

General Assembly Meeting, Galway, 26th of August 2013

Name Organisation of	Country	Attending
Debate in Civil Society Public Union National Debate Center	AZERBAIJAN	NO/but tries via SKYPE
New Communication Club	Belarus	YES
Centar za kulturu dijaloga (CKD)	Bosnia-Herzegovina	YES
Asociace Debatnich Klubu (ADK)	CZECH REPUBLIC	YES
Estonian Debating Society	ESTONIA	YES
Fondation Connaissance et Liberte FOCAL/FOKAL	HAITI	YES
Speak up	KOSOVO	NO
Debate Center Latvia	Latvia	YES
Debating Society Germany	Germany	NO
Informal Education Debate Center	LITHUANIA	YES
Macedonia: Youth Educational Forum	MACEDONIA	YES
ARDOR: Asociatia Romana de Dezbateri, Oratorie si Retorica	ROMANIA	YES
Association for Creative Communication and Debate (ACCD)	SERBIA	YES
Slovak Debate Association	SLOVAKIA	YES
Debate Association	Turkey	NO

Participants: who attended

Board of Directors of IDEA NL:

1. Maja Nenadovic, Board IDEA NL
2. Virginija Paksiene, Board IDEA NL
3. Lazar Pop Ivanov, Board IDEA NL
4. Andrej Schulcz, Board IDEA NL
5. Ton Sonneveldt, Board IDEA NL

Members of IDEA NL

6. Dagnija Deimante-Hartmane, GA, Debasu centrs LV
7. Seymour Huseynov, GA, DVC
8. Jean-Gerard ANIS, GA, FOKAL
9. Viacheslav Rudnytskyi, GA, New Vision
10. Anastasia Zhvaleuskaya, GA, "New Communication club"
11. Vedran Vucic GA, ACCD
12. Katerina Danilova, GA, Estonian Debating Society
13. Anna Hlavacova, GA, ADK (Czech Debate Association)
14. Nadina Balagic, GA, Centre of Cultivating Dialogue
15. Stefan Ristovski GA, Youth Educational Forum

16. Emmanuel Moschopoulos, Upcoming member, Society of Greece / IDEA UK

17. Rokas AtkociunasGA, EDC

Staff of IDEA NL

18. Yvonne Heselmans, IDEA NL

19. Anne Valkering, IDEA NL

Minutes of the General Assembly Meeting August 2013		
Time	Name	Details
9.20	Andrej	Organization fee issue Membership procedure. Discussing members payments and presence at GA. There are 17 members currently. 11 of them are present at the GA. There are three membership applications. Debating society of Greece has been approved.
	Yvonne	Telling about Germany society which paid the last payment. There were some problems with communication and not responding e-mails. Kosovo debate society who never showed up at GAs.
	Veoran	There is an offer to give 30 day period to prove Germany and Kosovo will to be present at IDEA NL and inform about their decision. If no reaction follows both organization are to be excluded from IDEA NL members. Yvonne is to contact both Germany and Kosovo and suggest them 30 days period to report on situation and explain the options about attending GA. If there is no response the members will be excluded Voted by all members unanimously
9.40		The 12 ^t member Simor from Azerbaidgan joined by skype
	Veoran Viacheslav	New potential members: Italian debate organization. Georgian debating institute.
9.45	Andrej	Czech debate society – unclear application was rejected by IDEA. 7 debate clubs 142 individuals. Controversies information about individual members.
	Anna	The president of Czech debate society was excluded from our organization for unethical behavior. The organization is young so it may take time to grow.
	Andrej	Asian debate association, Korea – unclear position in the state. Application states they are the only organization providing debate education in Korea which seems not realistic. Both organizations were informed about inconsistencies and offered to apply next year again. Greece debate society has been approved.
9.55	Yvonne	Report 2012-2013 Strategic plan was done at 3 basic program lines.

		<p>Debate in the neighborhood. JP Morgan grant for Holland and Belgium from January. There is more relation to advocacy, education and employment There were three parts: youth forum participation, ToT for youth activists and linking and learning project. Exchange in March to discuss details of debate in the neighborhood at the international level. Program line: University. Africa – EU program. It got successfully and there is a new grant for this program. In the next edition there will be not only university but also disadvantage people who face discrimination. After summer schools, BP training and a public discussion. There are 5 universities in Europe in the project. More details are in the report. The third one is debate in the classroom. Contemporary Art Museum is going to apply to OSF for a grant and lately hire IDEA. 5th of May festival asked to support their debate programs.</p> <p>Such partners like: Youth umbrella organizations African Culture Center Peace University of the UN Anna Frank – financial education for youth apply for grants and look for ways of cooperation with IDEA</p> <p>Curriculum issue at debate in classroom. There is definitely a need to implement debate curriculum in high school programs. IDEA should design a new unique program different from all other debate organizations.</p> <p>Jean Asked to send out the reports on youth employment and related conferences.</p> <p>Anastasia What about participation of other countries in debate in the neighborhood?</p> <p>Stefan Experience exchange at international scale. We should combine our projects in terms of debates in classroom</p> <p>Predrag High school debate clubs in Serbia. What is the best practice to make donors interested?</p>
10.25	Yvonne Veoran Andrej	<p>Financial report introduction Yvonne refers to the financial report that she has submitted to the GA prior to the meeting.</p> <p>230T operational costs by OSF and JP Morgan grants. EU was another big donor. 42% is OSF part in total funding. 650T EUR is the approximate budget for next year. The members may need more information about working with EU funds. Last year audit was stiff. OSF audited all IDEA offices. Comparing to other IDEA offices NL did it quite well. OSF changed the approach and changed the relations with IDEA to more professional.</p> <p>It would be great to learn how to make reports corresponding to other partners in common projects. And projects that correspond both local and global standards.</p> <p>Learning process of audit means there is a lot of new information about the requirements and advices from auditors that we can share now.</p>

	Yvonne	There will be workshops at EU projects for all participants and joint approach for all members who take part in such projects. Financial control resolution has been accepted at IDEA Central. There will be a treasurer at IDEA board.
2 more members have joined so the total number of votes is 14. Rokas and Manos		
11.00	Anne Valkering	<p>Structural grant project</p> <p>The main goal is to find new ways to deal with coming changes and operate more effectively. 7 working groups</p> <p>Internal cooperation</p> <p>Governing</p> <p>Membership</p> <p>Activity – KPD, IDEA Youth Forum standards</p> <p>Communication part within network</p> <p>Topics and debate base</p> <p>Evaluation of debate projects and impacts</p> <p>There haven't been specific results yet but the ground work is being done. Next year IDEA will apply for the same grant. The future application and results so far should be discussed more.</p>
	Andrej	What is the best? What needs improvement?
	Anne	Communication is hard in terms of inactive participants or online communication tools.
	Yvonne	We are professionalizing the organization. And it is a progressive process.
	Predrag	There are parts that should be small NGOs and others that are more professionalized. I am a member of many groups that work with digital freedoms and they operate with different standards of documentation and content and we should produce materials and be more inclusive. I can contribute in EU projects in creating content.
	Yvonne	Sharing reports might be beneficial for both participants and not EU members.
	Anna	There is a not clear link between reports on events and wages for staff.
	Andrej	There should be more integration between working groups and events in terms of this structural grant.
	Nadina	What will be the working groups in the next year application for structural grant?
	Andrej	Tomorrow the groups will be discussed more detailed. Before we've been working in preliminary groups which might be changed after the midterm meeting.
11.25	Steven Nolan	<p>Global Youth forum 2013 in Galway</p> <p>205 participants</p> <p>160 debaters</p> <p>Only 5 members who left after KPDC. They were from North America and had to</p>

	Jean	<p>return before the start of academic year. We didn't advertise that people may stay for different parts of the forum. 36 people @ CJT 46 people @ BPT 66 people @MTT</p> <p>Labs. CA team hasn't design teams for mixed tournament. Trainers worked to decide themselves what would be the best solution in terms of teams. There were lots of comments about this decision.</p> <p>75300 EUR OSF 37350 grant for Trainer costs 26000 grant for Staff costs Registration fees waiver</p> <p>IDEA officers that were not directly linked to the Forum or OSF members had to pay a full fee 800 EUR per person.</p> <p>Good and bad things</p> <p>Every participant who applied got the visas including 6 people who applied 6 days before the forum. Forum standards are vital and many copies didn't meet needs of the Forum. We are working on the manual for running a forum.</p> <p>Over 75% of the money were given by OSF, which is not sustainable. There is a suggestion to change the structure. To cut some of the parts of the forum.</p> <p>There was only one Irish trainer. In the future there should be more local trainers. The average cost of a trainer is 2100 EURs which included flights and wages.</p> <p>Housekeeping issue. "Easy tournament" was hard to deal with. Tabroom.com was better so at the last moment we had to change the registration system.</p> <p>Coverage. We chose August so there were no volunteers from Galway but it granted Muslim participants a chance to come. The partner didn't have recourse to assist IDEA because of inconvenient time period. We had to get a different solution to substitute volunteers. We paid for flights of 4 members from Macedonia who have done a great job as a media team. There were 300 likes of our FB page in the beginning of the Forum and 900 at the end. 46000 people reached for a page. Most of the rounds were both streamed online and recorded. I can recommend this team that became experts in streaming the event like Forum to be hired in future for IDEA events.</p> <p>BP was unbalanced since the debaters could choose their teammates. The strongest teams united and left other debaters without any chances.</p> <p>There were teams of the strongest debaters. But there are a few issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is not exactly a mixed team track. Even though debaters had to pick a teammate from another country. - We were understaffed with only 3 trainers so it was much harder than MTT - It is a young track which has a lot to learn
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	<p>Steven</p> <p>Anastasia</p> <p>Steven</p> <p>Veoran</p> <p>Steven</p> <p>Viacheslav</p> <p>Steven</p> <p>Stefan</p> <p>Steven</p> <p>Anne</p> <p>Steven</p>	<p>Can we make evaluation froms online?</p> <p>It depends on resources which we have available. In future if we have similar conditions like in 2013 we will change from paper evaluation to on-line way.</p> <p>The Forum should be not so competitive but rather give more educational opportunities. Even for people who don't have debate experience</p> <p>IND track was a solution for new debaters. We recorded the videos from the labs and we will publish manuals from the Forum so that people will have access to all resources after the forum and new debaters may use them as preparation to the next one.</p> <p>If there is a common theme for all Forums we will be able to create materials easier.</p> <p>There was a great solution of the problem in Lithuania when the Forum started with Labs and then they held MTT. It granted mixing of cultures from the moment of accommodation. We can put WKPDC after if it is necessary.</p> <p>There are advantages of having regional forums. Now if we want to get changes we can use regional forum experience.</p> <p>Will there be advanced debaters labs?</p> <p>Evening electives may solve this issue. We may strict the age range if we cut age to 14-16 from 14-19. These things should be considered in future.</p> <p>CJT: There is a problem that we do not always use coaches at Labs efficiently. We might look better at the application forms so we would better understand needs of coaches.</p> <p>There are issues about efficiency in interactivity of different tracks with each other. MTT and CJT tracks were not linked. And BP was absolutely not related to any other track. We should make a system where tracks are more interdependent.</p>
	<p>Steven</p> <p>Andrej</p> <p>Anna:</p>	<p>Forum 2014</p> <p>We don't have a host organization. There is no information from OSF. Galway offered to host us again. We might have the same problems with volunteers if we agree. That is not what we should do since travelling and experience are important for all participants. So we are very unsure about the future.</p> <p>Marcin is going to apply 100T grant from OSF for next year forum. If it is approved we may get strings which may change the forum. 100T is not enough to hold a Forum anyway.</p> <p>We may get people who will do more volunteering in terms of Training sessions.</p>

	Steven	<p>20\$ a day for a trainer is not a high rate. More expenses are for flights rather than salaries.</p> <p>The trainers were selected by geographic factor and of 30 trainers: 15 were new or 15 were returning</p> <p>I suggest for the next year: 10 new trainers 10 local trainers 10 returning trainers</p>
	Yvonne:	Global aspect of the Forum should be emphasized in future. Since it is its unique Local learning aspect! What impact can people do after Forum?
	Nadine	Trainers and teachers are more likely able to cause the difference.
	Stefan	Choosing cheaper airlines may cut funds?
	Steven	Budget airlines don't have an opportunity to change dates and ticket security. We try to limit costs as much as we can.
	Stefan	KPDC can change to World KPDC Competition component is very important and may be more attractive.
	Steven	We would like to help people with fundraising. We didn't have time to develop. We don't provide route maps what to do after Forum. There should be a stricter curriculum and manuals what to do after, how to improve and act.
	Anne	Manuals for fundraising are important for all kind of debate related events. Manuals of how to run a club have already been designed and we'll be glad to share them.
	Ton	It's difficult to explain Forum idea to sponsors. All the proposals Steven made will help make Forum more attractive to other donors. Global Forum should be exposed as a unique event due to its multicultural
	Andrej	Speaking of dates for next Forum. 29 th of July is the latest dates possible now. There is an unavoidable clash with WSDC or other big debate events. Who of member organization wants to host a next year Forum? There are advantages and threats of hosting next Forum. You may contact Marcin, Steven or Andrej in case of your interest to host it.
	Ton	What is a minimum number of participants to run a Forum?
	Steven:	100 debaters is a minimum number. We can not foresee the number of trainers in advance. We did remove 2 trainers 3 weeks before this forum because there was no need in their work.

		205 participants is a manageable size for an event like Forum.
12.45	<p>Andrej</p> <p>Ton:</p> <p>Andrej:</p> <p>Yvonne:</p>	<p>Presentation on IDEA Central and OSF</p> <p>1st issue is that nowadays there are 8 offices of IDEA. 2nd OSF who set up IDEA and is a great donor for all IDEA offices. There is a new director at OSF since December. The current situation is OSF is shutting down Youth Initiative. There are some changes coming. Budgets for most of initiatives will be decreased. OSF has changed the approach in terms of the partnership with IDEA. The relations will be reconsidered by OSF. IDEA NL office costs are safe till 2014. OSF has ordered a review (audit) of IDEA within checking all their youth initiatives.</p> <p>Was IDEA an organization set by OSF and therefore financed mostly by OSF? Or IDEA was just a grantee of OSF? A few offices were established because OSF asked to do it. IDEA has own responsibility as an organization and OSF will not take its responsibilities anymore. Noel was a board member during all IDEA operation and now this connection is cut. So OSF doesn't see IDEA as their branch but just as a regular grantee.</p> <p>IDEA is becoming closer to regular debate associations. The diversity of the board may be more important in terms of getting funding. IDEA NL is in the best position among other offices.</p> <p>What are the mandates for the board, GA and staff? GA is a very important body in IDEA functioning. We should change the mandates for GA, board, executive director within a year and approve the changes at next GA.</p>
2.05	<p>Andrej</p> <p>Veoran</p> <p>Viacheslav</p>	<p>Getting back to the questions on OSF/IDEA situation.</p> <p>Are all the offices independent legislatively?</p> <p>What is the structure of IDEA nowadays?</p> <p>IDEA NL and IDEA US were the first ones. IDEA UK was established 3 years ago. These are the core offices.</p> <p>IDEA Central is located in Brussels.</p> <p>IDEA Mexico IDEA Skopje IDEA Hong Kong as a company – doesn't have operations. It owns IDEA China in Beijing IDEA MENA - Middle East North Africa IDEA Bishkek – is run through IDEA UK</p> <p>NL, US and UK are totally independent. IDEA central =Chair of the Board and Executive director from each of these three offices.</p>

		<p>IDEA Mexico is mostly independent IDEA US will become a shareholder of IDEA Hong Kong. IDEA MENA will be a separate office. The board members should be from Tunisia. They are still in the process of registration.</p> <p>IDEA Central can withdraw IDEA identity from any of the offices.</p> <p>IDEA Central is about to create a strategy for all the NTTs.</p> <p>IDEAL NL should remain members association. It may be useful in term of EU fundraising and it is the only members association among all IDEA offices.</p> <p>Veoran We as members should be aware of constitutional changes or obligations of IDEA NL.</p> <p>Yvonne We are progressing in communication and transforming IDEA to more structured and centralized organization</p>
<p>Debate center of Latvia has joined, Azerbaijan has left. The total number of votes is 12.</p>		
	<p>Andrej</p> <p>Yvonne</p> <p>Andrej</p> <p>Ton</p>	<p>There is no information on new grants at Youth initiative or Global debates.</p> <p>IDEA NL members should be informed about IDEA related issues after we figure out the procedure which will be approved by IDEA Central.</p> <p>At the web-site you may find all the info on any IDEA office.</p> <p>IDEA Central board consists of 3 NTTs' executive directors. There are changes coming next year. Before we shrink the board we want to grow it. The representatives of the members may be board members of IDEA Central.</p> <p>It took time to get the information about IDEA NTTs by IDEA Central and now we can share it.</p>
3.00	Yvonne	<p>Plan for 2014: A list of activities which are confirmed There are three basic program lines: Debate in the neighborhood is going on up to March 2014. Debate in the classroom. (Art and Argument in Africa in September). Universities. We should improve our portfolio and look over 2014.</p> <p>Yvonne refers to the annual plan 2014 that she shared with the GA prior to the meeting.</p> <p>We want to have a joint program. OSF is coming up with call concerning the elections. We are looking for opportunities to have a common project.</p> <p>Strategic priorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stabilizing the staff. - Organizing our portfolio at three program lines. - Structural aspect. - Governance.

	<p>Katerina</p> <p>Ton:</p> <p>Yvonne:</p> <p>Stefan:</p> <p>Veoran:</p> <p>Andrej:</p> <p>Predrag:</p>	<p>People expect us to be leaders of public opinion. There is a question whether we should be active in political level. Should we take it as a statement to a mission?</p> <p>IDEA should promote democracy. We are outside of populism. If there are any reasonable suggestions by members we can discuss them.</p> <p>I think we may take more active part. On the level of political sphere there are pros and cons.</p> <p>There are different sides. On one hand we can make just a pure public discussion or it is involved in a political process.</p> <p>Debate is a skill on one side On the other side there should be integrity to real arguments. IDEA is not just marketing issue. It's a big task to remain different. Our task and identity is not just having fun but being responsible in our civic position.</p> <p>It is an opportunity for IDEA to engage publicly in policy issues however it takes more capacities then we have now.</p> <p>Every country may face those issues on the state level. Concerning Urban voices project. We should apply more members efforts in terms of fundraising as well, since many</p>

**Report 2012 and midterm report for 2013 no objections.
Plan 2014 Carried unanimously.**

4.00	Andrej	<p>Membership resolution</p> <p>One of the concerns is how membership may be used. There are two cases we should approve at GA.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We would like IDEA members to commit that we do not have 1 member in a country policy. 2. Members should let IDEA know when it is involved in international level. <p>One of the reasons why we get to membership issue is because for the last two years we have been getting 5 different applications. So there is a demand growing and there is a need to create a formal procedure not to keep it subjective.</p> <p>Applying as IDEA member is not equal as IDEA itself.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. So the third suggestion is to clarify that IDEA membership doesn't representation of IDEA. <p>Using logo is absolutely fine and encouraged by IDEA.</p>
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		<p>4. IDEA NL informs members about all international projects they are involved in. The procedure is to be designed by Yvonne.</p> <p>Carried unanimously.</p>
	<p>Anne</p> <p>Andrej</p> <p>Anne</p> <p>Veoran</p> <p>Dagnia</p> <p>Andrej</p> <p>Ton</p> <p>Manos</p>	<p>A year from today we will be making changes in mission statement, so currently we should discuss the possible approaches. The result of the discussion will be a proposal for IDEA Central and working groups. It is important to have an agreement on the mission of organizations.</p> <p>It is a universal statement which doesn't describe any specific methods but states the values and approaches.</p> <p>What is the purpose of using it? Isn't it too long?</p> <p>We use it two ways: external partners and internal checks.</p> <p>If that is for check why is it that short? If we take debate as the main direction why don't we put it to the first sentence</p> <p>We should consider other documents. It requires more consistency in mission and other documents.</p> <p>Young people acquire skills and knowledge. Maybe we should substitute the word teach?</p> <p>The word "teach" takes more active position of IDEA in this process.</p> <p>Debate has a huge role in the process of education but it is a tool. There is no need to put it to the first sentence</p> <p>We do things also within societies which is a great difference.</p>
	<p>Andrej</p> <p>Veoran</p> <p>Andrej</p> <p>Andrej</p> <p>Anne</p>	<p>Membership</p> <p>The value of IDEA membership:</p> <p>Networking aspect Multiplying effect. We can do some things better if we divide the labor and share experience. We would like to share more information from members to members.</p> <p>We should include the word opportunity to the statement of values.</p> <p>The word network should be defined.</p> <p>The members can be: voting and observers in case if they meet or don't meet the criteria.</p> <p>If we do have just observers, then basically they are in a favorable position since they get the benefits without taking all responsibilities</p>

	Predrag	Who will decide what the budget is? How to establish the number of minimum budget?
	Anne	There is no need of a specific stiff number and the decisions may be made considering the application. That may be a check-list to make decision and make the list of requirements as a list of guidelines.
	Manos	We should be more concerned whether the organization does work it could be a better metric than just a budget aspect. Young organizations should have intern period
	Andrej	We want to reach external credibility. Auditors need to check credibility and it will influence IDEA public image.
	Stefan	Making young organizations observers will grant a chance to see how the organization operates and see the results.
	Ton	Apply or explain rule. Organizations should either meet all criteria or explain the missed points of the check-lists.
	Veoran	The budget is an important point in evaluating a grantee.
	Anne	Responding to e-mails may be a point in the check-list
5.00	Andrej	<p>Board Election Current members Lazar, Andrej, Maya will expire next year Ton, Virginija, Logan will expire in two years</p> <p>We need to grow the board to face financial and legal issues. The maximum number of new members is 3. There is only one candidate: Kai Klandorf</p> <p>Resolution The number of votes received at this and all future GAs should be announced. Carried unanimously</p> <p>Voting for next year board members. 14 total votes 13 in favor of Kai 1 abstained</p> <p>The next GA options are open. We may do a GA outside of IDEA events around August or later.</p> <p>Prague may be a good option.</p>
	Anne	Ukraine doesn't require visas.

	Viacheslav	After summer we will finish the calendar and decide. There is an idea to create a google poll to choose the best time for the next GA.
	Yvonne	Idebate press. It has always been under OSF but now it's not. There are 20 titles. There will be a gap in the delivery in future. If there are any writers who you have in your mind to be valuable for IDEA community let us know. Ideas that are linked to interests of secondary school may be interesting as well. The micro-site for idebate press is under construction. Central European University has a stock available for members.
	Yvonne Andrej Anne Ton	Idebate magazine. Previously all members were widely represented in idebate magazine. Send the title to Jackson if you want to print an article. If members are willing to get the magazines they should pay for the delivery only. There is an option to get an e-magazine. Controversia journal about debate has more questionable future.
6.00	Andrej	Thank all you for sending annual surveys All the best!