

General assembly meeting

- Andrej doing a roll calls for members of the GA
- 11 members in total voting in this GA (Mexico 2012)

Members present in person

- IEDS (Maria Gedmine Bubnyte)
- NCC (Maria Vovk)
- MOF (Petar Dimitrov)
- FOKAL (Jean-Gerard Anis)

Members present by proxy

- SDA via MOF
- ACCD via FOKAL
- EDS via IEDS
- DC via NCC

Members present via Skype

- CKD
- ARDOR
- DA

Others present in person

- OK (observers)
- Board members: Andrej Schulcz, Logan Balavijendran, Maja Nenadovic, Virginija Paksiene, Lazar Pop Ivanov
- IDEA-NL Executive director: Yvonne Heselmans
- Dutch programs officer: Anne Valkering
- IDEA-UK Executive director: Marcin Zaleski
- Forum Director: Stephen Nolan
- ED of IDEA Mexico: Roberto

Not present

- ADK
- BIRN
- NV (observers)
- Board members: Ton Sonneveldt and Jasmin Čečo

IDEA has received 2 applications for membership of the IDEA GA.

After considering both of the applications, and the organizations, the board approved these organizations. The membership would become effective from tomorrow, but they are invited on this meeting. The membership requires both organizations to attend the GA in 2013 in person:

- New Vision – Ukraine,
- Open Communication – Serbia,

GA members that didn't paid their annual fee for two years now. Thus their membership according to the rules can be terminated:

- Speak up – Kosovo
- Moldovan National High School debate league

We also have the case of BIRN – Kosovo that failed to attend 3 GA consecutively.

Motion: to remove BIRN membership to IDEA NL, because they have failed to attend the IDEA GA - 3 years consecutively, haven't been responsive.

Voting: 9 in favor, 1 against, 1 abstaining.

The motion has passed.

Agenda on this GA meeting

Motion for the vote: Agenda of this GA meeting as suggested in the preparatory documents:

- **Youth Forum 2012 Mexico, Leon**
- **IDEA Youth Forum 2013**
- **2012 IDEA report**
- **2013 IDEA plan**
- **Next General Assembly**
- **Web page**
- **Election of new board members**

For: all GA members

1. Youth Forum 2012 Mexico, Leon

Marcin:

- Next IDEA Youth Forum will be held in Jeju, South Korea.
- Basic information about the bid of South Korea
- Participants:

KPDC: 32 teams, 71 judges

MTT: 62 participants in the tracks, 21 teams (1 team with 2 students) in the MTT, 3 teams in every lab, 2 trainers in each lab, 7 lab coaches – 2 of the coaches went to the BP track (so we covered 5 labs with lab coaches)

CJT: 24 participants from 17 countries

BP: 48 participants, three trainers, three coaches working with the trainers, 22 teams in the tournaments

Noel: We should advertise the CJT as a track open for the participation of any coaches.

Logan and Jean-Gerrard: The challenge of interactions between the students, in terms of religious, political and cultural differences.

Noel: One of the participants from Tunisia criticized the forum, because it was too controversial in terms of the topics of the tournament.

Topics about securing the liberties probably provoked some of the students and coaches.

I believe we should open this issues, and talking about this topics, but we need to handle them. The coaches and trainers should be handling these issues.

Logan: We should have used the coaches better; we could have had an open forum about this issue. We could have put this issue on the table.

Noel: We should revisit our standards on the extended preparation, in terms of evidence. From what we saw in the debates, debaters should be allowed to ask for the evidence from the opponent team.

Marcin:

This was the first year we have organized the forum outside Europe, and that led to some of the countries that are from Europe not coming in this year.

What we did was that we put on the web page announcements for fee-wavers; we opened the BP track for everyone that was eligible and can come in Mexico.

Some of the problems that Logan addressed for the KPDC are due to not having a deadline for the registration, this year we made the registration flexible and open - and that led to

In the organization of this Forum we had 3 IDEA helping out. That made some communication issues. Next year we have Steven in the office, where we will have an assistant to the FD, so the communication will go directly between the office in UK and South Korea.

Selection committee:

- Committee composed of members
- The general policy for IDEA members: if you pay your transport we will waive your fee, and in some cases if you pay some of the fee, we will help with the transport

This Forum had a Spanish track on top of the Youth Forum tracks.

OSF designated 100.000 USD to go towards fee waivers, based on the letters that we have to the participants.

98.000 USD was given to fee waivers to 113 participants. Most of the participants received a full fee waiver. Some of the teams received full travel + accommodation (Haiti is an example)

One of the issues was that the organizers in Mexico had to buy some of the tickets for the participants on top of the visa procedures that were coordinated by this office. This won't be done next year for the next Youth Forum. The OSF was very generous covering the travel costs for the participants: 77.000 USD

We made 47.220 USD out of forum fees

I predict that the cost to all IDEA's that has been spending their own money in this Forum would be: 35-37.000 USD.

Sustainability of the forum is a huge issue, the Forum is becoming more expensive and we need to come up with mechanism that will make the Forum more sustainable. We need to reach out to audiences that are willing to contribute for the Forum.

Roberto:

Corporate funding must be done in advance. That is our experience from this year.

150.000 USD was received from OSF.

100.000 USD was spent on the accommodation.

Everything else was sponsorship. The venues, the activities, the country night were all in-kind donations.

We should have closed the registration earlier, so that we could have operated with exact numbers and additionally to leave people that are coming more time to prepare.

We had excellent volunteers that helped us out with all the logistics for the Forum.

Media coverage was great; every day there was something in the news about the Forum. The opening ceremony was opened by the Governor of the state, and at the closing ceremony we had former president Vicente Fox

88 visa applications were coordinated by IDEA Mexico.

Logan: How was the response from the University?

Noel: The facilities were great, it was a business deal

Roberto: On thing that that was a bit problematic was that the University at the begging took some responsibilities but through the preparation process sometimes they would say that they don't have the money or the resources to do it.

They were really cautious about branding.

2. IDEA Youth Forum 2013

2013 Global Youth Forum will be held in South Korea, the island Jeju

Unless changes are made in the financial sustainability of the Forum, OSF will have to reconsider the funding of the GYF.

We have Steven Nolan on board, as the Forum Director, and his main role would be not only to organize the Forum in 2013 but also and more importantly to work on the sustainability of the Forum on the long run.

Next year we will have three regional youth forums: Arabic (most likely in Tunisia), Spanish (Leon, Mexico) and Asia (Kyrgyzstan).

Steven Nolan:

Hosts of the GYF are North London Collegiate School, Jeju, South Korea

Everything will be on the same campus: accommodation, venues.

40 minutes away from the city by car, it is a self-sustainable campus

Getting to the island: flight to Seoul and then to the islands

The FD will have a trip to S. Korea in mid. October to do some preparation

Registration should be open by the end of December/ early January

Corporate funding, as mentioned we believe it is difficult to find.

We will also focus on international corporations that might sponsor this event.

Individual sponsorship – early registration, and early flights should be an incentive for the organizations to pay the fees and to sponsorships on their own.

IDEA alumni's that is willing to help people in their countries to come to the Forum.

The cheapest flight from London to Jeju 1,100 EUR

The fee hasn't been set yet. We need to speak with the school in Jeju to determine the costs and thus determine the fee.

There was no other option for the GYF in 2013; we only had the bid from Jeju in Korea.

Logan: You can try to cooperate with some of the flight companies from Korea

Marcin: we can also look into the option of charter flights.

We will know the dates for the Forum by September. The plan is to hold it in early August because of Ramadan in July.

- **Bids for 2014**

We want to ask for bids in early September and have the decision in December. So you have the extra time for funding and preparation.

- **European Youth Forum**

Yvonne: This is just an indication, there are no promises

Option a) **Zeeland**: It should be done in the same manner as the previous time. The difference is that the University College offered cooperation this time.

The IDEA is to have an independent Youth Forum. The Board meeting agreed in principle that the idea is fine, but we need a more concrete plan. In September we will have another board meeting and there we will discuss this again.

Option b) **Antwerp**: and the Youth department, is very enthusiastic to have a Youth Forum, as a part of the 100 anniversary of the WW I.

3. 2012 IDEA report

Yvonne:

Staff, general finances, housing and projects

- Veronika was the Forum Director, she decided to quit this position, and due to the lack of funds to hire her on another position, we couldn't keep her as a part of the staff. The good news is that we still use Veronika to do some trainings and workshops.
- Doutsou, was a part of IDEA staff for three years and she had to leave the position in IDEA NL.
- Anne, became a full time employee for IDEA NL, working on different projects
- Cavin, he is an intern for IDEA NL
- Rose, is working on a volunteer basis for IDEA NL.
- Otto, working on finances

Finances

- We have the annual report for 2011
- The current finances are going really well, we have received some grants that are providing sustainability for the following year's

Housing

- IDEA NL wanted to move on a more suitable location where we can work on networking and promoting the work of IDEA NL.
- Debate house Red Hat ☺ was the best solution for the new IDEA NL offices.

Projects

- **Debate in the Neighborhood** is a project where marginalized groups and community youth workers receive trainings about debate.
- In Amsterdam we have a really sustainable group that works on public debates, where we invite public officials as guests. Also another component is a multimedia aspect; we combine debates with movies/ films.
- The concept of the DIN project will be expanding to Brussels and Antwerp
- DIN strategy, it is still quite ad hoc, we have built good cooperation but we believe we should create a strategy that will make this idea more sustainable. Anne, Andrej and Yvonne will be working on this strategy. The main focus of the strategy will be on: the public debates, the trainings and internationalization of this project.
- When the strategy is finalized we will discuss this strategy at the Board of directors in September.

Debate @ Europe

- Targeting high school students in 6 countries
- The project has three main components: off line and on line debates and a final conference.

Offline debates:

- The off line debates are going really well.
- We will have a partner meeting in July where we will discuss the finalization of the project.

Online debates:

- The idea is very good, people are very excited to participate in this segment
- There are few bugs within the software
- The number of videos we need to achieve as the final output is challenging and we need to improve the statistics in this part of the project

Final conference:

- Partners with a broadcasting organization ICON , that creates documentaries (some of them: populism in Europe)

University network

- Fundraising for this project isn't going well
- We will revise the project in order to make it more attractive for fund raising
- Re-negotiate the new idea of the project with the partners

Debate about the future of Africa

- Partners with African study center
- The project aims for non-debaters
- African summer school, that will promote debate with several IDEA trainers
- Competition for the participants

Nadine CKD: Does IDEA have a strategy to support the Western Balkans

Yvonne: IDEA is applying for the projects the same way every other organization, so we should see IDEA NL as a partner not as a foundation.

Noel: We need to see more contribution from the Western Balkans. Additionally we are establishing IDEA SEE in the following months so that more opportunities can be created for the Western Balkans.

Logan: Opportunities rely in cooperation between IDEA NL and the member organization. All of us should be more proactive in terms of coordinating and applying to projects and develop ideas for programs and projects.

Nadine: Does OSF plans to support spin-off organizations in the Western Balkan Region

Noel: We have funded spin-off organizations for a decade now, and we won't be just giving money to these organizations, they should apply to our open calls and submit project proposals. We believe that these organizations should be sustainable by now.

Nadine: Can we get an example of a spin-off that is sustainable?

Noel: Members in Lithuania, Slovakia, Macedonia, Estonia, Romania are good examples of the sustainable spin-off organizations, and the list goes on.

Maja: Anne Frank House and the opportunities for the member organizations of IDEA NL for possible cooperation with this organization

4. 2013 IDEA plan

DIN project

Debate@ Europe

- We have focused on Eastern Europe, and the plan is to include more countries within Europe.
- Manos and Alex will work on sustaining the web – page of the project, Anne will be focusing on the debate aspect as well as the content of the project.
- This project would include students from high school and University.

Africa project

Funding

- OSF invited us to provide a two year suggestion for funding.
- **Nadine:** Would IDEA consider itself sustainable without OSF and membership fees
- **Yvonne:** No, that is why we are very happy that OSF offered institutional funding for two years.
- 3 years funding from Red Had about IDEA NL offices.

5. Next General Assembly

Andrej: I don't think that this is the best and only way how to conduct GA's.

I would suggest instead of tie the GA with the Forum in Jeju, to have a meeting in Amsterdam, in conjunction with some event, or an independent meeting. In order to maximize the number of organization that can come on the GA

Noel: This would mean that they will have to pay in order to come to this meeting. When having the meetings attached to the Forum, we find ways to pay the tickets to come here. I would like to make this clear before the members make their decision.

Nadine: Because it is really hard to find funds for meetings from donors, we can always use Skype and online

Noel: If we do know that we can't afford everyone to come to the GA in person, we can make sure that logistics work, and that we plan it more carefully.

Andrej: We can make the final decision between now and spring on this point.

Yvonne: I believe it nice to have it in Europe, but on the other hand we do have a very extensive report about the Youth Forum when we are having the meeting after the Youth Forum. I would suggest keeping it after the Forum.

6. Web page

Noel:

- IDEA UK has successfully launched the beta version of beta.idebate.org.
- The new page has a multilingual support, and it allows the creating of microsites.
- People can connect with their Facebook, register with their fb profile
- Text, video debates
- V-bates T-bates
- There will be an option for on line tournament, event registration
- Tabulation system on line
- Mozilla foundation – badges (awarding and earning badges). Members can use all this features for themselves
- The membership organizations should use this platform and create their own web portal
- The iDebate honors should be out this August along with the tabulation software
- There will be information about IDEA members
- Everyone can create groups, and if you want more information for yourselves than you can make a micro- page
- The on line course will be on this web page as well.

Yvonne: Should IDEA NL make a group? And who should coordinate that?

Noel: I believe we should have a micro page

Yvonne: In terms of building micro pages, should we do it on our own?

Noel: We just need approval, and then it is automatic. They give you access to an admin page and then you can fill your page with content

Yvonne: it would be great if we have brief instructions about the usage of the web page

7. Election of new board members:

Current composition of the board:

- Ton unfortunately not present today, due to medical issues.
- Ton, Virginija, Logan and Jasmin were all board members, elected in London 2009. Remaining board members are Lazar, Andrej, Maja and Noel as the OSF representative.
- The Board has determined to raise the number of Board members to three more.
- The GA decided to take a secret vote

The GA made the decision, that these three candidates will be the new Board members.

In no particular order: Logan Balavijendran, Virginija Paksiene, Ton Sonneveldt

8. IDEA Central

Andrej:

- Founding members of IDEA Central are: IDEA NL, IDEA US, IDEA UK
- Every organization has is represented in the board of IDEA Central.
- All the new IDEA entities will be incorporated in IDEA Central board.
- The ED and the chair of the Board are representatives in IDEA Central board.
- (IDEA Central Asia (office of IDEA UK), IDEA US, IDEA UK, IDEA NL, IDEA Hong Kong (IDEA Central), IDEA Beijing (IDEA Hong Kong), IDEA SEE, IDEA Tunisia (IDEA Central))
- IDEA Central will be interviewing / hire/ open call for several positions: Executive Director of IDEA Central, Communication officer, someone to coordinate GDPPC.
- IDEA NL being the only membership organization and has a network the question would be how would you like to be represented in the IDEA Central?

Anis: It can be beneficial to get the strategy of IDEA Central

Yvonne: The new ED of IDEA Central will coordinate all the IDEA's work and activities. I believe it will be wise for the membership to be included in the process of developing the strategy of IDEA Central.

Andrej: The other thing we discussed was the "non-voting membership" of IDEA NL.

We are looking for ways IDEA NL, how to connect with organizations that are not members of IDEA NL.

We have the web page that should create a community of individuals/organizations

Noel: We are looking forward to develop different segments on the web-page on different languages. Debate-base is a good example of a segment of the web page.