

Minutes from the ESN Alumni meeting

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Fast facts

- Place: Prague, Czech Republic
- Date: 18 October 2008

Participants

See attachment for the list of participants

Report from the Preliminary board

The Preliminary Board (PB) shortly reported on its activities from the time it was elected in Besançon during the AGM ESN Alumni meeting.

Ambitious goals versus “cruel reality”...

It quite proved true that the ideas and promises are one thing, and reality the other one. Not all goals of the PB were reached mainly due to two reasons:

- Full time jobs of all members were pretty time consuming (quite common sense finding but personal experience is irreplaceable).
- Communication via electronic means is quick but not that efficient as personal one. Unfortunately it is not possible to meet as often as would be necessary.
- And last but not least there were also some internal “issues” withing the Preliminary Board team which also slowed the work.

Success

- Finally the ESN Alumni have one **unified mailing list** now consisting of some 300 working e-mail addresses (working means that they do not send failure notices back – how many mails are really read is the other thing)
- **Meetings of alumni** – so far we have had 4 meetings: Brussels in February, Besançon in March, Siena in May and now Prague in October. Every such a meeting is a place of exchanging ideas and just having fun. Pallomeri! Big thanks to all OCs!

Some success / In progress

- **Website** – it has been founded but recently the PB did not put enough emphasis to that so it was not enough updated. Anyway, the foundations

are there and now it is necessary to build upon them. Thanks to Nick Andries for running the site!

- **Vision of alumni** – we gained some insight in what could be done not only during the meetings but also by an on-line questionnaire. Unfortunately just 20 respondents filled it up but the good point is that we had gained at least some qualitative answers.

No success (?) / intense need for improvement

- **Directory of alumni** – the PB has not managed to launch a directory of alumni. It is quite a pity since it looks like it is something the alumni request. The current mailing list is just a start of this and lots of things need to be done.
- **Connect alumni to ESN** – the PB did not reach really strong contact with ESN International (especially the Board and CNR). Some contacts have been made, however also due to reluctance of ESN International they were not very successful. Lots of things remain to be done.
- **Involvement of alumni** – clearly saying not many alumni really took part in the activities. We can hope this will improve after several meetings and bigger visibility of ESN Alumni.

The biggest success

We are here! It looks like that this attempt is so far the one which is surviving for the longest time 😊.

Yeahhh, great work! ! !

Statutes or rules for alumni

One of the main tasks of the Preliminary Board of ESN Alumni was to prepare the statutes which would serve as a framework for the activities of alumni.

There were two versions of the statutes prepared. One by Toon Macharis which aimed at legal registration of the alumni (and was in compliance with the Belgian law) and one prepared by Paul Puylaert which was a quite simplified version of the first one.

In order to decide which version should be chosen a first vote was taken.

Vote 1

Should we work on legal registration now?

- In favour: 1
- Abstain: 0
- Against: 8

After this both versions were presented in a detailed matter. During the discussion another solution (besides choosing one of those two) was proposed by Johannes Kerner: to write **another version** yet even simpler **of the following structure**:

1. Name (according to Toon's version)
2. Aims (according to Toon's version)
3. Membership (refer to the statutes of ESN International)
4. AGM (stating that there should be one)
5. Board (stating that there should be one)
6. Independence

Johannes Kerner will create this version.

Ideally during the period until AGM in Utrecht a final solution of this issue should be proposed which would also involve change (if necessary) of the statutes of ESN International.

Election of the Board of ESN Alumni

Vote 2

Coordinator: Vojtěch Opleštil, Czech Republic

- In favour: 9
- Abstain: 1
- Against: 0

Vote 3

Vicecoordinator: Pierre Frauman, Belgium

- In favour: 8
- Abstain: 2
- Against: 0

The **position of the administrator** remains vacant, however Marina Koch will closely support Vojtěch and Pierre in their activities.

What to do next

Here are several things which alumni and especially the Board should focus on. The list below represents rather a set of ideas; a separate task list will be created.

- **ESN Train** – this event organized by ESN Switzerland could be a great opportunity for meeting once again. Therefore it should be promoted among the alumni community.
- **20th anniversary of ESN** – the celebration is supposed to take place in October 2009. Nick Andries is one of the main organizers. Since it is alumni who are supposed to preserve the history of ESN we should take active part in the celebration.
- **Alumni meeting check-list** – it should be updated both by the participants and the OC.
- **Participation at AGM** – the Board of ESN Alumni should make sure that there will be enough places left for alumni. Not only that, active participation is what really matters. The most obvious option is to prepare some workshops.
- **Next meeting** – isn't that obvious? Well: we will definitely meet in Utrecht during the AGM. We will see whether the next meeting will take place before that or afterwards. The Board should make sure this will happen ☺.
- **History of ESN** – alumni should contribute to the creation of the history of ESN. Paul will be probably the most important person.
- **Contact with ESN** – as stated above the contact with ESN (especially the Board and CNR) was not of that intensity which its importance would deserve. Improvement is necessary.
- **Database of alumni** – this is something needed not only as a list of active members but also as a kind of solution that will enable alumni to easily find and meet each other.

Attachments

- List of participants: ESN Alumni meeting participants Prague Oct 2008_v01.xls
- Proposal of statutes for ESN Alumni: ESN Alumni - statutes_v01.doc