

EUDEC AGM 2010 Roskilde



3-7 August 2010, Roskilde, Denmark

Community with a capital C!

Brainstorming, chair ballet, heated debates and birthday cake ... EUDEC 2010 was all that and more. Over one hundred people from 15 different countries met in Roskilde, Denmark, from 3 to 7 August, in the name of democratic education. There was a rich diversity of nationalities, languages and ages. About 40% of the participants were school students. Fifteen EUDEC member schools were represented.



At the end of the week, participants went home with new ideas, new friends and an empowering sense of belonging to a strong, Europe-wide community. And the EUDEC longboat had set sail again with a clear course and a committed crew, all pulling together.

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Introduction	1
Plenary Sessions	2
Open Schedule	3
Open Schedule cont.	4
Multi-media art...and fun!	5
Who was there?	6
What's next?	6



Plenary Sessions

Here is a brief overview of some of the major decisions that were made at the plenary sessions:



Logo: The assembly voted to give the EUDEC Council authority to make a final decision about the organisation's logo and corporate identity, incorporating member feedback wherever possible.

Sustainability policy: The assembly voted to approve a new sustainability policy for EUDEC.



2020 Vision: Council's proposed vision was carried with a few amendments.

Annual report 2009/2010: Based on the presented annual report and auditor's report, the Assembly voted to approve Council's actions for 2009.

Joining EFFE: A proposal to join the European Forum for Freedom in Education (EFFE) was carried unanimously. A member of EFFE was present to answer questions about the organisation.

Use of Liquid Democracy platform: The assembly accepted a proposal to set up a committee to examine how this platform could be used for online referenda.



Resolution on the funding of independently operated schools: Adopted by assembly.

Reducing face-to-face Council summits: This proposal, which would have made it possible to replace "live" Council meetings with online meetings, was defeated by the assembly.

Budget 2010/2011: Council's proposed budget was approved with no objections.

Some budget amendments:

A total of 1000 euros was added to the 2010 budget for paying Chloe Duff as backpay for her conference organisation work.

For covering the membership fees of members with payment problems (either financial or technical), a total of 100 euros was added to the 2010 budget.

The assembly voted to form a **membership committee** to review EUDEC's membership system.



A **Fair Pay Policy** was adopted.

Elections:

New **Council** members, [Niklas Gidion](#), [Simon Hulshoff](#) and [Chloe Duff](#), were elected to fill empty seats. A big thanks to Imogen Wright, David French and Dragana Boljesic-Knezevic, whose contributions in their time on Council were immeasurable!

All members of the **Oversight Committee**, Leonard Turton, Zsa-Zsa Shea and Christian Pittner, were re-elected.

And the **auditors**, Peter Hartkamp and Robert Welti, were elected for another one-year term.

Copies of the **minutes** and the **approved documents, budgets and resolutions** are [available upon request](#).



Open Schedule

In the tradition of EUDECs and IDECs, this year's AGM included several hours of "open schedule", where participants offered workshops on self-chosen subjects or came together to work on programme development in various areas:



Democratic schools camp

Contact: Elias Egger (elias.egger@gmx.at)

The group would like to plan a democratic schools camp the week before next summer's conference in Devon, England. These plans are still very preliminary. Anyone interested in getting involved can contact Elias to join the group's mailing list.

Website development

Contact: Simon Hulshoff (zimonh@eudec.org)

Plans were made to have a platform for visual online communication, exchange programmes, lists of schools, updates of bloggers, open houses and other events, startup groups and so on. This would include a map of Europe with clickable countries that direct you to a map of the country showing school locations.



Research

Contact: Christel Hartkamp (chartkamp@eudec.org)

This potential project comes up every year, driven by the need for empirical research on democratic education. The next step will be to contact institutes and researchers who have interest and experience in this area. If you are interested in being involved in this group and/or have ideas you want to contribute, please contact Christel.



Well-being in schools

Contact: Marko Koskinen (marko@feeniks-koulu.fi)

The group developed a list of things that schools can do to support well-being. This list will be made available to all participants. Contact Marko for more information.



Member services

Contact: Leslie Ocker (locker@eudec.org)

A list was made of services that EUDEC could offer its member schools and school start-up groups, including: priority for members when arranging visits at member schools, list of recommended reading/DVDs, a concise description of a democratic school for start-up groups, a programme for pairing start-up groups with established schools for exchange and support, a help-wanted platform for schools and teachers/interns, support packs for new parents, teachers and students, etc. To see the complete list or send your feedback, contact Leslie.



EUDEC Diploma

Contact: Luca Murdolo (lucamurdolo@googlemail.com)

Last year, a group of students and teachers from the Kapriole School in Freiburg proposed developing a EUDEC Diploma programme for graduates of democratic schools. This year, the workgroup met again. The diploma should also include a description of the school. It would be recognised by EUDEC but organised by each school, individually. Kapriole will do a test phase of the programme this year and develop a proposal. They will send the proposal to EUDEC members to collect feedback before making a final proposal at next summer's AGM.



Growing the organisation

Contact: Leslie Ocker (locker@eudec.org)

How does EUDEC grow from a volunteer-staffed to a large membership organisation with a paid staff? A group of participants with experience in organisational management came together to offer their ideas for improving project efficiency and planning a transition.

Teacher training programme

Contact: Irene Stella (irene@mukti.it)

The workgroup did some brainstorming about a very simple way to initiate an internship-based teacher training programme organised through EUDEC. The first steps would be contacting other groups active in this area, like the IDE in Israel and the new project (INSEL) being launched in Germany, and beginning work on a EUDEC internship programme that could develop into a teacher training programme.



Regional chapters

Groups met to talk about setting up chapters in general, and especially about the regions of UK, BENELUX and Scandinavia.

Contact for **Scandinavia**:

Jostein Strømme (jostein.strommen@gmail.com)

Contact for **BENELUX**:

Peter Hartkamp (peter.hartkamp@dekampanje.org)

Contact for **UK**:

Martin Roberts (martinfurthur@yahoo.com)

Contact for **Spain**:

Josu Uztarroz (josuuztarroz@yahoo.com)

Contact for **Italy**:

Irene Stella (irene@mukti.it)

Contact for **Hungary**:

Peter Foti (peter.foti@runbox.com)



Student exchange program

Contact: Stefanie Lutz (lutzolino@aol.de)

The group developed a first draft for a form for member schools to fill out. This questionnaire is intended to collect information about the school that might be useful to potential exchange students/staff. Eleven forms had been collected by the end of the AGM. The group hopes to launch the EUDEC student exchange programme within the year. The most important information schools who would like to participate in the program should provide is contact data for a contact person at the school to ensure that inquiries from potential exchange students or staff don't get lost. Information about schools participating in the exchange program will soon be available through the EUDEC website.

Multimedia art ... and fun!

Media artist comes to AGM to present Summerhill commemoration project...



SUMMERHILL HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT PROJECT

Daniel Peltz, an artist and art professor from the U.S. with an interest in democratic schools, presented an art project he's planning with Summerhill to commemorate their 90th anniversary. He also presented past projects and invited participation amongst interested EUDEC member schools in his upcoming work with Summerhill.

The project involves a video dialog amongst student and staff, from various schools influenced by Summerhill, and utilizes an online video toolset he's developed to facilitate such collaborations (viewable at www.risd.tv). He proposed using the tool with students and staff to engage in a collective re-enactment of significant events from the history of Summerhill. He writes, "As a media artist, I'm particularly interested in exploring re-enacting the 'media histories' of Summerhill, i.e. the various documentaries and television programs which have represented the school to others but have been produced by outside media makers not by members of a democratic schooling community. The concept would be to engage participants in democratic schools in reenacting elements of the media histories of Summerhill, as a way of better understanding how democratic schools see and understand themselves and how this self-image is shaped and influenced by our own media histories."

If you'd like to take part in the project, please contact Daniel at dpeltz@risd.edu.

After the session, participants were inspired to "write the first lines" of EUDEC'S video history.

The results can be viewed here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=TCU_632PGmQ

Who was there?

Countries represented: Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, the UK, the Ukraine and the US.

Member schools represented: [Det frie Gymnasium](#) (DK), [Den Demokratiske Skole](#) (DK), [Feenikskoulu \(Phoenix School\)](#) (FI), [Ting Schule](#) (DE), [Kapriole](#) (DE), [Freie Schule Leipzig](#) (DE), [De Kampanje](#) (NL), [De Koers](#) (NL), [Tximeleta](#) (ES), [Sands School](#) (GB), [Summerhill School](#) (GB), [Stork Family School](#) (UA) and [imPuls Privatschule](#) (CH).

Start-up groups represented: [Freie Kita Schneckenhaus](#) (DE), [INFINITA](#) (DE), [Demokratische Bildung Berlin](#) (DE) and [Mukti](#) (IT)

What's next?

Some goals for the coming months:

- * launching a **membership campaign** to grow the organisation and generate more income while creating **effective systems** for collaborative project work
- * regular bulletins and other forms of communication to **keep members informed** about projects and opportunities for getting involved and to foster the **strong sense of community** that developed at the AGM
- * finalising the new **logo** and corporate identity, **redesigning the website** and creating **new flyers**
- * supporting the Sands steering group in planning **IDEC@EUDEC 2011**
- * supporting the **chapters** that are forming in Scandinavia, Hungary, Spain, the BENELUX region, the UK and Italy
- * publishing **quarterly e-newsletters** (currently 430 subscribers)
- * **carrying out decisions** made by the 2010 assembly

... and beyond (longer term):

- * supporting the **workgroups** on research, democratic schools camp, EUDEC diploma, student/teacher exchange and teacher training programmes
- * improving and developing **member services**, especially for schools and start-up groups
- * getting the first texts of the **handbook** online (surveys, writing contest, interviews...)

If you'd like to contribute your time or ideas in any of these areas, just [send us an email!](#)

THANK YOU!!

A huge thanks goes out to Rikke, Stefan, Christina, Freja, Emma, Louis, William, Nina, Carl, Alban and all their friends and helpers from [Det frie Gymnasium](#) and [Den Demokratiske Skole](#)!

And of course, to David Simonsen, the ingenious cook who defied the laws of sleep with his tireless team of assistants to create enormous bowls and pots of the most delicious foods imaginable!

