

## DECISIONS OF THE ELHN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### ELHN NETWORK MEETING, 08 May 2020 (via Zoom)

Present: Matthias van Rossum, Silke Neunsinger, Donald Weber, Juliane Schiel, Tibor Valuch, Jenny Janson, Francesca Sanna, Enric Garcia, Stefan Moitra, Görkem Akgoz, Knudnud Andresen, Stefano Musso, Rory Archer, Stefano Bellucci, Nicoletta Rolla, Corine Maitte, Camille Fouroux, Yann Belliard, Susan Zimmermann, Viola Muller, Fia Sundevall, Christian Wicke, Jordi Ibarz, Stefania Montemezzo, Amal Shahid, Manuela Martini, Christine de Matos, Sigfrido Ramirez and Jacqueline Rutte (minutes)

#### 1. **Opening**

The agenda for this meeting is accepted

#### 2. **Minutes**

No comments on the minutes.

#### 3. **Next ELHN conference in Vienna**

The next ELHN conference will take place in Vienna 30-08 to 03-09-2021.

Juliane and Lukas Neisl have site visited and set the dates. Juliane explains the setup of the conference according to a schedule. There are parallel sessions between Worck and ELHN. The proposed schedule is still open for discussion. The campus of the Vienna University has many seminar rooms, is surrounded by a lot of green, beautiful location. There are 4 parallel sessions for ELHN. There are 8x4 sessions for the ELHN and 2 time slots per working group. The time schedule is indicated in the document on page 3.

The conference fee is the same as in Amsterdam € 75,= and € 30,=. The Worck participants will pay separately. Since it is very difficult to organize a conference in Hungary, Tibor support the Vienna conference. Tibor will organize a keynote with a Hungarian related topic. Feel free to send in your input. The meeting discusses the conference and remarks made are:

- > Since the ESSHC is postponed to March 2021 we could use the papers presented there as a follow up.
- > too many conferences in 2021.
- > more time for the working groups is needed. There was too little freedom in Amsterdam.
- > is online participation possible? The Vienna dates coincide with the Dutch opening of the academic year.
- > start the conference with a plenary meeting.
- > there are not enough slots.

Juliane responds: If we do not organize ELHN in 2021 it will take too long before we can organize a next conference since we always have the ELHN conference after the ESSHC. Juliane expects less participants.

She cannot extend the deadlines because the organizers need that time to plan the conference. Since, due to the corona crisis, there are too many uncertainties they decided for now to stick to the set dates.

A plenary session at the beginning is a good idea as well as giving the working groups

more time. This can be decided upon after the deadline of October 1<sup>st</sup>.  
Online participation is uncertain, There is no money available for infrastructure, Zoom participation will be checked. The university of Vienna has many cafes and restaurants in the vicinity, they can be also be used for meetings. Juliane will look into the comments. The topic for the keynote could be 'labour under unfree conditions', the meeting is asked to send their input to Tibor.

#### **4. Improvement ELHN Organization Structure Document**

The structure document that was accepted in Amsterdam was scheduled to be discussed during the meeting in March to develop several improvements. Several suggestions for improvement have been circulated before the meeting; these were based on input given during the Amsterdam meeting and discussions after that, including a meeting with the French and the Italian national labour history networks. The Working Groups are the basis of the ELHN and their coordinators (or representatives) take part in the meetings of the General Assembly that have all decision power. To keep the contact with the national and regional labour history organisations it is decided that these are invited to take part in the general assembly meetings. The decision power remains with the Working Groups and their coordinators or representatives.

Since the name 'Steering Committee' is too strong a name, the meeting decides that the name 'Steering Committee' will be replaced by 'Network Committee'. The changes suggested by the Network Committee are accepted, as well as several improvements for which the text could be decided upon in the meeting. The document will be adapted accordingly. For two suggested improvements a more precise text is required (new WG's; election process); the Network Committee will prepare proposals for the next meeting. This will be on the agenda for November.

#### **The website**

Donald shows us the website. All working groups have their own pages and there is a news service. Documents and minutes can also be uploaded on the website (after approval). Donald asks the meeting to send him their input and ideas regarding the website and content for the website. These ideas can be further discussed during the Nordic conference next November.

#### **5. Implications of changing academic and political environments**

this will be discussed in November

#### **6. How to relate to GLHN**

this will be discussed in November

#### **7. Any other business**

none