

Norske kirkeakademier
Årsmøte
Sanner Hotell, Gran
14. - 16. mars 2014

NKA 8/14	Internasjonalt arbeid Saksdokumenter.	a Referat fra Womens network og Europeisk årsmøte 2013 b Jaap van der Saar: Minutes Business- meeting 13./14. 9. 2013
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Forslag til vedtak: Årsmøtet tar informasjonen til orientering

NKA 8/14 A INTERNASJONALT ARBEID: RAPPORT FRA WOMENS NETWORK OG EUROPEISK ÅRSMØTE 2013

Oikosnet Europe

“Oikosnet Europe is a pan-European ecumenical network of Christian academies, conference, study and retreat centres. It is the European branch of the global Oikosnet network, which has more than 300 member-centres worldwide.”

Slik presenteres Oikosnet Europe på LinkedIn. NKA er en del av Oikosnet Europe og av den verdensomfattende bevegelsen. Det gir styrke å vite at vi er del av en større sammenheng. Samtidig er det grunn til å slå fast at 2013 ikke har vært noe lett år for Oikosnet Europe. Vår president Jaap van der Sar skriver i sin julehilsen 2013 til medlemmene:

«This year our General Secretary Wolfgang Lenz left his position; he retired, thus creating time and space for Oikosnet Europe to rearrange the organization, the work. At this moment we are in this process, and in the meanwhile the shop can't be closed. Sales continue in all the work of our members. As part of this continued work we are glad that we are able to get an agreement with the Association of Protestant Academies in Germany (EAD). They appointed Rev. Rüdiger Noll as their Executive Secretary for Europe and Ecumenical Affairs, and we as the Board of Oikosnet Europe were very happy that we have reached an agreement with EAD about the way Rüdiger Noll is also working for us 30% of his time. This will formally start by the 1st of January 2014 – an enriching development for us. As a Board we are grateful for the dedication, for the support and for the courage to contribute to get our vision realized. Justice and peace are not realized yet. Unity of churches is more a nice wish than reality, despite the dedication of many. At the same time it is also true that dedication, creativity and resilience contribute to take good steps.»

Styret i Oikosnet Europe har påtatt seg flere praktiske oppgaver i 2013 enn normalt siden organisasjonen har fungert uten generalsekretær. Berit Nafstad Lyftingsmo har sittet i styret i to perioder. NKA – ved Berit – påtok seg ansvaret for gjennomføring av styremøte i Oikosnet Europe 21. april – 24. april 2013. Styremøtet ble holdt på Sundbytnet i Jessheim.

Oikosnet Europe har 46 medlemmer. Den utadrettede aktiviteten varierer blant medlemmene. Dette gir seg også uttrykk gjennom deltakelsen i årlige den årskonferansen og årsmøtet. Bare 18 medlemmer var direkte representert på årsmøtet i Liebfrauenberg i Alsace, Frankrike 12.-15. september 2013. Tidligere ble det organisert «visiting communities» i forkant av årsmøtet, dvs. besøk hos akademier nær det sted årsmøtet holdes. Dette har opphørt.

Women's network 9.-11. september

Samlingen Women's network har blitt gjennomført i alle år og er en inspirasjonskilde for deltakerne. Samlingen ble holdt på Château du Liebfrauenberg 9.-11. september 2013.

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Nettverket inviterer bredt. Det er grunn til å merke seg at flere av deltakerne ikke er representanter på årsmøtet som følger etter, men prioriterer å bruke dager sammen med deltakerne i nettverket.



I år stilte akademiet i Bad Boll i Würtemberg med en stor og aktiv delegasjon. Frankrike møtte kun med én. Det ble forklart med at akademiene i Frankrike startet sine aktiviteter denne septemberuka og da må de ansatte være på plass. Nederland, Romania, Sveits, Sverige og Italia var deltakere. Aktiv markedsføring av arrangementet kan ha en betydning! Fra Norge var det én deltaker, Berit Nafstad Lyftingsmo.

Esther Lenz, leder av *the Lay Preacher formation*, innledet seminaret første dag med innleggene *“The importance of feminist theology in France”* og *“Equity and family life in Church”*. Det ble tegnet et relativt konservativt bilde av kvinnens rolle både i familien og i kirken. Kun 18 % av representantene i det franske parlamentet er kvinner. *«Kvinnens rolle i Frankrike er et spørsmål om kvinnens rolle i familien»*, hevdet Lenz.

Neste dag ble en Strasbourg-dag. Søren Lenz, direktør på Liebfrauenberg, hadde første del av en interessant byvandring. Deretter overtok Ulrike Richard Moland som gjennom byvandringen holdt en glitrende forelesning om Cathrine Zell, en kvinnelig reformator og forfatter i 1600-tallets Strasbourg. Vi fikk møte by og religion med Cathrine Zells øyne, hun og hennes mann Mathias Zell ble et bekjentskap som ga ny innsikt. *«Briefe an die ganze Burgerschaft der Stadt Strasbourg»* fra 1557 er lesverdig den dag i dag.

Etter lunsj var det besøk hos organisasjonen *«Les disciples»* drevet av Gerard Haehnel, pastor og direktør. Utkantområdene rundt Strasbourg slet med sosiale problem av mange slag, blant annet stor arbeidsledighet. Her møtte vi en organisasjon som tok praktiske grep i det daglige liv blant innbyggerne. Slik vi opplevde det, gjorde organisasjonen en forskjell, skapte positivitet i nærmiljøet.

Ettermiddagen ble avsluttet med *«Family politics and transmission of values and tradition»* ved Ruth Wolff-Bonsirven, Inspecteur ecclesiastique Quai, St. Thomas. Vi fikk en

gjennomgang av kvinnens generelle situasjon i det franske samfunnet. «*Når barna kommer, blir kvinnene hjemme*». Kvinner tjener 26 % mindre enn menn for samme arbeid. 80 % av arbeidet i hjemmene utføres av kvinnene. Bildet av den franske kvinne er alltid perfekt, men dette bildet skjuler mye. Den katolske kirken konserverer kvinnerollen, hevdet foredragsholderen.



13. september ble det lagt fram rapporter fra de tilstedeværende land og forberedt neste års nettverksmøte. Pga. styremøte i Oikosnet Europe deltok ikke Berit på denne delen. Fra norsk side ble det levert tre ønsker:

- vertskap for årsmøtet må ta ansvar for nettverksmøtet. Vertslandet må søke å få fram bred representasjon
- foredragene må legges ut på nettet eller sendes ut på annen måte
- nettverket må være åpent for alle som ønsker å delta.

Nettverket gir et innblikk i europeiske forhold over landegrensener som er unik. Nettverket bidrar til realisering av vår bevegelses målsetting.

Årskonferanse og årsmøte 11.-14. september

Årskonferansen 2013 var viet Europa og europeiske spørsmål. Nils Ivar Agøy, Rune Gustavsen og Berit Nafstad Lyftingsmo deltok på konferansen og årsmøtet. Konferansen ble holdt i Europarådets hus i Strasbourg. Det ga en liten stemning av aktivitet og betydning, kjente ansikter ut og inn av dører.

Fra norsk side ble det en skuffelse at Torbjørn Jagland ikke tok åpningsforedraget for Oikosnet Europe, han var forespurt så vel av vår president som fra NKA. Vi observerte ham i bygningen. Men travle menn har det jo travelt!

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«*Religion in public space. Facts and challenges. Jurisprudence and sentences in the European court of human rights in religious affairs*». Dette foredraget ble holdt av Jaglands stedfortreder Clare Ovey, talskvinne for ECHR, forfatter av "*Jacobs and White, the European Convention on Human Rights*". Etter lunsj holdt Ulrich Bunjes fra Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Partnership og Dr. Carole Reich, Manager of Intercultural Exchanges, foredrag om "*Which role for the religions in the development of a multicultural and democratic Europe, respecting human rights*". Svært sentrale tema med stor relevans til medieprosjektet som står sentralt i Oikosnet Europas arbeid nå (prosjektet driftes fra Sigtuna).

Vi i NKA skal ikke framholde at alt var så meget bedre i Trondheim i 2012, men vi registrerer at deltakerne der ga uttrykk for at det å få foredragene i hende var et gode. De ble også lagt ut på nettet. Dette skjedde ikke i 2013 og det er et savn, også i forhold til det å videreformidle innsikt og tanker til lokalakademiene.

Ettermiddagen inviterte til besøk i Council of Alsace. Etter en introduksjon om «*The particularity of the status of religion in Alsace/Lorraine*» var det en velsmakende mottakelse i representasjonsavdelingen. Det kan slås fast at historie, forvaltning og utfordringer i regionen Alsace/Lorraine i seg selv var en studie verdt, en utrolig interessant region med en helt spesiell historie! Europa – Alsace/Lorraine- dagen i Strasbourg ble avsluttet i Saint Thomas Church med *interpellatio with organ recital*. Vår vert Sören Lenz skapte en betagende stund for oss alle.

Selve årsmøtet ble avviklet 13. og 14. september. Referat fra årsmøtet Oikosnet Europe 2013 ligger vedlagt årsmøtesakene til NKA 2014. Her gis det derfor ikke noe grundig referat.

Tematikken på årsmøtet var organisering av virksomheten framover. Det vises til presidentens påpekning i julehilsenen 2013. Styret må fortsatt være et praktisk arbeidende styre. Ulike prosjekter må i sterkere grad driftes gjennom medlemmene selv. Den framlagte strategiplanen ble vedtatt, likeledes budsjett for 2014. Det er meget stramt. Det ble lagt fram en rekke prosjektrapporter som viser en høy grad av aktivitet i Oikosnet Europe. Styret i Oikosnet Europe er for 2014: Jaap van der Sar, Katalin Zoltani, Walter Lüssi, Marielisa von Thadden og Sören Lenz. Alf Linderman fra Sigtuna skal følge arbeidet i styret. Sigtuna skal ha Oikosnet Europas arkiv.

Berit Nafstad Lyftingsmo er ute av styret. De fire årene i styret har gitt innsikt, skapt noe frustrasjon over at det å skape en felles vei er så tidkrevende, men aldri, aldri tvil rundt det at NKA er en del av denne store globale bevegelsen. De fire årene har også skapt tro på at NKA har forutsigbarhet, trygghet og en organisering som øvrige medlemmer i Oikosnet Europe både kan lære av og hente inspirasjon fra.

Årsmøtet og årskonferansen i 2014 vil finne sted i The Evangelische Akademi Villigst, Tyskland 17.-21. september. I 2015 er Oikosnet Europe invitert til Corrymeela, Irland 9.-13. september.

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Wolfgang Lenz ble takket av som generalsekretær på årsmøtet 2013, 13. september, «Goodbye Wolfgang». En rekke av tidligere presidenter var til stede og ga ham mange takkens ord. Han har hatt oppgaven som generalsekretær i mange år og gjort en stor innsats for Oikosnet Europe.

30.01.14
Berit Nafstad Lyftingsmo



NKA 8/14 b OIKOSNET EUROPE
Annual Conference 11. – 15. September 2013 in Le
Liebfrauenberg/France

Minutes Business-meeting 13./14. 9. 2013

Participants:

Kirsten Beuth, Inderjit Bhogal, Alexej Bodrov, Caterina Dupré, Hermann Düringer, Sofia Geijerstam, Rune Gustavsen, Jaroslaw Jóswik, Renate Keim, Paul Krieg, Waltraud Kovacic, Werner Kovacic, Sören Lenz, Wolfgang Lenz, Alf Linderman, Walter Lüssi, Peter Markus, Gernot Meier, Miklos Menessy, Peter Middlemiss, Janos Molnar, Berit Nafstad Lyftingsmo, Nils Ivar Agoy, Rüdiger Noll, Elisabeth Reichen-Amsler, Günter Renz, Rüdiger Sareika, Marielisa von Thadden, Ingeberte Uitslag, Jaap van der Sar, Georg Wenz, Katalin Zoltani.

1. Opening and welcome, checking the Quorum – Moderator: Katalin Zoltani

The vice-president of Oikosnet Europe, Katalin Zoltani, welcomes the participants of the 58th Annual Conference and opens the Business meeting.

Hermann Düringer, responsible for the minutes, informs about the quorum: Oikosnet Europe has 46 members. That means: 24 votes are necessary for the quorum.

The following 18 members (from 13 countries) are present, from 6 members there are proxis; that are together 24 voting members – as needed.

1. Berkfördö, House of Reconciliation, Hungary
2. Boldern, Ev. Tagungs- und Studienzentrum, Switzerland
3. Centro Ecumenico di Agape, Italy
4. Casa Cares, Italy
5. Corrymeela Community, Northern Ireland
6. EREN – Théologie Education Formation, Neuchatel, Switzerland
7. Ev. Akademie der Pfalz, Germany
8. Ev. Akademie Villigst, Germany
9. Ev. Akademie Bad Boll, Germany
10. Ev. Akademie Baden, Germany
11. Ev. Akademie Wien, Austria
12. Home of Hope, Romania
13. Le Liebfrauenberg, Centre de Rencontres et de Formation, France
14. Norwegian Church Academies, Norway
15. Sigtuna Stiftelsen, Sweden
16. Stichting Oikos, Netherlands
17. St. Andrew's Biblical Theological Institute, Russia
18. Surprasl Academy, Poland

6 Proxis from:

19. Ev. Akademie zu Berlin
20. Haugtun (Norway)
21. Ev. Akademie Neudietendorf
22. Ev. Akademie Arnoldshain/Frankfurt
23. Ev. Akademie Rostock

Proxy carried by

- Rüdiger Sareika
Ivar Agoy Nils
Günther Renz
Hermann Düringer
Rüdiger Sareika

2. Agenda

The assembly accepted the proposed agenda.

3. Minutes AC 2012

3.1 The General Assembly accepted the minutes of the Annual Conference 2012 in Trondheim.

3.2 The Assembly elected Georg Wenz as co-signer for the minutes 2013

4. Members

Jaap van der Sar refers to what is written to this point in the Annual Report:

„In the last year some developments have taken place regarding members. Here we summarise some information:

a. The Board and the General Secretary have had communication with several members, which expressed some doubts about their possibilities to continue the membership of Oikosnet Europe. Reasons for these doubts were the access to the dominant language in our association, financial challenges and restructuring of the members or their governing bodies. Through the communication with the Board and the General Secretary, so far none of the involved centres has formally decided to step back as a member. One member gave a short message to do so, but within a couple of months they withdrawn this decision.

b. Mrs. Marja-Liisa Hietala from Lapuan Kristillinen Opisto in Finland announced in December 2012 that her institute is leaving the Association by the end of 2012, due to restructuring and financial difficulties, "especially in the coming year".

c. The Missionsakademie an der Universität Hamburg announced the termination of their membership after having paid their fees to due time.

d. The Board has sent a message to Metropolitane Vasilios from Cyprus by the end of March, when the financial difficulty of that country was breaking world news. We expressed our concern with the people in Cyprus in their very difficult situation. The Board received a message back from the Metropolitane some days after Easter.

e. The Board received a message from our member Seurakuntaopisto in Finland, announcing that from the 1st of August 2013 the Church Training College (Seurakuntaopisto) and Church Resources Agency (Kirkkopalvelut) are forming a new organisation. They will work from several locations, among them both campus areas in Järvenpää and Pieksämäki. From the beginning of 2014 we are asked to consider both former members as one new member. The membership of Oikosnet Europe "will be part of international co-operation with Church Training College (Seurakuntaopisto)." The new contact person will be Mrs. Seija Markkanen."

f. Centre de Sornetan has declared to leave the association – just two days before the Annual Conference has started.

Some participants of the assembly make a plea for a clarification about the membership of some members who didn't communicate for more than a year. The aim should not be to expel them from Oikosnet Europe but to reactivate them (see also the discussion in point 6).

5. Elections

Moderation: Paul Krieg

Two members of the Board stand for re-election: Katalin Zoltani and Jaap van der Sar.
Two new members have to be elected.

Paul Krieg reports the efforts of the nomination committee (beside him Elisabeth Reichen and Alexej Bodrov) to find candidates. In advance of this meeting they found one candidate for the Board: Marielisa von Thadden stands for election.

At the meeting a second candidate was found: Sören Lenz
Both candidates presented themselves.

Votes:

1. The AC re-elected Kati and Jaap for two more years as Board members unanimously.
2. The AC elected both Marielisa and Sören with one abstention.

6. Annual Report of the Board Moderator: Paul Krieg

The report has been sent out before and is presented by the President, Jaap van der Sar.

6.1 Jaap reminds us that we should keep in mind that Oikosnet Europe is part of a big worldwide network, Oikosnet International. In line with he informs the members about the situation of our Syrian colleague from Oikosnet Middle East, Rev. Serop Mergerditchian. He first has decided to stay in Syria taking care for his congregation; meanwhile the situation is so bad that he and his family would like to leave but they cannot anymore. The numbers of members of the congregation decreased from 500 to 80. Oikosnet members should stand in solidarity together. Jaap asked the participants not to leave Serop and his family and others in difficult situations alone, but to show them our solidarity by writing and phoning.

6.2. Membership issues (see also point 4)

The participants had an extensive discussion about the membership situation. Among the 46 members there are some with an uncertain status. They didn't pay their membership fees for more than one year, some cannot afford the money for this.

Questions which were raised by the participants:

Who can stay a member without having paid the membership fee for how long?

What are the reasons why so many former members left Oikosnet Europe?

What is the role of money?

How can we become more attractive as an association?

Can we think about new forms of membership?

How can we widen the conditions of membership?

What are the offers and products of OE?

How can we appreciate our network as an important and useful ecumenical community?

The participants expressed the wish to have a clearer profile of Oikosnet Europe.

Young colleagues in the centres don't know much about ecumenical affairs; they do not like memberships but projects and activities.

6.3 The Board

Jaap gives an explanation about the character of the work of the Board as a coordinating one. Especially since there is no longer a general secretary it is not a task of the Board to start projects itself.

6.4 Board meetings – no discussion

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6.5 The Annual Conference 2012 in Trondheim – no discussion

6.6 Networks/Projects/Cooperation – will be discussed in point 9

6.7 Other contacts

Paul gives information about the associations and members in different regions of the world. Jaap added some information and makes a plea for more close cooperation, especially with the African centres.

Peter Markus informed about activities of German Academies with African churches and centres which are mostly not connected to Oikosnet Europe.

A note is added from Rüdiger Sareika about own European settings and collaborations of the German Kirchentag. He recommends to come in contact with the Kirchentag concerning this issue.

There were some more proposals regarding the Kirchentag: Marielisa proposed an Oikosnet Europe reception at the next Kirchentag. Sören refers to a partnership between Stuttgart (place of the next Kirchentag 2015) and Strasbourg which could be a point of contact for Oikosnet Europe. Rüdiger Noll suggests Oikosnet Europe to be present at the Market of Possibilities at the next Kirchentag.

Walter's remark at the end of this discussion: We have big chances for cooperation with the Kirchentag.

Sören asks for contacts with the Taizé movement. There will be a Taizé youth meeting in the French-German Strasbourg region in the end of this year.

Rüdiger Sareika reminds the members of a German-Norwegian Art-project

To improve cooperation Marielisa points out the importance of a newsletter.

Decision: The assembly accepted the Annual Report without abstentions or vote against.

7. Finances

7.1 Walter Lüssi gives the treasurers report.

There are some questions concerning the transparency. E.g.: what about financing the Annual Conference and the Board meetings?

Sören explains how the AC is financed by several donors but not by Oikosnet Europe; similar is the financing of the last Board meeting in Norway, where we had accomodation, which was offered by the Norwegian Church Academies. That means: no figures in the budget.

Decision: The treasurers report is accepted by the AC without abstentions and votes against.

7.2 Accounts 2012

The accounts 2012 are presented by the treasurer.

Paul gives the Auditors report – as has been sent to the members.

Decision: Auditors report is accepted without abstentions and votes against discharging the Board as a whole for any further liability regarding the year 2012.

7.3 Budget 2014 Moderation: Jaap van der Sar

The treasurer, Walter Lüssi, presents and explains the budget for 2014.

Jaap explained that a black zero is necessary and sufficient.

Decision: The budget is accepted with one abstention.

8. Strategic Planning

Jaap presented the paper „Oikosne(x)t - Doing the right things in a right way.

The following text summarises the information from the Board as well as the comments, remarks and questions from the present members. They are listed in the following bullets:

- What can we as Oikosnet Europe (OE) expect from EAD/Rüdiger Noll? How should we deal with the lack of a general secretary?
- The paper is good, but still open to several directions. How does OE look like after a year? Important are objectives of OE.
- Who are the members? Who are we going to be? How to get other people? To deepen the relations between the members Paul offers for all members room and board in Casa Cares free for two days.
- There is some critic about the sentence “Every member can start a common project, look for appropriate partners and funding“. There is doubt whether there are enough resources with the members. There is a wish to have a more attractive AC, in the sense of learning something new.
- There is a new dynamic and there is confidence in a positive development; members need personal contact, therefore the AC is the most important element of OE.
- The paper shows a direction we are to go; the details of collaboration with EAD and Sigtuna should be elaborated by the Board.
- OE has a potential; we should give a mandate to the Board to develop OE.
- The focus of OE on lay people is a very important one – in comparison to other ecumenical groups. Don't be discouraged! Meeting face to face is necessary! I am inspired by what OE does; I'm on the train!
- The personal contact of members is very important, through the meetings there are very many opportunities to learn, for instance about local history. In former time the visiting communities were very important.
- The ecumenical movement provided inspiration and new opportunities. For some members it is the only possibility for access for international contact.

In summary Jaap gives the following remarks about the first session regarding this document: OE enables members to meet. The Board has to work out the discussion and the suggestions. Members have different meanings about what is attractive and they have different interests in OE. The structure should not be that “someone else has to do it” but that a person, a member does something and invites others to join and cooperate. That is primarily working as a network and therefore OE needs an effective communication. OE can provide some seed money, but cannot finance projects.

After the break Walter moderates the session and Jaap provides additional information regarding the present stages of the exchange of thoughts and/or negotiations with both EAD and Sigtuna Stiftelsen. At this moment in time there are initial ideas how the cooperation with EAD can be worked out. Thoughts are that Rüdiger Noll will work for 30% of his time on close cooperation with OE. Decisions are taken after the meeting of EAD in November. Regarding the exchange of thoughts with Sigtuna Stiftelsen, initial talks have been made in a very productive way. At present nothing is formally agreed yet although the archives from the recent years have been transported to Sigtuna already.

Rüdiger Noll explains that he is in an explorative phase. He is interested in what the needs are of the members. He will look for new members and for the reactivation of 'sleeping' members.

Alf explains that OE was a network in the beginning – including Sigtuna as one of the founders. The Sigtuna Board is committed to explore possible investments in the network. The Board is positive about European collaboration and is thinking of support for communication. In short he says: „The Board is positive“ and „I am positive“.

One of the participants summarises as follows: “Rüdiger Noll is the right person on the right place and I am glad about the Sigtuna role.”

After a short introduction by the Board, the „Workplan 2013-2014“ is discussed. The remarks are as follows:

- In the workplan there is a list of tasks for several players but no tasks are mentioned for the members. This is not logic within the proposed structure.
- The Board is invited to ask for help from members.
- We need a new generation which supports OE.

Decision:

The AC accepted the documents ‚Oikosne(x)t New Structures June 2013‘ and ‚Workplan 2013-2014‘ without abstentions and votes against.

9. Reports

The following activities were collected for a reports, which were given during the informal parts of the meeting:

9.1 Ingeberte presented DPC by exercising two very impressive practices for more than one hour. The presentation included three main elements, which were

- A short exercise about the different meanings and use of both the words ‘peace’ and ‘conflict’. It turns out that we use quite some synonyms for both words, also indicating how important it is to distinguish between different levels of peace and conflict
- An exercise with light pieces of wood – which seemd to be simple but turned out to be challenging
- An explanation about the different phases and roles in a conflict (Iceberg model, made by Colin Craig)

9.2 Jarolaw gave a power point presentation about the Akademia Oikonomos Surprasl

9.3 Elisabeth spoke about the development of the Women’s network. It is open to everybody but due to the name men almost never join. The name should change. Some proposals were made. The Women’s Net will make an own conclusion, presented in their

report about their pre-conference. Elisabeth thanked Sören and his wife Esther for the great hospitality the womens network received in Liebfrauenberg.

9.4 Waltraud presented the „European Project for Interreligious Learning“ (EPIL) and asked the Board to check the possibility of cooperation. The Board will discuss.

9.5 The tourism-project. Marielisa presented the project „Senior citizens to travel“ as a chance for Oikosnet members. Bad Boll is interested and looking for partners. Some OE members reacted. Now the name of the project is: ‚Fostering models for sustainable holidays for elderly people in low season periods‘. The proposed project runs from January 2014, supported by the EU, for 18 months. Some reactions were given regarding the content, but the general line was to see this as a very positive example of how our organisation can work.

9.6 History and Transformation Project. Walter presented the *Draft 09/13*. The first question was: who will read the report, who is in need for the results? Also from a technical point of view, this seems to be a very big task, requiring a lot of time.

9.7 European- Arab-Dialogue. Rüdiger Noll reports: In the beginning of this project was the question of the role Religion in civil society. It started in OE, later on it seemed to be a Loccum project.

There was conference planned for Nov. 2013, now it is postponed to spring 2014.

Beside this there are problems with EU-money; at the moment the relation to OE is not clear.

9.8 Media and Religion

Involved are Sigtuna as the initiator and some 10 members of OE. Georg gave an introduction to the short film, which was presented. The theme of the presented conference was ‚What is the role of media concerning the relation of friends vs. enemies; how important are the media in the aspect of showing violence?‘

The draft-Video „Making of Enemies“ from this conference was shown.

Alf's these is: the resurgence of Religion is a media-phenomenon. From 20. - 22. 5. 2014 there will be an evaluating conference for all participants in Sigtuna.

10. New emerging activities and collaborations

There were two proposals of Ingeberte. The presented projects, as well as the questions to members of Oikosnet Europe, are attached to the minutes as an attachment.

11.1 Annual Conferences 2014 and 2015

Rüdiger Sareika presented the Evangelische Akademie Villigst as place for the Annual Conference 17.-21. September 2014

Inderjit Bhogal invited to Corrymeela (9 – 13 September 2015) in the year of its 50th anniversary.

Caterina asks for a date-change later in September 2015 (third week). Due to greater difficulties in the case of change the decision was taken to stick with the proposed dates.

12. Any other business

The membership question (see above) is mentioned again.

Jaap stressed that it is on the workplan of the Board.

Finally Jaap gives attention to the end of Berit's time in the Board; to thank her will be a big point for the farewell evening.

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After this he closed the business meeting of Oikosnet Europe, held in Liebfrauenberg, France.

For the minutes:

Hermann Düringer
Frankfurt a.M.
Elected by the Conference

Co-signer:

Georg Wenz
Landau/Pfalz
Elected by the Conference

ANNEX to the minutes: contribution from Ingeberte Uitslag, Oikos

Ingeberte presented some projects and ideas, for which cooperation with other members of Oikosnet Europe would be possible.

A. EEN - Sustainable lifestyle

Introduction

EEN is a project of the Dutch platform about the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's). This is a platform of 43 Dutch organisations - Jaap van der Sar is the secretary of this platform. EEN is a member of the worldwide GCAP campaign – the Global Campaign Against Poverty.

EEN has developed – in part together with Oikos – a successful Programme that exists of the following projects:

- MyStyle (media): 40 youth bloggers test sustainable products and gadgets and write about it on their blogs. Also the content is published in big online and offline magazines for youth.
- Edgie (media): a worldwide news service for and from journalists. Aim: change the traditional images that western countries have of the South. Edgie does that by providing news about art, beauty, fashion, sustainability, etc. that normally does not reach most of the western journalists.
- Online consumer platform (media): content from MyStyle and Edgie is used for this platform but moreover it is a platform where visitors contribute themselves as well.
- Shop'NStyle (off line activities): a mobile atelier for young girls and female students about sustainable fashion&beauty. There are fashionistas which give advice on how to create an own sustainable style, including creating added value to your own wardrobe without buying any new clothes.
- Make Room (offline activities): a mobile student's room in which students and youngsters can find and test all kinds of sustainable products that easily fit in the life of a student.
- Experiential learning activities on sustainability (offline activities): There is a number of workshops and trainings (1h-1day) which give young people an experience regarding sustainability. That can be product based, but we also provide activities regarding the PPP-principle, survival activities about 'blood gadgets', etc.

Planning: The project is already running for a few years. In the next years the project will be expanded to Hong Kong, India, Brazil and France.

Chances: There are ambitions to spread the project over Europe, for example through different members. The framework and basic investments are already there. It gives a great opportunity to make a sustainable profile in your country and have access to an international network.

Questions to Oikosnet members:

- Which member would be interested in more information regarding this project or the international campaign against poverty (GCAP)?
- For those who have experience with applications at the EU: would it be helpful to present this plan as a business plan or should we stick to a project plan?

B. Exchange & training of Young volunteers/staff

Introduction

Agape and Oikos are planning a project for exchange and training of youth staff and volunteers. Corrymeela is also planning a project with youth staff and volunteers. We are exploring possibilities to connect the projects, maybe even a common project, resulting in an online and offline Youth Network.

Planning: Probably call Youth in Action (new style, Erasmus Plus?) in May next year. This new style funding probably provided the possibility to fund staff salary as well.

Chances: offline meeting of Youth network can be planned at the same moment and location as Oikosnet meeting(s). This provides opportunities for cross activities, bringing new partners and more staff in contact with Oikosnet. Also it creates differentiation regarding entrances to Oikosnet.

Question: hints regarding the project idea and/or Youth in Action would be much appreciated.

C. Leadership for sustainable change

Further building the renewed Oikosnet collaborative

Introduction: The meetings of Oikosnet (multicultural, ecumenical, Europe, International) could be regarded as projects or a program that might get funding.

(NB that does not mean that Oikosnet in itself is a project, Oikosnet is transforming into a network based on common values which creates space for meeting, reflection and finding connections, also regarding bi/multi lateral projects).

Possible theme for the coming year(s): How to deal with differences and different perspectives.

DPC can be a valuable methodology for dealing with these different perspectives. Can also be related to questions like: how do we (want to) work together in the new Oikosnet structure? It would be great start with this theme in 2014 and it would be special to link it to Corrymeela 2015, since DPC has also some roots there.

Planning: Nothing yet. Initial idea phase.

Chances:

- Get funding for training/meetings about a specific theme in combination with Oikosnet meetings, being able to invite other staff members of the centers
- Invite new possible members
- Invite 'old' members that are in financial troubles
- Combination of offline and online meeting/training

Question: Any suggestions regarding a budget line EU or other fund which is interested in building collaborative across borders would be much appreciated.

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Oikosnet Europa

Walter Lüssi, Reformierte - 1 - Kirche Zürich CH

History and Transformation Project Worksheet 09/13

1)

The History and Transformation Project deals on one side with the question where the Church Academies, Retreat Centers und Christian Study Centers came from as a movement. Diving in the history of Oikosnet Europe brings us back to the beginning of the 20th century. Hearing about the vision of some founding fathers and meeting a wide range of church leaders arisen from the movement gives inspiration for present generations about the work, the scope and the guiding principles.

For the success of this story and history telling part of the project the contribution of many present members of Oikosnet Europe is important since reality and history looks different from different parts of Europe.

2)

On the other side the History and Transformation Project deals with a big change the movement of Oikosnet Europe is going through at least in the last decade. This change is connected with depleted finances and the reduction of projects in number and impact. It turned out that many members of Oikosnet were struggling – and sometimes still are struggling – with an intense process of transformation. How can Academies and Church Centers overcome this difficult period?

The landscape of church academies and educational centers looks considerably different in different regions of Europe. This relates to the different history of these institutions, their influence, their embeddedness in local church contexts, their design, and their vocation as “lieux d’égglise”, as well as their very concrete societal contexts, in which their programs have to prove their value and their charisma has to unfold its impact. But the description of successful models of change may be able to encourage churches and theirs centers and lead them to an enriching turnaround.

Oikosnet Europa

Walter Lüssi, Reformierte - 2 - Kirche Zürich CH

Step 1: Request to all Members of Oikosnet Europe and to the “Cloud” to give access to its archives and historical photos about people and encounters of the movement. The material shall be placed on a virtual photo album with a timeframe. Interested people can get access on this interactive platform which brings them into contact and on which they can add their own memories and stories.

Step 2: The history part should be completed by a compact description of the history of the movement by using the archives of Oikosnet Europe and its members.

Step 3: A summary and brief overview of the situation in the landscape of church academies and educational centers in Europe can name the challenges of present time as well as the creative and contemporary solutions for the original ideas of the movement: to reinterpret the significance of the Gospel, to understand the problems of society, to discuss the actual challenges of the various societies and the challenges of the churches, to give guidance for the necessary changes for the societies in a peaceful manner with a commitment for social justice, empowering the laity and cooperating with the churches.

Step 4: Presentation of a couple of best-practice models and examples of Members of Oikosnet Europe which had to go through a deep transformation process and which found a functioning strategy and basis for their performance

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under new circumstances and conditions.

Products

Interactive virtual platform / Download material: The history of the movement and the summary about the present situation of the Members of Oikosnet Europe / Publication of best-practice models with process descriptions and a set of arguments for the attention of the church leaders