



MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2019

Corte di Giarola, Strada Giarola 9 – Collecchio (PR)

Saturday 11th May 2019

9.30-12.00

Board Participants: Esther O'Hara (Trollhättan Municipality); Elias Georges (Motala Municipality); Benny Augustsson (Vänersborg Municipality); Maria Nilsson (Västra Götaland Region); Erik Östman (Linköping Municipality); Julie Tran (Region Östergötland); Edmund Lanziner (Comunità Comprensoriale Bassa Atesina); Paola Guerzoni (Unione Terre d'Argine); Silvia Taglini (Casalgrande Municipality); Norberto Vignali (Unione Pedemontana Parmense); Centurio Frignani (AICCRE Emilia Romagna); Marcello Mendogni (ASP Ad Personam); Vincenzo GRIFFO (Consorzio ICARO); Giorgio Ghezzi (Bertinoro Municipality); Lubiano Montaguti (Forlì Municipality); Patrik Cavina (Imola Municipality); Marco Giorgi (Parma Municipality); Silvia Pagliani (Scandiano Municipality); Stefan Gustafsson (Möln dal Municipality); Paolo BIANCHI (Collecchio Municipality); Diego Rossi (Parma Province); Johan ASK (Skövde Municipality); Lucia MANCINO (Uniser), Sonia ANELLI (Parchi Emilia Occidentale); Paolo COLLI (Unione Val d'Enza); Lena GOLDKUHL (Boden Municipality); Ken GUNNESSON (Ale Municipality); Cecilia BURENBY (Mjölby Municipality); Irma Görtz (Norrköping Municipality); Matteo DAFFADA' (Borgo Val di Taro Municipality);

Lepida, ASP Sud Est and the Municipality of Meldola present through delegation

I Call to order and opening of the Session

Lubiano Montaguti calls to order the SERN General Assembly at 9.30 am on May 11th 2019 in Collecchio, Italy, and verifies that the quorum has been reached at the roll call.

Total Number of votes to be expressed by all members: 176

Number of Votes required for the validity of the Assembly: 88

Number of votes expressed by the members present: 120

The assembly is valid.

Paolo Bianchi welcome the participants on behalf of the municipality of Collecchio.

Diego Rossi welcomes the participants on behalf of the province of Parma.

MONTAGUTI reads the appeal to vote made by the head of states of the European Union. We are at an election that will change the life of our sons. We represent a Europe that works on building the future through cooperation. Europe is us, it is the choices we make on our daily basis, in our families on our jobs. The challenges are to develop sustainable growth and react to those who would like to bring back the time.

Is Europe the problem? Many time we blame Europe, because it doesn't have a face. Let us put a face to Europe, Europe is everywhere in our municipalities and regions. Only if we are united we can work for a more equal, sustainable and greener Europe, or fight poverty in Africa or Asia.

RYDBERG: when they ask me what SERN is and I explain, everyone remains fascinated and surprised. What you do is important for two reasons:

When you talk about schools or the elderly care or the integration of people who come to our countries you work on central priorities to our two countries. As an embassy we work for building a roof, but the house needs solid walls and foundations, and these are built by municipalities, businesses and citizens. Without these walls, this house could not be as fabulous as it is today.

The second thing I want to point out is that you promote Europe. In a few days we're going to vote for the European elections. Europe is not just about ministers, but it is people moving between countries or buying goods from other countries. This is a practical collaboration that you put in practice everyday strengthens the collaboration between states and therefore our common home which is Europe.

You must be proud with what you do; I wish you a good continuation.

II Approval of the minutes of the 2018 session

MONTAGUTI asks the assembly to approve the minutes of the General Assembly 2018

DECISION: The General Assembly approves the minutes from the last session by unanimity.

III SERN Annual Report 2018

The 2018 report is significant because it shows the results of the work carried out in the previous years. We have had an increase in the number of approved projects, and in parallel we have seen an increase in quality. We need to continue working on the training and quality of the project planning process.

We have also tested alternatives to European funding opportunities. Activities such as the Peer review allow to have important experiences made at a transnational level to create links and exchange of knowledge.

There are challenges for us too, the increase in projects also means more work for the secretariat. On the one hand we create opportunities for collaboration but then we need to support the members in the implementation.

We have grown in number of members in these years. There is a turnover of members, both public and private, which is a good thing. However, it's up to you to make the network work because the SERN would not exist if you don't participate.

I would like to highlight the results of some projects, for example Bags4Youth was selected as a good practice and was presented at the conference of cities and regions. This is because the areas we work on are also priorities for the European agenda. Much attention has been given to the issue of social inclusion.

The general assembly takes note of the annual report 2018

IV Financial Report 2018 and report of the Board of Auditors 2018

CATELLANI presents the financial report 2018

MONTAGUTI ask the assembly to approve the financial report 2018.

DECISION: The General Assembly approves the financial report 2018 by unanimity.

MONTAGUTI asks Lena GOLDKUHL to present the report of the board of auditors

GOLDKUHL presents the report of the auditors: together, the Italian and Swedish auditors, carefully examined the balance, according to the standards applied in both Sweden and Italy. We noticed in particular that the budget for services to the members have become substantial. We recommend the board to provide guidelines about it. During the year 2018 the offices have been moved this has caused some expenses. We are glad to see a growing number of projects and members. Our assessment is positive.

GOLDKUHL asks the assembly to relieve the Board from the financial responsibility for the year 2018.

DECISION: The General Assembly approves the Auditor's report 2016 by unanimity thus relieving the board from responsibility.

V Budget Proposal 2019

CATELLANI presents the budget proposal for 2019

MONTAGUTI asks the assembly to approve the budget proposal 2019

DECISION: The Assembly approves the budget proposal for 2019 at unanimity

VI Strategic Plan 2019-2021

A programming period has started inside SERN last year, but there are a number of European priorities that will be redefined, which is why much of the strategic plan has remained the same.

The topic of the 2030 agenda has been included. Work is underway on the theme of values.

As far as the mission is concerned, it has been emphasized that the network operates in Italy, because there are members from other regions than Emilia Romagna.

The results of previous projects were mentioned in the objectives, given that they form the basis for new ones.

The driving themes are essentially the same, digitalization and active citizenship have been added, which are cross-cutting themes.

Regarding the working methodology, we have to remember that projects are means and not the end of our activity. In this sense we added the peer review.

MONTAGUTI thanks to the general assembly and Elias GEORGES for his contribution to SERN. It was his idea to take a moment for reflecting on the values.

Elias Georges: collaboration is increasingly important today, we are not the stronger alone. We have fundamental values, when we meet we discuss the results but there are no opportunities to talk more about our values. I will leave the board of directors but not SERN, so I will try to continue working on this issue.

Lena GOLDKHUL: is it a conscious choice to have an acronym instead of keeping the name in full?

NICOLA: The origin of the name comes from the fact that the founding group was composed of municipalities from the Emilia Romagna region but in the statute there is written that the collaboration is open to all regions.

MONTAGUTI asks the assembly to approve the strategic plan 2019-2020

Decision: The assembly approves the strategic plan 2019-2020 at unanimity.

VII Election of the members of the SERN Election of the members of the Board of Auditors 2019-2021

MONTAGUTI ask Georges and Bianchi to propose the members of the executive board and board of auditors.

CANDIDATES TO THE SERN EXECUTIVE BOARD 2019-2021

Trollhättan Municipality (Vice Chairman)	Gert-Inge Andersson
Mjölby Municipality	Cecilia Burenby
Norrköping Municipality	Irma Görtz
Ale Municipality	Monica Samuelsson
Municipality of Falköping	To be announced
Vänersborg Municipality	Benny Augustsson
Västra Götaland Region	Maria Nilsson
Kommunförbundet Norrbotten	Emma Engelmark
Linköping Municipality	Erik Östman
Piteå Kommun	Elisabet Vidman
Region Östergötaland	Julie Tran
Comunità Comprensoriale Bassa Atesina	Edmund Lanziner
Unione Terre d'Argine	Paola Guerzoni
Forli Municipality (Chair)	Lubiano Montaguti
Meldola Municipality	Anna Vallicelli
ASP ad Personam Parma Municipality	Marcello Mendogni
Parma Province	Ferdinando De Maria
Imola Municipality	Stefania Chiappe
Casalgrande Municipality	Silvia Taglini
Bertinoro Municipality	Giorgio Ghezzi
Unione Pedemontana Parmense	Norberto Vignali
AICCRE Emilia Romagna	Marco Monesi

Candidates for the Board of Auditors 2019-2021

Parma Municipality	Marco Giorgi
Borgo Val di Taro Municipality	Matteo Daffadà
Boden Municipality	Lena Goldkuhl
Motala Municipality	Elias Georges

Lena GOLDKUHL: due to the recent events I propose that the seat of Falköping's municipality stays vacant until a new representative is appointed.

MONTAGUTI asks the assembly to approve the board members and to leave the seat of Falköping vacant until further notice.

DECISION: the assembly approves by unanimity the members of the board and the board of auditors.

VIII Venue of the 2020 Session

Maria NILSSON welcomes the member of the general assembly to Vastra Götaland next year.

NILSSON: These days we have worked so hard to promote Europe in our towns. I learned a lot and I bring with me many good examples of collaboration, I thank the Pedemontana Parmense for hospitality.

The session is adjourned at 12.00