

ERRIN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) JUNE 2017

MINUTES

MEETING CALLED BY	ERRIN CHAIR
TYPE OF MEETING	Annual General Meeting
DATE/TIME	21 st June 2017, 15.30 - 17.45
VENUE	Unioncamere Lombardia, Place du Champ de Mars 2, Brussels
CHAIR BY	Lars Holte Nielsen, Central Denmark (ERRIN Chair)
NOTE TAKER	Veronica Cornacchione, ERRIN Secretariat (ERRIN Secretariat)
ATTENDEES	80
APOLOGIES	Heidi Jakobsen (Stavanger) Francoise Chotard (Ile-de-France) Jan Urlings (Greater Birmingham)

Agenda topics

16:00 – 16:15 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION** CHAIR

DISCUSSION	
<p>ERRIN Vice-Chair and host welcomed the participants to his premises. The Chair thanked Unioncamere Lombardia for hosting and opened the meeting.</p> <p>A brief update on ERRIN activities was provided. Special attention was drawn to the advocacy work that ERRIN has been extensively doing over the past months with the Smart Specialisation consultation and the ERRIN FP9 position paper. The Chair highlighted how remarkable the ability of ERRIN to include policy in its work is.</p> <p>Members were also informed about the latest successful projects ERRIN is part of, and which are an important source of income. However, the Chair stressed that serving the members is still the priority and main objective of the network, and thus underlined that a balance is needed.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the Treasurer, the Vice-Chairs, and members of the Board for their efforts in putting forward the network. The Secretariat was also thanked for the achievements of the previous months.</p>	

16:15 – 16:20 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES OF AGM DECEMBER 2016** CHAIR

DISCUSSION	
CONCLUSIONS	

The agenda for the meeting and the minutes from the previous Annual General Meeting in December 2016 were approved.

16:20–16:30

AUDITED ACCOUNTS 2016 AND PROPOSED 2017 BUDGET

DIRECTOR ON BEHALF OF TREASURER

DISCUSSION

The Director presented the audited accounts for 2016. He highlighted that ERRIN is in a very successful situation due to a surplus of 127,464 EUR. He pointed out that at the moment the income is driven by projects and that there is thus the need to find a balance in order to have membership overcome projects, and not viceversa.

The budget was also presented and the attention was drawn to the fact that it needs to be revised.

The Director made the members aware of the fact that a new person will be hired by the network to deal with the projects, and also informed the participants that more money will be invested for the EU Design Days, due to the importance of this year's edition.

CONCLUSIONS

The ERRIN AGM approved the 2016 accounts audited by Ernst&Young. The budget for 2017 will be approved in December.

16:30–17:00

2017 OVERVIEW

DIRECTOR

DISCUSSION

The Director provided an overview on the activities of the Network since the beginning of the year. In particular, Members were informed about the ERRIN Delegation to Quebec, the Smart Specialisation consultation, the Horizon 2020 Interim Evaluation, the FP9 position, the Management Board Elections, and about the appointment of the new Director.

ERRIN Delegation to Quebec – The visit to Quebec has been possible thanks to the links that Françoise Chotard, former Chair of ERRIN, had previously created with Quebec, and which had resulted in a Memorandum of Understanding in November 2014. Antony Van De Ven followed up the initial work once Chair of ERRIN and kept the contacts up until now.

Three regions were selected from the Management Board to go, namely Stavanger, Eindhoven, and Navarra. However, the Director stepped in to replace Anthony Van De Ven from Eindhoven who could not take part anymore.

The topics that were mainly discussed during the visit were smart cities, energy, and health and ageing. As a result of the contacts made there, a document will be made public on ERRIN website with the details and areas of interest of potential Canadian partners. Indeed, Canada will be partner of the Horizon 2018-2020 calls and is thus very interested in internationalisation

Smart Specialisation consultation – The ERRIN Smart Specialisation Working Group developed ten points for the consultation, thanks also to the feedback from the audience at the “Hearing on Smart Specialisation”, which took place on 1st March 2017. Mikel Irujo Amezaga from Navarra was thanked for his work on the paper, which has been welcomed by the European Commission.

Horizon 2020 Interim Evaluation – The ten points of the Evaluation were the result of the work of the ERRIN Opening Science Working Group co-leads and of a few other ERRIN Members, and had implications for the ERRIN FP9 Position.

FP9 Position – The position was developed by a task force within the Policy Working Group over the first semester of 2017. Members were asked to send in any comments by the end of the week – A small team will then finalise the document and submit it to the Management Board for approval before the High Level Group Conference on 3rd July. Tampere, Eindhoven and Scotland volunteered to be in the small team revising and polishing the paper.

Management Board Elections – Members have been invited to speak to the ERRIN Director, Chair or Vice-Chair if they are willing to stand for election. Elections are held every year in September / October. Each member is elected for a term of three years and can only serve two terms consecutively. This year five Board places are available for new members, unless current Board Members wish to remain on the Board and re-present for election.

New Director – The Chair informed the Members that the old Director will be working part-time at ERRIN as Senior Adviser from September on. He will be focusing on projects, especially ESPON.

The Chair introduced Pirita Lindholm, appointed as new ERRIN Director by the Chair, Vice-Chair and the Director of the South

Denmark European Office, member of the Management Board.

The new Director thanked the Chair and stressed how eager she is to take ERRIN forward. She has been working over 15 years in European affairs, and for many years in a similar member-based organisation, focused on cities.

CONCLUSIONS

The Chair, Management Board and Secretariat thanked the old Director for its hard work and commitment and welcomed Pirita Lindholm.

17.00-17.15

MEMBERS AND MEMBER SURVEY 2017 AND FEEDBACK

JUNIOR MEMBER
RELATIONS MANAGER

DISCUSSION

ERRIN Junior Member Relations Manager informed the audience that the Network has now 135 members and stressed that there has been a sharp increase in membership since January 2017, with ten new members.

The following results of the member survey circulated within the Network were presented:

- 80% of respondents gets the expected results from membership;
- 10% have not achieved what expected from ERRIN, but state that the Network is not to blame, because they have not had the time to follow and invest more;
- More than 67 % of the respondents are very or extremely satisfied with their membership, more than in 2016;
- Over 90% of respondents are satisfied with access to network;
- More than 75% of people are extremely satisfied with the quality of the overall communication;
- 85% of respondents are extremely satisfied with ERRIN events.

CONCLUSIONS

The Director thanked the Junior Member Relations Manager for her work, as well as members for their trust and confidence in the Network.

17:15-17:30

ERRIN WEBSITE UPDATE

STRATEGIC PLANNING MANAGER

DISCUSSION

ERRIN Strategic Planning Manager showed the Members a video of the new website, which is now more visually pleasing.

Amongst the new functionalities presented:

- Counters for members, working groups, active partner searches, and posts on the homepage;
- Testimonials on the homepage;
- Working Groups pages with a description of the activities, updated work plans, latest presentations and posts;
- Contact request in the directory section in order to respect members' privacy;
- More social media oriented;
- Redesigned daily newsletter – members are now able to choose when to receive it;
- Feedback bar for the first two months for members to give inputs.

CONCLUSIONS

ERRIN Strategic Planning Manager informed the Members that the website was going to be finalised the following week, after a meeting with the Working Group Leaders to see what else can be implemented.

DISCUSSION	
<p>The Director was honoured by EURADA with the Christiane Bom Award in May 2017 for its commitment to fostering regional economic development. For the occasion he gave a speech on the status of innovation policy and on the importance of research and innovation, speech that he was asked to deliver again on the occasion of the Annual General Meeting.</p> <p>In his speech, the Director focussed mainly on the strong role that regions play in responding to ‘top-down’ European or national policies while playing a top-down role in establishing processes where they have both experience and legitimacy. Stress was also placed on the fact that regions must encourage and stimulate bottom-up engagement to develop and implement strategies and policies. Furthermore, emphasis was laid on the importance of networks like ERRIN in linking regions together, providing a framework for collaboration and playing a strong role in knowledge management – collecting, storing and transmitting knowledge.</p>	
CONCLUSIONS	

DISCUSSION	
<p>ERRIN Vice Chair and host thanked the Director and the participants and invited everyone to the mid-summer networking reception organised for the occasion</p>	
CONCLUSIONS	