

15th BOARD MEETING
July, 14th, 2002
Snoghøj IT Folkehojskolen

Board members:

John Petersen
Linda Jakobsone
Mjellma Mehmeti
Agota Ilyes
Conchi Gallego
Siebren de Boer

Guests:

Barna Kovacs
Dasa Bolcina
Helena Soares Silva
Jan- Christoph Napierski
Eric Pichereaux

1.- Opening of the meeting

John welcomes the board and the invited guests to the meeting.

2.- Agenda

John proposes to include a point in the agenda about the ACC volunteers that have been working in the different schools during the Youth 2002. It is included as new point 9b.

Mjellma proposes a new order in the agenda to talk about the Youth2002 earlier in the meeting as Linda is leaving the meeting before it finishes.

The agenda is approved

3.- Election of the chair of the meeting

It is decided that John will chair the meeting.

4.- Catch up with everything that happened since the 14th board meeting

Lobby work

John starts by explaining to the board what has happened with the Act on Community Colleges, produced in December. The document was sent to politicians, think tanks.. etc, and there has been good responses, specially from the EU, DG on Education and Youth, but also from MEP's...etc.

Also, during the closing of the Youth 2002 Mjellma talked with the Danish Minister European Matters and Integration, Mr. Bertel Haarder, that informed her that the Cabinet of Ms. Viviane Reding (Education and Culture Directorate General) had called the Danish Government to comment on the draft Act on European Community Colleges. The board sees this development as very positive.

John moves to the economical aspects. The EU has finally given some finance for running cost under the A3029 budget line. This is a great success that he believes that comes because of the visibility achieved related to the Youth 2002 and the Act on European Community Colleges.

About the “Bridging Europe”, Agota tried to include our policy during the week devoted to education, to spread the knowledge to participants.

The consultant Price Waterhouse Coopers that was one of the partners in the running of the “Bridging Europe” web dialogue asked ACC for an opinion as NGO on the week 9 of the web dialogue, when the topic was Youth Policy.

Related to the Youth 2002, the ACC office has written all the Schools involved in the project to offer future cooperation in organising international activities similar to the ones that we have been organising. There are still some “legal” requirements on the number of Danish participants that should attend these activities. This is something that the board agrees to keep on working.

Projects

Linda presents some recent information about the Balkan Community College. There has been some applications presented for fundraising that have been rejected. The “YOUTH” programme has not answered yet.

Mjellma presents the Italian Community College. It will take place in December, in a place close to Rome. They have applied to EU funding and the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe, and the first feedback seems to be very positive, although they are still waiting for an answer. Mjellma mentions that the information updated by Laszlo in the web was very good and has helped a lot concerning this project.

The Cornwall Community College has had rejections from the Council of Europe and the EU. It is mentioned that the project is a good one, and will probably work in the future, but it was still not ready.

The TCC has had rejections also from CoE and EU. The main reason was that the application was done under the *Multilateral Project*, and it was understood that it was a *Third Country Project*.

John mentions that after what has happened in the second edition of the TCC and the Italy Project, he draws the attention of the board on the importance of the Partnership agreements in the multilateral projects that are now requested and consider a strict criteria coming from the EU.

John also informs about the Experimental Community College organized by the ACC, dedicated to the 12 volunteers that took place in Ronshoved. It was related to the drafting of the Constitution and drawing conclusions and experiences that could be used by the schools taking part in the Youth2002 project when they draft the programme for the two weeks of the project.

Organisation

Linda presents some more information about Rite’s Folk High School. Together with ACC they have presented some projects. Linda comments the fact that she is now out of the board, and she informs the board that she won’t work with the School any more.

We include here some comments on the point about the volunteer project. ACC has presented 5 projects from different Folk High Schools, that were returned for more information. We are now waiting for a final reply from Brussels.

Mjellma comments that the projects are mainly focus on the follow up of the Youth 2002. There are some topics decided for each school and the volunteers should do “update journalism” as they have done during the Youth2002 about topics that are debated on the European level. Some people speaks in the line that this work has not been productive enough during the Youth2002, and sometimes problematic. Mjellma explains that all these problems will be explained to the new volunteers. There is a request to follow up the projects very carefully and find and the added value to them.

5.- Follow up of the Youth2002

John thanks all those people that have been working for the Youth2002 in various ways.

John starts by explaining on Elly’s withdrawing from the board of the Youth2002. The reasons why she left were mainly the lack of transparency and continuity in the process of the work of the board of the Youth2002.

[...]

Volunteers youth2002

ACC has already applied for a follow up of the project. There is a long debate on how the project has worked during the Youth2002 in order to improve this second project.

[...]

Internal Communication strategy

Following an e-mail sent by Eva who could not be present at board meeting, the board debates on the topic of internal communication.

The board debates on the comments sent by Eva and sees the need of debating this topic further on.

The board decides to work hard in order to arrange a seminar that would work on organisational culture and definition of the structure of the ACC, in order to study carefully functioning of the organisation and its future development.

Other ideas by the board on how to improve the communication and the involvement of the members are:

- focusing on the GA there is the idea to make some space available in the website for resolutions and communications from the members to the GA.
- it is also seen as interesting to give info about the candidatures procedure on the web.

Siebren commits himself to contact Eva and tell her about the results of the debate on this point of agenda.

The board agrees to keep on working about strategies to follow towards our members, for further involvement.

4.- Act on European Community Colleges

The board takes note that the Act on Community Colleges has been produced, and it considers that it is a great inspiration and a good tool for lobbying work.

It acknowledges the great job done by the participants in the activity that took place in Denmark at the end of 2001, and considers that the final document it is on a very high quality.

5.- Budget and accounts

Accounts 2001 signed by the treasurer and the auditor are presented. This document will be presented for adoption to the coming GA. The board expresses its gratitude to the auditors work and gives its approval to the document.

The same goes with the document of the budget.

6.- New volunteer at the ACC office.

John and the board welcome the new EVS volunteer for the office, Eric Pichereaux that will be working for the coming months following the tasks that Mjellma has been doing these last months.

Preparation of the coming General Assembly/The future of the board of the ACC

Jesper Nielsen has expressed his will of leaving his position as treasurer in the board due to lack of time. There will be then a vacancy to be elected in the GA. There is only one candidate, Jan-Christoph.

Future activities of the ACC

There has been already some information about this previous in the meeting (point 3). Further information on other projects:

- Possibilities: A second edition of the Schools for Europe, an Evaluation Seminar of Youth2002 with the Schools, maybe something related to Editorial Conference of "Das Haus/La Maison/The House" and a collaboration with the AWE journal (might be about Youth2002), Cornwall will submit the application again.
- There are more new members after Youth2002 and we have to plan activities for people that come from different background and experiences as it was before.
- There is a new initiative from Malta on organising a Community College on environmental issues is starting to be organised by Bernard Borg. The board decides that if the project

description fits the ACC aims, the board approves a Malta committee. Conchi will be the board member in this committee.

AOB

Barna proposes to have some kind of “advisory board” in order to get new ideas and that could help fundraising. The board decides to try it and gives itself some time to think about possible people to be in this “board”. We will circulate possible names among the board and try to contact them by phone and then the office will send an official letter in order to build it up.

The office worked a declaration that was distributed to the participants of the ACC, and it will be sent again to the media.

[...]

The meeting is closed at 18:24.