

**3rd Board meeting
Minutes /report
November 19th-21st , 1999
Macedonia**

The following persons were present,

John Petersen, Chairperson
Lászlo Dani, Deputy Chairperson
Jesper Nielsen, Treasurer
Conchi Gallego, Secretary
Mjellma Mehmeti, Board member
Siebren de Boer, Board member
Linda Jakobson, Board member

Josefine Listerby, Substitute
Eva Valvo, Substitute

Enclosures to the meeting sent in advance :

- Agenda
- Minutes of the last board meeting

1) Opening

John opened the meeting thanking Mjellma for hosting the board meeting and all the work she had done to make it possible.

The first step was to set up the procedure rules for the meeting. It was agreed that Jesper would chair the meeting and Conchi would take the notes.

After some small changes the agenda is approved.

After reading the last board meeting minutes they are also approved

2) General debate on the ACC

2.1) The first debate was around the topic "How to promote the ideas of the ACC". John proposed that it would be a good idea to write some articles about the ACC and try to publish them in different media. He suggested he could write some articles that would send to the rest of the board members for them to translate them in order to try to publish them in the different countries, under the name of ACC.

The debate was focused of whether we should promote the ideas of the ACC in order to attract members, for PR, for fund-raising... etc. It was also said that the in the future when the ACC will run different courses, the participants could also promote the ideas back home.

Some of the board members agreed that they would try to publish the articles in different media back home, but also the board agreed on the difficulties to do this in some bigger countries, where the political reality is different and related more to the regions. Different strategies could be created for the different countries.

John proposed the idea of finding a politician that could co-write the article, so it would be more visible and also this person would be aware of the ideals of the ACC. The aim would be to reach politicians at the European level.

The idea to promote would be “developing European schools”, but not closing the subjects only to education but also mentioning that ACC works in areas such as peace, democracy, minorities...etc)

John reminds that at the European level there is no law supporting this idea, and the EU is looking for some initiatives like the ACC.

Mjellma proposed to wait until we had done some concrete project before sending information or contacting politicians.

It is decided that the discussion should be stopped here and retaken at the end of the board meeting when everybody would have a general and broader view of the future projects, activities, and also more clear the aims and goals of the association in order to find a strategy.

2.2) Local chapters

John gives some guidelines and questions for the debate that was opened in a previous board meeting and postponed until the first face-to-face meeting :

- Local chapters should co-operate with the board
- Should they be stable or just created for activities ?
- Should they have their own budget and account ?

Linda commented that in some countries it is impossible to register the association with the statutes that ACC has, some things have to be included by law, Mjellma added that maybe not all the terms that are used in our statutes are valid in the different countries. Conchi also considered the point that in order to apply for funding there is a need of creating the association legally.

It was also debated about the fees and the membership of the members where local chapters would exist. The discussion was about if the members would be members of the ACC Europe or the local ACC. The difficulty of having local chapters all around Europe was visible, and it was seen as a difficulty that some people would be members of a local chapter and some others of the European association. The problem of delegates to the GA, who should be a delegate ? Who should cover the cost of the attendance to the GA... ? Many of these questions were long time debated, and some of them would be taken to the next meeting.

A subcommittee was created to deal with this subject and make a proposal to the board. Linda, John, Laszlo and Siebren joined this subcommittee. The document presented will be enclosed to the minutes.

2.3) Fund-raising policy

Mjellma gave the guidelines for the debate. It was agreed that it is really difficult, or almost impossible to fund-raise nationally for an international activity. She proposed if there should be a limit (minimum- maximum) amount of funding to be raised. For instance a minimum amount of money that would allow the board members to attend the different activities taking place under the frame of the ACC. Linda disagreed with this idea. It was said that the board should somehow monitor the process when possible, but this shouldn't be obligatory.

John said that we should have a stamp. The chairperson and the secretary would have it in order to use it for official papers and letters. Whenever any of the board members need a stamp to present an application or any kind of document on behalf of the ACC they would request it to the Chairperson. There should not be a maximum, as much funding as we can get it would be better. The question whether we should find "partners" at the local level for the projects was raised, and even if it was not long enough discussed, we agreed that we should be careful that our principles are not lost in a project because of a partnership agreement.

About this it should be further discussion.

2.4) Review of the statutes

This point was postponed until the next board meeting.

3) Information for the board members

3.1) Members situation

John gave to the board a list of the members that have already signed up and paid their fee, and also of those people who are interested but have not sent their fee yet. ACC has 45 members. Another 47 people are interested and willing to become members too. John and Jesper will contact this potential members to give them information on how to become full members.

John asked the board to co-operate finding the former minority courses participants, and also added that we shouldn't do big efforts on finding new members until some activities are run.

3.2) Economical information

John presented the accounts. He reminded that the ACC owns him money. Jesper would take this into consideration when the possible funding from the EU comes.

3.3) Charter presentation

Linda presents the charter and suggests that the rest of the board would have a deeper reading of it and make proposals.

Proposals :

- The countries should be named as they are in the first paragraph of the presentation
- Including the board members names and hometowns (Josefine suggests that her hometown should be Mariehamn).
- Not including the activities as we want this paper to be somehow permanent, and this will make it difficult.
- The order of the paragraphs was changed and should be as follows :
 - What is the ACC ?
 - Vision of the ACC
 - What are the Community Colleges ?
 - What does the ACC do ?
 - History
 - Board
 - Financing

About the logo (head and foot) everybody agreed that we should keep using it, and add a logo when we have it. The competition should be open among the members and the logo will be presented in the GA.

3.4) **Website presentation**

Laszlo presented different models for the website, and also the board members contributed with ideas for the content of the website. This contributions were given to Laszlo that will take them into consideration and will keep on working on the web.

4) **Coming Activities**

4.1) **CCC**

Linda informs about the project. It will take place in Rite (Latvia) from the 13th to the 20th of August. She also gives also some information about the programme structure but asks the board what should be worked during the "training time".

Some subjects are raised :

- Adult education
- Non-formal education (in Europe and specifically in Latvia)
- Networking democracy
- Debate about the ACC
- Future projects in the area

It is recommended to do something with the locals, and the convenience that someone from the area could participate in the course.

4.2) **General Assembly and Joint Conference**

The GA was proposed to be on the 1st and 2nd of August in Denmark. There would be a one day seminar to prepare the GA under the theme "From citizenship to citizenships". The contents of the GA will be discussed on the next board meeting.

Jesper informed of the Joint Conference that will take place in Hojskolen Ostersoen (Aabenraa, DK) at the end of the Minority Course 2000. The idea is to gather former minority courses participants to have a conference where also representatives from different associations and institutions as the EU would be present.

There was an idea proposed to be debated and it was the possibility to gather the Joint Conference, the preparatory seminar and the GA and that this would be organised with ACC, AWE, Hojskolen Ostersoen and FFD (The association of Folk High Schools in Denmark).

This brought positive and negative aspects and opinions that lead us into a long debate. The general ideas discussed in this debate were the following :

- There is a limited number of people attending this event, and as the preparatory seminar would take place at the same time as the joint conference there would be ACC members that could not attend the seminar even if they were coming to the GA.
- It was seen a danger to loose our powers, not being able to decide as an equal partner in the preparation of this event.
- It was seen as positive having the name of the ACC in the activity, cooperating with such important and significant organisations.
- We would get the money for most of the tickets for the GA, as the people would stay from this until the GA.

Many possibilities were discussed and didn't reach a common point. Anyway it was agreed that in principle we are pro to the participation and we let John negotiate during the process. He will formulate the pre-conditions to be presented in a possible negotiation and e-mail them to the board that will contribute to them.

4.3) **Transylvania**

Laszlo informed about the idea of doing a project in Transylvania. He explained how the idea started and that some former minority courses participants are willing to work on it. He reads the proposal that was sent before to the board by e-mail. The board react positively to the idea and decides to communicate so to the members that proposed it. A letter will be sent from the secretary.

Different reactions :

Linda commented that here NGO was doing a project in the same subject and that maybe it could be interesting to link both projects. Siebren also added that having in mind a future project of the ACC in Fryslân the organisers of this event could participate in the Transylvania course to learn from the experience. It was discussed the issue of having this activity on the 2000 or 2001. As fund-raising takes time and effort, it was seen that having the activity next year was too soon, so it would be recommended to do it in the year 2001.

5) Future projects

Lithuania.- John informs that some 97ers from Lithuania that answered really positive to the ACC were willing to do an activity. He presented the information that was sent related to this idea. The board decided that the project should be more developed, and more information should be required. Also a letter would be sent to them by the secretary.

Linda offered herself to contact them if necessary.

Macedonia.- Mjellma presents the idea of a summer course on women issues. This course will promote the idea of the ACC, that will participate in the course, but maybe not as a partner. Mjellma will keep us informed and send more written information about the project.

Poland.- John informs that there is a group of people from a county in Poland that have relations with Danish Folk High Schools and wish to establish something similar in Poland. John will “advise” them and will do it on behalf of the ACC

Food & Kitchen.- Just a draft information of an idea of having some kind of European course about “European Food culture” and also about EU regulations of food and cooking. This idea is not developed, so when more information is received it will be discussed by the board.

Fryslând.- Siebren informs that some funding has been offered to organise a seminar in Fryslând in co-operation with Frysian organisations and the ACC. Siebren will keep us informed.

6) Ideas for the future

Secretariat.- John explained that there is the possibility to ask the FFD for 2-3 months of paid job related to the joint conference. It would be possible to have a secretariat in co-operation with other organisations. He also informed about the offer that David 97er made to do an internship in the ACC. John will keep us informed.

Board renewal.- 3 members of the board will be eligible in the next GA. We have to think about it.

Board meetings.- February (Budapest)
April (Chevreuse)

7) AOB

- Linda asked if there is an application form for members. The answer is no. We'll keep it like this until we have the discussion about who can be a member of the ACC.

- Laszlo proposes that the discussion about the fees (different fees according to economical level of the country) should be taken in the board. It is decided that this discussion will take place in the next board meeting.

The meeting is closed