



MEETING OF THE ELHN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

01 September 2021, Vienna (hybrid)

Present : Silke Neunsinger, Matthias van Rossum, Donald Weber, Jacqueline Rutte (minutes), Claude Roccati, Marcel van der Linden, Sabine Römer, Francesca Sanna, Maria Papatnasiou, Jonas Söderqvist, Lorenzo Costaguta, Jordi Ibarz Gelabert, Anna Pellegrino, Annika Bärwald, Joe Redmayne, Sigfrido Ramirez Perez, Enric Garcia Domingo, Yannis Papadopoulos, Conchi Villar, Amal Shahid, Teresa Petrik, Tibor Valuch, Claude Bernardi, Fia Sundevall, Olli Sittonen, Juliane Schiel and many others in the room in Vienna

The meeting starts at 18.30.

1. Opening

Silke welcomes everybody to the meeting. Due to time restrictions the main agenda points are identified as deciding on new working groups, the next conference and the elections. She asks the meeting to keep discussions short. If needed further discussion on other agenda points can be postponed to a next meeting.
Agenda: The agenda for this meeting is accepted.

2. Minutes 22 March 2021

No proposals with ideas for a procedure for inactive working groups were sent in. This issue is on the agenda for this meeting.

3. Working Groups

- Proposal new working groups: Artic and Indigenous Labour.
This proposal is accepted by the meeting.

- The network committee received an email from the working group 'Workers Politics' saying that they will not vote during this meeting because they have not been active since the last conference in Amsterdam.

- Ideas on procedures of inactive working groups.
Proposal: If a working group has been inactive for 2 conferences they will lose the right to vote and will be in standby. Once they are active again, they regain the right to vote.
This proposal is accepted.

- Do inactive working groups keep their page on the website? Yes
- If a working group has been inactive during 1 year they should receive a notice from the network committee.
- Changes in the working groups must be reported to Donald and Jacqueline.
- all working groups should write manuals to facilitate the work for succeeding coordinators.

4. Network Activities

Last June an online workshop was organized on how working groups operate and how they can learn from each other's activities. This was recorded and the recordings can now be published on the website.

Online discussions are more difficult than live discussions. It is a good idea to organize meetings between working groups for discussions. Some working groups feel the need for more discussion.

It is important to look into the gaps in the network and try to fill them. Everybody is invited to send in their ideas to the network committee.

The aim is not to discuss the usefulness of the working groups, but to discuss how the network and working groups operate, exchange ideas on how to improve that, how to advance the field of labour history. The joint conversation should be how to boost our mission.

An advice to the next committee is to organize more of this type of workshops that must also be accessible online

The Conference

Silke starts by giving the organizers of the Vienna conference big compliments. They have done a great job to organize this hybrid event.

After the conference is over it will be analyzed.

Juliane thanks all the online and live participants for joining the conference. Organizing it was a big challenge because of the pandemic. Juliane did learn a lot and she is happy that in general it all goes well, apart from a few technical problems. Hybrid settings need more manpower.

Hybrid settings will be the future. She asks the meeting to give their feedback on the conference by using the padlet.

Very big thanks to Teresa Petrik.

The next conference.

A proposal was received to organize the next conference in Uppsala, Sweden. Since the next ESSHC conference is postponed to 2023 it is probably better to have the next ELHN conference in 2024. In 2024 we do not clash with the ESSHC and it is better for reasons of funding for participants. We always planned the ELHN conference in a year with no

ESSHC conference. The Uppsala conference can be held in June (after June 6th). If a hybrid conference is possibly is yet not known.

Uppsala was the only proposal received, there are no alternative proposals.

To fill the gap between this conference and the next in 2024 it might be a good idea to organize a small event in 2022 (workshops). In case there is no host we can organize the workshops digitally.

The meeting accepts the proposal for Uppsala in 2024.

5. Network Committee Elections

A. Election of chair and vice chair for the Network Committee. To avoid conflicts of interest, Donald will chair this agenda item.

Donald takes on the chairing of this part of the meeting.

We will now elect the chair and vice chair. Donald refers to the voting document that was sent out to the coordinators. Donald asks the nomination committee to introduce the procedure.

Susan Zimmermann (member of the nomination committee) informs the meeting that they received no comments on the voting document. Three nominations are received. For chair Silke Neunsinger and Leda Papastefanaki. For vice chair Matthias van Rossum.

Candidates will have a chance to present themselves to the meeting. Jonas Söderqvist and Sigfrido Ramirez, the 2 other nomination committee members, have nothing to add.

Donald can continue the procedure.

Chair and vice chair are open for 2 years with an option for another 2 years. Silke and Matthias were chair/vice-chair for the last 2 years and can be elected for another 2 year period.

Silke presents herself to the meeting. She has been chair for the last 2 years together with Matthias as vice chair and she wants to continue for another 2 years. The main goal is to enable the working groups to do their work in a bottom up setting. The communication between North and South must be improved. She has structured the ELHN organization despite the difficult pandemic situation.

Leda presents herself to the meeting. She wants to make the labour history of the South (as well as Southeastern/Eastern) Europe more visible internationally. She is looking for a global approach. She has been active, as member and coordinator, since the beginning of the foundation of the ELHN in three working groups. All European regions should be equally represented in the committee.

Matthias presents himself to the meeting. He has been happy to work as a vice chair to help getting the organization more structured in a bottom up manner. The chair/vice chair need to help and facilitate the network and there is a lot more to do. He is willing to continue for 2 more years with the current network committee to continues this and see how we can expand the labour history network in Europe.

Comments from the meeting:

Juliane Schiel is happy that there is a choice. Given the difficulties caused by the pandemic she is in favor of letting the actual chair and vice chair to continue what they started. She agrees that all regions in Europe should be addressed and proposes that Leda should take over in 2 years.

???? feels it is very difficult to choose and asks if there can be 3 persons in the committee. Donald is unable to answer this question. Susan Zimmermann answered this by saying that the time has passed to make this kind of decision. (It would have required a change of statutes)

Susan Zimmermann, coordinator of the feminist labour working group is in favor of Leda and doesn't think she should wait for another 2 years.

The voting for chair:

Leda received the votes of 7 working groups

Silke received the votes of 5 working groups

4 working groups voted neutral

1 working group did not vote (absent)

The voting for vice chair:

only candidate Matthias

Leda accepts the results of the vote for chair and is looking forward to working with Matthias and Silke.

Matthias expresses his congratulations to Leda and to the meeting for the democratic process, but stresses that he is not certain what the implications are of the outcome of the voting on the chair position. He asks time to think if he accepts the post as vice chair again.

The results of the election will take effect during the next General Assembly meeting.

B. Election of the next Nomination Committee

Silke resumes chairing the meeting and congratulates Leda

Nobody volunteered.

Silke asks candidates and suggestions from the general assembly. Tibor Valuch, Görkem Akgöz and Christian Wicke are asked if they are willing to be in the next Nomination Committee. They accept.

6. Date for the next GA

The new network committee will set a date for this meeting. Probably sometime in January 2022.

Silke points out that she will not in return in the network committee in the role of conference organizer. The group that proposed the next conference in Uppsala will decide who will be their representative.

Any other business

Big thanks to Silke and Matthias for all the work they have done.