



Brussels, September 3rd 2014

Minutes

General Assembly and Board meeting 27th June 2014

Brussels (Belgium)

1. People attending the meeting

Board

- Mr Anthony Durcan, President (Harlow), President
- Ms Marie H el ene Rottembourg (S enart)
- Ms Tarja Laine (Vantaa), Finland
- Ms Mirjam Salet (Spijkenisse) The Netherlands
- M. Josep Ma. Marc e i Company, General Manager, County Council Alt Empord a, Spain

Advisors

- Mr Marcel Keijzer replacing Patrick van Domburg and Robin Paalvast (Eoetermeer)
- Mr. Frank Slingerland (Zoetermeer)
- Mr Bala Mahendran, chief executive, (Basildon)
- Mrs. Gunilla Edwaeds, (Basildon)
- Meritxell Pom es Junc os, Welfare department technician, County Council Alt Empord a, Spain
- Sander Deijl, Political Advisor, Spijkenisse
- Yassin el Majidi el Boudouhi, intercultural mediator, alt Empord a, Spain

Delegation/office in Brussels

- Mrs. Pascaline GABORIT, Director
- Mr. Edoardo GUGLIELMETTI, Project and network manager

Apologies:

Robin Palvaast, Zoetermeer

2. Context

Since the creation of the platform the 12th of December 2002, the ENTTP has been a vibrant network and organization. It has performed its mission to propose interest of the members and New Towns in the European Union, and even beyond, and in the relevant services of the European institutions. Its aim has been to strengthen the role of its members on a regional and trans-national level...

For that it has:

- Ensured cooperation and knowledge sharing amongst the members
- Set up new EC cofinanced projects that contributed towards the development of members and stakeholders

It has been very successful in delivering projects, networking, facilitation and even some research, data collection. In general it has increased:

The information about the European programs and Europe in general

Developed several websites and newsletters

Edited several publications

It has allowed active towns like Zoetermeer, Basildon etc. to participate in vibrant European Projects

It has developed joint projects, including some investments

It contributed to the research on urban sustainable Development

Many events and study visits have been organized

It facilitated the networking among members and other organizations

It has been for some an enriching human experience of cooperation at European level

Meetings with representatives of European institutions have been organized regularly

It became even active at international level.

The successes of ENTTP are mentioned in the Powerpoint Presentation sent by email before the general Assembly (Annex 2 available upon request) and in the CV of ENTTP (Annex 3).

However, unfortunately the current economic crisis has hit the local authorities since 2008 with severe budget cuts, which resulted in losing some memberships. Also and although the organization continued through 2 programming periods of the European Commission, it will be difficult to bridge the gap of the closure of all the projects in 2014 (Labour plus, Greenov and AWARD) and 2015 (EAST) and the search of new funds.

In these circumstances, difficult decisions had to be made for the future of the organization.

3. Decisions taken by the board and General Assembly

Presentations of the different scenarios following the presentation of the delegation

The delegation presented the ENTTP financial situation with a problem to find enough resources (130 000 Euros minimum) for 2015

This was due to:

- The loss of several members: in particular in a context of Economic crisis
- The end of the EU programming period with our main projects ending in end of 2014/beginning of 2015
- The difficulty to apply for new subsidies in a short amount of time

Several options had been studied (contact with the private sector, new projects' proposal but nothing was leading a sustainable business plan.

The different scenarios proposed were the following:

1/ Scenario 1: ENTP Rescue package

In this scenario:

- ENTP tries to find structural solution: reduction of costs and search of new projects and,
- Members pay an extra fee (doubling of the fee) for 2015 exceptionally **in case no new project is approved** (this would be a guarantee):
 - 5.900 € for towns of less than 100.000 inh.
 - 7.700 € for towns of more than 100.000 inh. and,
- Board members decide whether or not to give up the office space (nomadic work instead / rent of co-working spaces) and the size of min. 3-4 people starting from March 2015.

This scenario has been rejected with the unanimity of votes.

2/ Scenario 2: the transformation of the organization into a more commercial organization

This scenario has been supported and promoted in particular by the representatives of Basildon and Zoetermeer. It consists in

- Opening to other sectors
- Act as consultancy on EC Tenders
- Open to private sector
- Need of a task force to change the statutes and represent members' interest
- The Conditions for this scenario: are bids approved before the end of the year.

Basildon has proposed to organize a meeting before the end of the year to make the scenario more concrete. The difficulty is that we need to have enough funds (answer for the bid submitted to the European Commission probably in autumn).

The mayor of Spijkenisse agreed that if the ENTP needed to continue it would be with a smaller fee. The representative of Vantaa also agreed.

Scenario 3: ENTP lawful closure or Transformation

- As we are uncertain to get funds, As we need to respect legal obligations, redundancies letters will be sent to employees after the General assembly but they can be renegotiated in case projects are approved and,
- Notice starts then, and ends according to Belgian rules (approximately at the **end of March 2015** for officers and June 2015 for the Director) and,
- Offices and employees' contracts end in March 2015

This scenario has been chosen as a “no other choice solution”. Indeed Sénart, Alt Empordà, Spijkenisse and the other towns agreed that the situation was not ideal but that they did not have a lot of choices.

Annex 1: Letter signed by the Board members.

The Board

The current Board agreed for the renewed mandate of the Board members. Robin Palvasst will replace Patrick van Domburg as Treasurer. .

Tony Ball leaves the Board he has not been reelected. There is no replacement in the Board proposed for Basildon.

There are no other candidates (information had been disseminated to the network-

Other Decisions

The Board members will create a task and finish group with motivated members in autumn.

A Board meeting will be organized before the end of 2014 if possible in Basildon¹ to discuss about the future of the organization and answer to the questions: Is it still possible to transform the organization? What are the next milestones?

¹ Note from the Delegation : If there are no dedicated funds, the meeting could be organized in Brussels.

Annex 1



General Assembly 2014- 27th of June 2014

Brussels, June 27, 2014

To whom it may concern,

Today the Board members and ENTP general Assembly have, due to financial constraints, decided at the majority the possible closure of the organization at the end of March 2015.



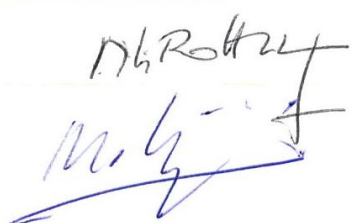
We have agreed that redundancy letters are sent to the current employees to start the notice.

A letter is also sent to the owner of the office to end the lease at the end of March 2015.

A task force will be nominated to help the staff finalizing the procedures.

In case new subsidies are approved meetings re organized for the task force and Board members to relaunch the association.

Signature of Board members


Tanya Carie

N. Rottuy



B. Mard

A. Duran.