

Oikosnet Europe Board Meeting
Warsaw, 2024-10-02
Minutes by Alf Linderman



Board Members present:

Walter Lüssi, President
Katerina Karkala, Vice President
Lucia Leonardi
Heinz-Joachim Lohmann, Executive Secretary
Kjell Riise (until half of agenda item 5)

Board Members excused:

All board members were present

Others present:

Alf Linderman, Treasurer
Kateryna Stulnikova, Administrative assistant in Berlin

Others excused:

Maria-Pia Anderloni, Secretariat
Rüdiger Noll, Consultant

1. Welcome and Introduction

Walter welcomed all participants to Warsaw and the board meeting held prior to the start of the Warsaw Oikosnet Europe General Assembly. At this point, Alf also asked about the need for minutes from this meeting. It was concluded that since all board members are present, and much of the content relates to the General Assembly that is just about to start, we do not need formal minutes in the usual sense. The most important items can be summarized in these minutes.

2. Adoption of the Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the last board meeting, held virtually on the 5th of September 2024, were adopted.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda for today's meeting was adopted.

4. Developments since last Meeting

Walter gave a short presentation of the process to form the Annual report that is to be presented to and discussed at the General Assembly. The work on the Annual report has been chaired by Walter, and has involved all board members, the Sigtuna secretariat, the Treasurer Alf and the Consultant Rüdiger.

Heinz-Joachim informed about the work to prepare the Warsaw meeting in collaboration with the local representatives of the inviting Church, the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession. He noted that the local representatives have been very helpful in this process, not least Anna Wrzesińska.

Kjell also informed about his work to update and vitalize the social channels of communication for our association, something that has been very helpful. The work on the Oikosnet Europe website, www.oikosnet.eu, started a bit slow due to some problems and delay in getting administrative access to the site.

In the conclusion of this item of the agenda, it was noted that we need to update the checklist for the work to manage and organize Oikosnet Europe General Assemblies. There was some unclarities as to who is doing what since the role of the Sigtuna Secretariat has changed, and therefore it would be helpful with an updated checklist. It was also concluded that the information process, not least newsletters and web-site information, is very essential for us to be able to have a good preparatory process to properly prepare for a successful General Assembly.

5. **Planning for the upcoming GA**

Given the location and the distance between the hotel and the various conference venues, there was a general discussion about how to communicate to people where to go when and how. It was decided that in addition to the written information that was distributed before the meeting, relevant logistical information should be given step-by-step during the General Assembly.

It was also noted that there were some very late cancellations. It was decided that those who due to legitimate reasons, e.g., sudden illness, could not participate in the Warsaw General Assembly should contact the Treasurer Alf to request reimbursement. The board also decided that out of the EUR 350,- paid for the participation in the General Assembly, the association should reimburse EUR 300,-.

- Worship Life

Kjell gave some relatively detailed information about the plans for the Opening worship, for the Interpellations and for the Closing worship in the Reformed Church, and in addition to this, Heinz-Joachim added some concrete information.

- Main Theme (Study Day/Excursion)

Heinz-Joachim gave a presentation of the content and structure of the Study Day including information about the various speakers that will take part in the Study Day and how the program will be moderated. Lucia gave a presentation of the program for the evening of the Study Day in which she together with Hanna Schilling will present the youth project that has been financially supported by Oikosnet Europe. A few of the participants who has taken part in the project will also have presentations during this program.

- Scheme of the overall Program

Heinz-Joachim informed about the Friday program with excursion and a visit to the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews. Some details of the program were discussed and some issues clarified. Lucia also explained the structure for the evening session in which member organizations are given the opportunity to

present themselves. This will not be organized as fifteen formal presentations in a plenary forum, but more have the character of sharing among members and colleagues.

In addition to all this, some details around when visiting guests could convey greetings were also discussed together with some additional information about the program and about its logistical implications.

- Business Sessions

These sessions are on Saturday. The first thing will be to go through the agenda for the Business Sessions and the Annual Report. Recent and ongoing projects will be presented in the afternoon.

The budget was sent out to the board in June this year and has not been changed since. Walter mentioned that Kjell has suggested to add some minor funds for advertisement of the Association's social media. Alf also suggested that the budgeted income from membership fees should be adjusted given the relatively good result for 2023. Walter suggested to go from EUR 26 thousand to 30. This, and the addition of EUR 1000 for digital advertising, was the board's decision.

- Annual Report

Walter presented the Annual Report and walked through the content. In doing so, he also made clear when others had a role to play regarding the presentation of this Report.

- Elections

It was reiterated that no elections were to be held at this meeting, but that it was important to make sure that the Elections Committee already at this point started to explore options and possibilities as to the elections taking place at the 2025 General Assembly.

- Guests

Walter and Heinz-Joachim reported on the guests taking part in various parts of the Warsaw General Assembly.

6. **Future of Oikosnet – Working Group**

Heinz-Joachim gave a short presentation of the process of the Working Group, a group in which everyone that were present in this board meeting at least have had some involvement. This will be a vary important item during the Warsaw meeting.

7. **Priority Themes**

- Oikosnet Youth Project 2023 and 2024

Lucia gave a presentation of the work within the youth projects and informed about how these projects will be presented during the General Assembly. As mentioned already, some of those participating in these projects will be present at the meeting and will give presentations.

- Arab European Citizens' Dialogue

Katerina and Alf gave some updates about this project and the upcoming planning meeting in Cairo in November. It was noted that we want more participation from Oikosnet Europe members in this project.

8. Finances

Alf reiterated his comments regarding the finances that were written in the Annual Report. It is very positive that the payments of membership fees have been better in the last year, in part thanks to Heinz-Joachim's effort to connect to German members, but in a longer perspective it is necessary to reach a more stable financial situation. The work of Kateryna to update the information on member coordinates has also been a valuable contribution in our work to revitalize the association and internal communication.

Here, another issue was raised by Heinz-Joachim and Alf. In October 2023, Heinz-Joachim had written an application for support with the following title: *Application for support of the Agape Project 5th to 11th August 2023 in Agape/Prati/Italy*. This matter has however not been previously properly handled. Thus, the application was addressed again with the suggestion that the board should decide to use funds in the 2024 budget to reimburse the Berlin academy for travel expenses, EUR 1600, related to this project. The board decided in accordance with this suggestion.

9. Relations

- CPCE – Assembly in Sibiu

Heinz-Joachim will say something about this at the General Assembly. At this point, recent developments in CEC were also discussed – not least that the new General Secretary of CEC, Rev. Frank-Dieter Fischbach, will be present at the General Assembly.

10. Next Meeting(s)

The next General Assembly will take place in Wittenberg in September 2025. No decision about future board meetings was taken in the meeting.

At the end of the meeting, Alf raised the question about who will write the minutes of the Business meeting(s) at the General Assembly. Walter suggested that he should ask Rüdiger Noll, a proposition everyone was very happy with.