

ESIN AGM 2024
Moise Palace, Island of Cres – Croatia, October 3rd 2024

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Members:

Camille Dressler, Erika Englund, Christer Friis, Lotten Hjelm, Annely Holm, Anetté Larm Johansson, Mikael Lindholm, Kennet Lundström, Cathy Ní Ghóill, Ivan Matić, Maria Mamlöf, Aisling Moran, Sten-Åke Persson, Pia Prost, Tuuli Rantala, Nina Söderlund, Kirsten Sydendal, Lise Thillemann Sørensen, Erwan Tonnerre and John Wrede

Proposed Agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting, establishing the quorum, and adopting the agenda
2. Chairman's report
3. Treasurer's report including Audited statement
4. Adoption of reports
5. Election of board, chair, treasurer, and secretary
6. Motions and proposals:
 - A. Marseille Declaration
 - B. Vote on change to Statutes
 - C. Approval of letter to MEPs
 - D. Annual general work plan: report and plan of the working groups (3 min each)
 - E. Annual membership fees
7. Strategy discussion and voting
8. Next year's meeting location and dates

1. Opening of the meeting, establishing the quorum, and adopting the agenda

Sten-Åke, the ESIN Chairman, called the meeting to order and invited everyone to introduce themselves as there were a few new people present. The Chairman established that all organisations, bar the Greek one, were present, and that the quorum was met. Ivan volunteered to be the meeting clerk. On Lise's proposal, the Assembly moved "Election of officers" from point 8 to move up to no 4. The Assembly observed a minute of silence for ESIN's former Chairman John Welsh who passed earlier this year.

2. Chairman's report

The Chairman once again thanked for the trust put in him and thanked everyone for their contributions in the past turbulent year. He reported that ESIN's initial problems as a regional partner in the CE4EU Initiative are being overcome. Camille provided some additional details and invited Baltic islands to apply to become follower islands. Lise pointed out that Danish islands lack capacity to fill out all the requested forms concluding the CE4EU Islands Secretariat seems to be asking for a lot of work and providing very little support in return. Unfortunately, the ERASMUS project we submitted to offset the lack of finances for travelling costs for islanders to CE4EU events, was not successful – ESIN (Sten-Åke) is preparing a new submission with the help of Alexis Chatzimpiros.

He emphasized that ESIN submitted Habitability to Interreg Europe in June, and was invited to another Interreg Europe project led by an Italian consortium as an advisory partner. Pia and Ivan clarified informed everyone that the results for Habitability would be announced in December, and Ivan confirmed that the Italian Interreg would allow ESIN to send its members for education and would not require any management on our part. Sten-Åke reminded everyone that the European elections were held in May, and there was a brief discussion regarding the troubling tilt to the populist right. The Chairman concluded his report by thanking Cathy for representing ESIN at the CPMR meeting on the Azzores.

3. Treasurer's report including Audited statement

Anetté provided a detailed overview of ESIN's 2023 expenses and operating income. The organisation has a gross loss of 332,04 EUR in 2023, and had completed the year with a balance of + 15.226,31 EUR. Annette explained that due to years of unpaid fees from some former and some current members, ESIN has an accounting minus of 5.496,23 EUR. The Assembly took a vote and unanimously wrote of the above said accounting minus. Finally, ESIN successfully passed the Audit. Camille thanked Anetté on behalf of the Board for all the good work and keeping ESIN's books squeaky clean.

4. Adoption of reports

The Assembly agreed that all the reports were covered under point no. 2 and agreed to proceed with the agenda.

5. Election of board, chair, treasurer, and secretary

The Assembly unanimously elected the following full members, and their substitutes, of the ESIN Board:

for Sweden:	Sten-Åke Persson Anetté Larm Johansson
for Finland:	Pia Prost Erika Englund
for Ireland:	Aisling Moran Cathy Ní Ghóill
for Åland:	Agneta Wackström John Wrede
for Scotland:	Camille Dressler Luke Fraser
for Estonia:	Annely Holm tbc
for Denmark:	Kirsten Sydendal Lise Thillemann Sørensen
for Croatia:	Ivan Matić Maja Jurišić
for France:	Erwan Tonnerre Olivier Carre
for Greece:	/
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Sten-Åke was nominated and unanimously confirmed for another term as ESIN's Chairperson. Camille Dressler was nominated and unanimously confirmed for another term as ESIN's Vice-Chair for the Atlantic. Pia Prost was nominated and unanimously confirmed for another term as ESIN's Vice-Chair for the Baltic. Ivan Matić was nominated and unanimously confirmed for another term as ESIN's Vice-Chair for the Mediterranean. Both Sten-Åke and Camille emphasized this would be their last term.

Anetté Larm Johansson was unanimously re-elected as the Treasurer. Rhoda Twombly was unanimously re-elected as the Secretary General. Bengt Almkvist was unanimously re-elected as the Auditor.

6. Motions and proposals:

a. Marseille Declaration on Maritime Excellence

The Assembly generally agreed that the intention of the Declaration is welcomed with Irish delegation pointing out that over-regulating environmental practices has serious negative impact on basic island development. After a brief discussion, the Assembly agreed that local population needs to be heard/ represented in developing protection measures. It was agreed that everyone with concerns will send them to Lise who will coordinate ESIN's position.

b. Vote on change to ESIN Statute

The Assembly unanimously voted on 3 amendments to the Statute. Articles 7, 12 and 13 had been amended shortening deadlines for working materials to be delivered to the Assembly and the Board.

c. Approval of letter to MEPs

The Assembly approved the letter to be sent to all MEPs. The letter will also be used to invite MEPs to join the SEARICA Intergroup in the new legislative term. Ivan was tasked to amend it accordingly.

d. Agree an annual general work plan: report and plan of the working groups (3 min each)

Habitability group will continue reporting on Interreg submission progress. Energy group will promote the "Follower islands" next year. A new working group for communication will be established in 2025 (Ivan agreed to form it and hand it over to Martin Tuđen – an incoming Island Movement employee). The Assembly agreed to organise a Bruxelles study visit again around the same time as in 2023 (March).

e. Annual membership fees

The Membership Fee will be increased by 50 EUR and will now stand at 350 EUR. Associated Members would thus pay 175 EUR.

7. Strategy discussion and voting

Since Strategic document had already been discussed on several occasions, the Assembly unanimously approved the Strategy for 2025 – 2029 without a discussion.

8. Next year's meeting location and dates

On behalf of the Finnish member, Pia expressed a wish to host the 2026 AGM when ESIN would be celebrating its 20th anniversary. Since this was warmly welcomed, a discussion on where to organise the AGM for 2025 ensued. The Assembly tasked Ivan to explore possibilities for organising the next AGM in Bruxelles.

In Cres, on October 3rd 2024

Compiled by:
Ivan Matić