

DemocracyNet.eu

Members' General Meeting / Inaugural Assembly

February 18, 2016

10.00 to 12.00 a.m.

University of Zurich main building, Rämistrasse 71, Room KOL-H-320

Main decisions of the Inaugural Assembly

Attending: Karima Bousbah, Alice el-Wakil, Monica Ferrin, Lea Heyne, Lukas Peter, Rebecca Welge, Michael Streb, Maximilian Schubiger

Excused: Jan Pieter Beetz, Gema Garcia Albacete, Sarah Perry, Simone Wegmann

Summary of DemocracyNet's past activities

From the beginning, interest in organizing 2 types of activities: Academic workshops (with a special interest in interdisciplinary research), and transfer events (to attract people outside of academia/academics interested in collaborations).

DemocracyNet.eu's has created a website, as well as 2 mailing lists. It has obtained 2 Graduate Campus grants to organized events series in Zurich, has organized 5 academic workshops, and is at the origin of collaborations between members that let to the organization of panels or the publication of co-authored papers.

DemocracyNet.eu's Inaugural Assembly: Main decisions

DemocracyNet.eu becomes a formal association. Its official statutes, in English, are accepted unanimously (see pages 3-4).

New conditions of membership:

- Every member is entitled to use the logo and the association's name for activities once the Managing Board has approved it.
- A membership fee is introduced for the year 2016: It amounts to CHF 15
 - The membership fees should cover the costs for the basic functioning of the association, i.e. the website (currently € 61.68/year) and the bank account.
 - If a member joins in the end of a year, the decision as to the fees should be made by the MB.
 - Workshop fees are fixed by the organizers of specific event (also if fees are reduced or abolished for members).
- To become member of DemocracyNet.eu, individuals have to provide a written statement of interest and pay the fee. They then have to answer the questionnaire for the internal webpage, as well as send their information to update the members' webpage.

The Managing Board (MB) is elected:

- President: ALICE EL-WAKIL (unanimity)
- Vice president: LEA HEYNE (unanimity)
- Treasurer: LUKAS PETER (unanimity)
- Further member: REBECCA WELGE (unanimity)

A task list is accepted unanimously. It completes the MB to distribute the tasks linked to DemocracyNet.eu's basic functioning. The tasks are distributed among the members for a period of 1 year (from one General Assembly to another). For the detailed description of the tasks, see page 5.

- The tasks are distributed as follow for the year 2016:
 - Network's coordinator: LEA HEYNE
 - Treasurer: LUKAS PETER
 - Web communicator (public website): ALICE EL-WAKIL
 - Administration of (internal) member area website: REBECCA WELGE
 - Administration of internal/external mailing lists: MICHAEL STREBEL
 - Coordination of external mailing list: MONICA FERRIN
 - Organization of new membership requests: REBECCA WELGE & SIMONE WEGMANN [?]
- The current list of tasks, as well as the responsibilities attached to each task, can be modified along the way, depending on the needs of the members.

Further suggestions to keep in mind:

- Keep better track of the events that were organized by network's members in collaboration (but independently of the network) / Collect past experiences of collaborations (organization of panels, co-authored papers, etc.)
- Put a form on the webpage for new members?
- Should we have the association's accounts checked? – Revisionsstelle?

Statutes DemocracyNet.eu

I. Name and domicile

Art. 1

The association „DemocracyNet.eu“ is an official association that is registered as a judicial person as defined by Art. 60 ff ZGB (Swiss Civil Law). The association exists for an undetermined length.

Art. 2

The domicile of the association is in 8050 Zürich, Switzerland.

II. Aim and means

Art. 3

Aim

The association DemocracyNet.eu aims at bringing together young researchers from diverse disciplines, all dedicated to analysing Democracy and Citizenship in Europe. DemocracyNet.eu is a forum to foster interdisciplinary exchange and projects between young academics and, at the same time, to make relevant academic debates and questions accessible to a broader, non-academic public.

DemocracyNet.eu is a non-partisan and non-profit association, which is non-denominational and politically neutral.

Means

Means for the basic functioning of the association are created through the membership fees. To pursue the aims of the association, DemocracyNet.eu's members can apply for external grants in the name of the association for specific projects. Their own work in these projects is voluntary.

III. Membership and fees

Art. 4

Members can be natural and judicial persons.

Admission

The admission of new members can take place at any time and is pending on a written declaration.

Resignation

The resignation from the association is possible at any time. A written declaration of resignation must be sent to the Managing Board.

Exclusion

The managing board or the General Assembly can decide finally and without a statement of reasons to admit or to exclude members.

Art.5

Member fees are defined by the General Assembly every year. An accounting year equals a calendar year.

IV. Organs

The organs of the association DemocracyNet.eu are:

- The General Assembly (GA)
- The Managing Board (MB)

Art. 6

The General Assembly

The General Assembly is the highest organ of the association and consists of the association members present at the GA. The GA decides in all affairs. The GA can allocate decision-making powers to the managing board. The GA elects the managing board. The GA approves and authorizes the annual report and the annual financial statement. All members of the association have the right to elect and vote. Resolutions of the GA are passed by open ballot with a simple majority of the votes. Resolutions to change the statutes or to dissolve the association require an approval of two thirds of the votes of the members that are present.

Each officially convened general assembly has the power to pass resolutions. A member of the MB leads the GA. When this is not possible, a substitute will be elected. At least the resolutions of the GA must be recorded by minutes.

Art.7

The Managing Board

The MB is accountable towards the general assembly. The MB consists of at least 3 members (president, vice-president, and treasurer). The MB is elected for 2 years. Re-election is permitted. The MB has the power to include new members. Members of the board can resign during their time in office. Such modifications have to be approved and authorized in the next GA. The MB works principally voluntarily. It has a right to reimburse its effective expenses.

Responsibilities

The MB is responsible for:

- a) the external representation of the association,
- b) the management of the affairs of the association,
- c) the decision-making in all affairs allocated by the general assembly,
- d) constituting working groups in order to deal with specific issues.

Both the definition and distribution of the specific tasks are defined and recorded in a separate document, which is approved and authorized by the GA. The GA has the power to change the definition and distribution of the tasks in working groups.

V. Liability and Dissolution of the Association

Art. 8

There exists no personal liability of the members for the obligations of the association.

Art. 9

When the association is dissolved, the association's funds will be given to a tax-exempted association that pursues a similar aim. The association's funds cannot be distributed among its members.

The statutes were accepted at the inaugural assembly in Zürich the 18th February 2016.

Task List 2016

- 1) Network's coordinator: Lea Heyne
 - Be the 'person of reference', know about the different projects going on
 - Represent and promote the network when needed
 - Encourage new members to join
- 2) Treasurer: Lukas Peter
 - Gather membership's fees
 - Pay bills (but not the ones related to any other funded project)
 - Prepare the yearly budget and hand it in
- 3) Web communicator: Alice el-Wakil
 - Update the webpage [democracynet.eu]
 - The facebook page [facebook.com/democracynet]
 - Create and feed a Twitter account: Arndt Leininger
- 4) Internal communication/administration of mailing lists [members@dem... & mailinglist@dem...]: Michael Strebel
 - Keep in touch with existing members (mailinglist) [members@democracynet.eu]
 - Update the internal list (membership management - subscription / removal)
 - Login to list administration (internal & external mailing list) to deal with admin requests (e.g. pending moderator requests, general options) on demand and for changing general settings
- 5) Coordination of external mailing list: Monica Ferrin
 - Manage the mailinglist (external) [mailinglist@democracynet.eu]
 - Ensure that the list is used from time to time for advertising our events but also for forwarding interesting news or posting events by list members
 - send reminder how list can be used / for what quarter-annually
- 6) Deal with membership requests: Rebecca Welge / Simone Wegmann
 - Be the person of contact for potential or new applicants
 - Send welcome message & explain functioning of DemocracyNet.eu
 - Ask to fill in the questionnaire
 - Enter the answers on the Intranet page
 - Create a user account (subscriber) at democracynet.eu webpage
 - Forward the information for updating the member's page to the web communicator (position, official webpage, research interests, picture)
 - Forward the new email address to the admin of the internal mailinglist
 - Forward the information (Name / mail address) to the treasurer for the fee payment