

IPWG First MSN Meeting for the term Magusa – Leiden

Date and Time : Thursday, the 23rd of April , 21:00

Present IPWG Board Members : Mario Giuseppe Varrenti (Speaker) , Christian Eichenmüller (Treasurer), Julia Batkaeva, Marta Gutierrez Benet, Prisca Merz , Panagiotis Papagiannakos (General Board Members) and Fotis Kanavos (Secretary).

The meeting had a quorum.

Agenda :

1. Presentations
2. Division of tasks among board members + knowledge transfer
3. Strategy and Activities Year Planner
4. Blog and mailing list
5. Next Board Meeting
6. Beyond Europe, the next steps

Presentations

The meeting started with everyone presenting themselves, a small note on their CV and activities and their motivation in joining and working for IPWG. Chris and Fotis had a delay of about 40mins in joining the meeting, and they joined almost at the end of the presentations and when the division of tasks for the term was about to start.

Division of Tasks among board members – knowledge transfer

Fundraising : Prisca was the only one that expressed interest in the position. She presented her ideas about the knowledge transfer with regards to the following term, given the lack of FR activity during the term of the previous board, which ideas included :

- ◆ Contacting Daniel Soujon (FR responsible two terms ago)
- ◆ Trying to compile a file with best practices
- ◆ One to one MSN meeting with the past FR responsible, with respect to the 2month knowledge transfer timeframe that the last board has set.

Prisca is the new FR responsible of IPWG for 2009-2010.

Human Resources : Julia presented her interest in the position. Marta and Panos had initially expressed their interest in HR as well, but withdrew it during the

meeting, Marta to take on PR and Panos to engage on the 4th position of general member, which is going to be different in this term as in last term, where it was an IT responsible. Julia stated complete understanding of the procedures, tasks etc. as presented by the Speaker, and she has been assigned her knowledge transfer period with Maciej Gad.

Julia is the new HR responsible of IPWG for 2009-2010

Public Relations : After the withdrawal of Panos's interest, Marta was the only candidate for the position, stating her intention to bring her experience as PR responsible at AEGEE Valencia to the European level, and her intention to work on writing of articles and also design for the upcoming newsletter of IPWG. Cezary will be her mentor for the transfer knowledge period.

Marta is the new PR princess (as requested by the Speaker, submitted in the official minutes!) of IPWG for 2009-2010.

4th General Board Member Position : It has been decided for this term that there will be no IT responsible in the board of IPWG, but the role will be externally outsourced to Joost Rovers (ITWG, former SUCT), who will have a clear mandate to build and maintain the IPWG website for the duration of the term. Some doubts regarding his work and reactions during his SUCT term have been expressed by Fotis.

Coming to the 4th position, Panos's position, the intention from the beginning was for that to be a position of external relations – IPWG projects coordination. There was debate on which should the task connection of this position to Beyond Europe be, but after mainly Prisca's and Christian's placements on the fact that the new flagship project should be independent to official IPWG's activities due to the danger of lack of focus on those, it has been agreed that the tasks of the new position will be mainly to maintain contact with other projects and working groups, focus on the projects of IPWG this term, respond to request for help from politically related activities and enhance IPWG role in other projects and political activities , and possibly to stimulate local ipwg's. The tasks have not yet been officially outlined, something that will happen in due time, with the help of the former board (Panos suggested the output of Agata Patecka, former speaker on this task division) .

Panos is the new External Relations responsible of IPWG for 2009-2010

Strategy and Activities Year Planner

The following events-activities have been already agreed for the upcoming term :

- 27 September – 3 October Diplomatic Seminar Budapest
- 4 – 10 October Conflict Handling Training Lublin
- 12 – 18 October European Citizenship Training Course Thessaloniki

- IPWG goes Den Haag (undefined details)

For the first 3 events the Youth in Action applications have already been sent and an answer is expected, while the last event will have to base its financing on FR activities and at the same time, an open call for Dutch locals that will assist to its organization has already been published. In addition, it has been noted that the concentration of these events in the months September-October lies upon the former board's usual practices.

Furthermore, it has been agreed that all the board will assist and work in the preparation of the events, with Panos's role being possibly more advanced based in his tasks. To also define the contact people that will initiate and maintain contact with all locals that will help in organizing these events, the preferences of all the board members were requested, after which :

- Prisca expressed her interest for the Diplomatic Seminar
- Chris and Panos their interest for the EC TC in Thessaloniki
- Julia her interest for the Conflict Handling Training
- Marta her interest for IPWG goes Den Haag
- Fotis his for IPWG goes Den Haag and the Diplomatic Seminar
- Mario and Fotis will have a supportive and assisting role for all events

Regarding strategy for the upcoming term, the Speaker has set as task for all members of the board for the next msn meeting to develop the personal objectives, goals and vision for their position as well as for the working group.

Blog and Mailing List

The progress regarding IPWG's blog was mainly discussed (ipwg.blogactiv.eu). Mario announced that the main goal is to make the blog accessible by as many of IPWG's members as possible. Working on that objective will be Marcin from AEGEE Lublin on a role that was awarded to him by the previous board to create a personalized account for each IPWG member that sends to him a request in the mailing list (in contrast to the sole account so far, with username and password "visitor"). Hopefully as soon as that is achieved, the main use of the blog, which is to discuss about ongoing political issues and topics around the world and IPWG activities will be revitalized. The contribution of the members of the board will be crucial to that direction.

Next Board Meeting

It was been announced by Christian that after discussions with the Financial Director of AEGEE Europe, IPWG has been granted 300 euros to finance the first

board meeting. Most possible dates will be 12-14 June, depending on everyone's availability. Unfortunately though, Julia announced she wouldn't be able to join, due to visa limitations. It was agreed to set up a doodle, so that the dates for the board meeting could be decided in a more structural way. The same thing has been decided regarding the next msn meeting.

Beyond Europe

The first matter regarding the new flagship project was what IPWG's involvement in the project should be. Although everyone agreed that IPWG should have a close eye, especially contentwise, on the project, the idea that a very big involvement and time devoted on it would harm both the working group's other activities as well as the project's independent progress and evolution prevailed. Prisca and Christian mainly expressed that opinion, with Prisca adding that there could even be a matter of CIA breach if there is a firm hand on the project by IPWG's side, and Christian making the comment that the new project will be one of its kind in any case, and we should all, inside the frame of our IPWG role, devote ourselves to IPWG's projects and activities.

Later on, Mario asked which members of the board would be interested in joining the project, something everyone apart from Marta and Julia confirmed. The process of choosing the team for the project has also been explained in a more detailed way : the CD will appoint a projects manager and then the team will be decided in the planning meeting that will take in Brussels soon afterwards, where all the team members, core and supportive, will be decided.

From that point and forth, the biggest issue concerning everyone is how IPWG can affect the project, regarding the choice of the team members and also reassuring that it won't go away from the working group's protection. Several placements have been done and several opinions have been expressed:

- Prisca suggested that during the planning meeting IPWG shouldn't impose its presence in the project, but go through the process of election for all its board members that want to be in the project team. Mario noted the danger in this scenario is that every board member could be outvoted, leaving the people that developed the idea out of the project.
- It has been commonly agreed that Percin (current Projects Director of AEGEE Europe) and Dragan (current President) should be contacted to give their opinion and advice on this matter, and Christian expressed his concern about how they would want a word on the project, i.e. increase their presence and influence in it although they stop having a role in AEGEE Europe after September.
- The deadline of the 1st June for the YiA application for the project has been stressed out, and everyone has agreed that the board members should hurry up and work hard to prepare to help preparing the application, noting Dragan's comment

that he has already 30% ready from some other application. The persons that have been suggested as good advice sources on this matter are : Miguel from SUFU (Panos suggested contacting him, and it was mentioned by Prisca that he wants in the project as well), Katrin also from SUFU and Asia, former flagship's "Education Unlimited" project manager (Christian, Prisca and Julia suggested). It has also been agreed that the contact should definitely be informal, and not in a specific set of questions.