

EESA
General Assembly
Minutes
October 2nd, 2024

Introduction

Greta: We are really glad for everyone that was able to join!

Greta presented the agenda for today, as well as giving the present members the option to scan the QR code for the documents.

Greta: Those who have multiple votes, they can be done through mentimeter.

Greta Explained the double voting process.

Marvin: Based on what do people get more votes?

Greta: the transferred votes of the people that were unable to be present.

1. 2023-2024 yearly report

Greta: Here, you can now see our predecessors, the ones who founded the organisation

Greta: The previous board set the foundations of the association. Moreover, they did have two big events last year as well as raising around 300 euros for Ukraine.

Basia: Everything is on our website and in the yearly report.

Greta: They managed many social media platforms and got almost 400 followers on Instagram. They met with many organisations (mostly SES). They left enough money for the administrative side of things of this year that needed to be paid (website, CREA, etc).

Voting time:

Greta: We have 13 votes in total in favour.

2. Instalment of the 2024-2025 board

Greta: Time to meet the new board!

Greta: We have already started our introductory work since the summer and had already had our introductory event.

Greta (chair): Presented herself: PPLE student, Lithuanian, loves concerts, various experiences of managing teams, loves having a community to rely on.

Sabina (secretary): Romanian, in her final year of european studies, major in EU law and second major in EU politics, loves animals, has been on the board of SIB last year,

Jasmine (events coordinator): PPLE student, proud Romanian, events coordinator - plans to create parties, loves to play dress to impress in her spare time, loves her cat Sophie, and is excited to create cool events.

Lukas (treasurer): PPLE student, was missing eastern europe a lot, he has a bit of experience with budgeting and ticketing, loves cats, partying, and drinking, and loves to meet people and be involved in student associations.

Daniel (external coordinator): second year of PPLE student majoring in law. Romanian who lived in Canada with his parents. Used to live in a small community in a larger country, missed the sense of community and was glad to join such an association and is really excited to meet everyone.

Basia (marketing officer): PPLE second year student: economics major. She is polish-ukrainian but grew up in Luxembourg for half her life. When she came to Amsterdam she really wanted to join an eastern european student association and wanted to meet more eastern europeans. Had a jewellery business and managed its promotion.

Voting time:

Greta: 15 votes in favour.

3. 2024-2025 yearly plan

Jasmine: Presented the yearly plan (Which can be found on EESA's website)

Jasmine: We can change the yearly plan, but this is our base right now. Besides the social events we will host more academic events in 2025. There is an emphasis on the balkan party in April. We will also host a fundraising event and donate the money to one or more humanitarian organisation(s). We will end the year to park and piwo the sequel in order to continue the tradition with our members.

Leonards: What is a balkan party?

Jamine: Come and see! We will not only have balkan music, but also pop, european and baltic music as well.

Lukas: You can obviously give us suggestions or propose ideas

Greta: Yes, the plan will not stay 100% as such, we can always hear suggestions.

Yessen: Is there a certain location that could host that?

Greta: It is still being decided on as it is still far away.

Voting time:

Greta: We got 14 votes in favour.

4. 2024-2025 policy plan*

Greta outlined EESA's direction. Main goal: to continue successful development.

Greta presented the vision and mission.

Sabina presented the general part:

Goals: a clear member structure, an assistant system, an alumni network, and legal adherence and maintenance.

Nobody had questions.

Jasmine presented the events: informal but formal events as well. We want to create a sense of belonging between you guys with a diverse atmosphere. We also want to spread our culture through movies, books, or museums. Members can also suggest movies and books if they would like. We want to spread awareness: our responsibility to connect the west with the east. We also plan on hosting collaborative events: partnerships with other student associations which means more people you can socialise with.

Nobody had questions.

Basia: Through our social media we want to engage into informative and formative content and have promotion through social sharing.

Basia: wants to show our members on social media as you make the association. Also wants to broaden our association as the eastern european community is big, but EESA could become more well-known. When it comes to the image: worked together with Rotterdam and changed the logo, we do want to expand but we want a cohesive brand image.

Marvin: Do you have any plans for more collaborations with Rotterdam?

Basia: Yes, the east meets west event, and might have more as we are setting up a meeting soon with them.

Daniel: In terms of the UvA, we want to branch out, and give you opportunities around the city (academics from here and other parts of the world as well). We also want to host more diplomatic events (they invited a diplomat from the Hague last year for example). Only in the past two weeks, has been emailing with Unilever, some local businesses, and other student associations as well.

Daniel: When it comes to the UvA, we need to get a title with them, hopefully we can get more funding from them.

Nobody had questions.

Lukas: We will have multiple revenue streams: grants, donations, memberships. If you have any suggestions or questions on how we will spend our money, we are transparent therefore you can always ask. The budget might change due to added events. Moreover, nothing that is spent is being unchecked.

Lukas: When it comes to the sustainability aspect, we want to have more money for the future boards: have a better infrastructure for them to be more stable in the future.

Marvin: Why are you working from a minus?

Lukas: The last board gave us some money, but the subscription for the domain and website were too expensive. We are as of now paying from our own money (the board's) and will reimburse ourselves (the board) from the memberships etc. Last year they had a discount for the first year for the website, and now we do not.

Greta: We do want to change the website provider however.

Benedict: Membership fees - 15 euros yes?

Lukas: Yes, coming soon in the slides.

Benedict: Is it going to be a yearly fee?

Greta: Yes

Voting time:

Greta: 13 people in favour and 1 person voting blank, the policy plan has been approved!

*The policy plan can be found on EESA's website

5. 2024-2025 financial plan

Lukas: We cannot be 100% sure about the numbers as of now, besides for the estimate for the balkan party. The uva board grant - some of it will be invested in the association. The

largest sum will be in April for the party. Donations: we got a 200 euros donation from an ex board member. We also put some money for merch. We are also pumping money into marketing. As for the event expenses they are the biggest expenses we have.

Lukas: Numbers are however orientative. We do hope for a collaboration for the party. The big events might cost a bit more, but we hope we will get a profit only for the next board, even if we are a non-profit, as they will make use of the money for the association and will not have to start from a 0/minus like we had to.

Leonards: What are gonna be the ticket prices for the events?

Lukas: Around 4 euros for a movie night. Low cost in principle, but overall will depend on the event and how many people will show up.

Jasmine: The ticket for members will be discounted.

Marvin: How are you getting the grants?

Lukas: The events have to be sustainable, and we need to have cultural events. It is at 0 in the budget sheet because we don't know which ones we can apply to. Some, you have to apply 4 months in advance, so it needs to be done a lot in advance.

Marvin: Are they from UvA?

Lukas: They are both external and internal UvA grants.

Voting time:

Greta: 15 votes in favour of the financial plan.

6. Bylaws changes

Greta: the amendment of the membership - before 5 euros, this year we are amending it to 15 euros.

Greta: We want to provide you with the best events, collaborations, etc. Since we do not belong to any program, we do not get a certain program's funding, therefore we do need the money from the memberships.

Lukas: was one of the people very in favour of the increase as events require a lot of money, it is not sustainable to have a 5 euros membership.

Lukas: Compared to other associations it is still quite low. If you vote for it to stay at 5 euros, you can do so, but that would mean higher ticket prices and maybe less and not the best events.

Greta: The membership fee was also always meant to be changed, so the old board is in favour of this, and we do need it to keep the association going.

Voting time:

Greta: We got 13 votes in favour and 1 in blank.

7. Statute changes

Greta: We want to suggest an amendment to contributions: the statutes say that it is a one time contribution, and we want to change it to yearly.

Greta: So we would change a one time contribution to a yearly contribution.

Voting time:

Greta: 10 votes in favour

Greta: Thank you all for coming and now it is time for the borrel downstairs!