



MINUTES

Board Meeting, No.39: 19April 2021 10.00am Dublin time via Zoom

Participants:

John Walsh	COE/Irish Federation
Camille Dressler	Scottish Islands Federation
Anetté Johansson	National Association for the Swedish Archipelago
Sten-Åke Persson	National Association for the Swedish Archipelago
Lise Thilleman Sørensen	Danish Small Islands Association
Dorthe Winther	Danish Small Islands Association
Riina Kaljulaid	AEI (Estonia)
Denis Bredin	AIP/France
Pia Prost	National Association of Finnish Islands
Marija Kuljeric	Croatian Islands Rep
Cathy Gill	Irish Islands Federation

Attending:

Host & Secretary:

Rhoda Twombly Irish Islands Federation

Apologies:

Eleftherios Kechagioglou HSIN

1/Attendance, Chair and approval of agenda

Approved

2/ Approval of minutes of meeting on 18 March 2021 and agenda No. 40

Approved with no matters arising

3/ Financial Report

Balance: €10,588. All member countries except 2 have paid their 2021 fee.

4/ Chairman's Report

ESIN participated in ENRD's Rural Vision week with Lise organising a fringe workshop on the topic of Repopulating the Small Islands. John acted as moderator and Camille, Lise and Seamus spoke and the workshop was considered a success with contacts made with other organisers and participants. Well done to all involved.

John, Lise and Camille also attended the CPMR event: this was beneficial in terms of making contacts but also hugely political. **ACTION:** Organise a meeting with the two leads, Eleni and Gianni.

Youth project: Similar to Erasmus+, associated with Spain. Marija recently received an email clarifying the project which hadn't been sent to other members: this is to be sent to John and sent around the Board. Once all have had the opportunity to read this update a short meeting will be called. **ACTION:** Short meeting on Youth project.

5/ Working Groups

- Energy;
: discussed changing working group to “Energy & Climate Change”
: request from the new Secretariat of Clean Energy for EU Islands to work with them. A) unsure of the interest in this from member federations and B) probably little reward from the Secretariat – no payment but a seat on their advisory board. It was noted that setting up a webinar and dissemination of information for them would incur a cost in time and money. Definite negative opinions from members who felt the association would not be at all worthwhile, although the association with CE4EU could be beneficial in members work with local agencies.
ACTION: Discuss the situation with the Secretariat. Get the opinion of members on this and discuss further at next working group meeting.
NESOI: ESIN has provided all necessary paperwork and awaits NESOI’s decision. All involved islands looking at decarbonisation plans for their islands with a view to pooling their information. **ACTION:** Denis to contact Alexis on NESOI’s decision.
- Policy:
Lise noted the success of the ENRD fringe event organised by Lise and members of ESIN: Repopulating Small Islands. **ACTION:** Lise to send Rhoda the presentation to put on the website.
In discussing the Just Transition funds, Lise noted that in Denmark the small and larger islands will together ask for 10% of the fund to go to green energy for island transport and in homes. It was also noted that in some countries it was too late to apply. **ACTION:** Review which member countries used Just Transition funds for Islands: send this to T. Picula.
- Branding:
No meeting has been held recently but as an example, John outlined a program presented by the local university food institute where they want to pick 4 island businesses to work with on branding, marketing, etc. Will look into this further.

6/ AGM

- AGM to start on the 16th of September with a big event being held on the 17th (celebration of 50 years of Les îles du Ponant organisation). There will be the option of visits to smaller and larger islands in the group either before or after the AGM. Travel arrangements will be outlined.
- Definite decisions can be held off till June.
- There was concern raised about the possibility that all may not travel due to Covid and would it be possible to have a hybrid-type AGM with some attending via zoom. This will be discussed – a decision can wait till June to see how travel restrictions between countries stand. **ACTION:** Denis to circulate existing plans

7. Any other business

- **ACTION:** move important files to the ngo drop box
- A letter of support was requested by John for a W.Cork Islands Arts project: this was approved: John will write letter.

- Pia noted discussion of plans for another habitability course linked with Erasmus with Ivan Matich. It was decided that ESIN should be involved in this. Basic review of the on-going course: felt it was demanding but very worthwhile with a lot of interest. Will have meetings with the islands interested in the ongoing course.
- AGM Minutes: **ACTION**: John, Anette and Rhoda to finalise the signatures and send copy to Lise.
- Mareja to be included in branding group
- Film director of The Last King of Tory looking for support & dissemination: **ACTION** to be discussed: perhaps organise a culture night around the film

11. Next meeting

Tuesday 25th May 10am Dublin time

Energy working group: After the 4th of May