from Luisa Collina, newly-elected President of our partner organisation Cumulus, to hold a Design Summit in Milan in that year. Obviously, this proposal is subject to the feasibility of the Expo 2015, which is not yet guaranteed. Again, he proposed that the Executive Board be mandated to make the necessary agreements and decisions.

Both proposals to mandate the Executive Board were agreed.

## **12. Executive Board meeting**

As time was short, Pete Kercher proposed to the Executive Board that it hold a first informal meeting over lunch on the same day. This was agreed by the members present who are also members of the Executive Board.

## **13. Closure**

The President Ewa Golebiowska thanked the assembled members for their hard and constructive work and closed the General Assembly at 14.00.