



GAMIAN-Europe

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY (AGA)

Friday 16th September 2016 (15:30 – 19:00)

Venue: Mercure Grand Hotel

Vienna – Austria

Organization	Country	First delegate	Second Delegate	Third Delegate
VMDB	Netherlands	Bert Aben		
ODOS	Slovakia	Marcela Barova		
SCHIZO OUI	France	Andre Castalan		
Public initiatives on psychiatry	Russia	Marianna Bogdan		
Association for promotion and protection of mental health	Croatia	Gordana Boric	Kristina Jandric	
Richmond Foundation	Malta	Dolores Gauci		
ENOSH	Israel	Yoram Cohen		
BALANS	Sweden	Hakan Wingren	Simone Gynnemo	Kerstin Wingren

KOLUMBUS	Czech Republic	Daniel Cernik	Milan Jisa	
LIBRA	Sweden	Rosmari Emanuelsson	Daniella Bostrom	
ADHD-Europe	Belgium	Marko Ferek		
ANOIKSIS	The Netherlands	Bill George	Aadt Klijn	
AWAKENINGS	Hungary	Robert Kristof		
ADEB	Portugal	Luis Manuel Nascimento de Oliveira	Diana Ribeiro Couto	
Romanian League for mental health	Romania	Raluca Nica	Marinella Mitica	
SOFPSI N.SERRON	Greece	Katarina Nomidou		
EMHA	Estonia	Urve Randmaa	Vladimir Rotstein	
OZARA	Slovenia	Bostjan Repnik		
Advocacy group for the mentally ill (AGMI)	Cyprus	Elise Torossian		
Ups & Downs	Belgium	Erika Danckaers	Eric Vander Eycken	
Individual	United Kingdom	John Bowis		
Individual	Ireland	Jacinta Hastings (proxy to Dolores Gauci)		

Individual	Finland	Hilkka Karkkainen		
Association for protection and promotion of mental health - SUNRISE	Croatia	Zdravko Zemhic		

APOLOGIES

1	Jacinta Hastings	Ireland	
2	Christine Marking	Belgium	
3	Club 13	Lithuania	

MINUTES

With 24 members present and represented by proxy, the quorum is reached and the AGA is constituted according to the statutes and has power of decision-making.

AGENDA	DISCUSSION
1. Appointment of secretaries	The following volunteers accepted the role of minute takers: Katerina Nomidou, Robert Kristof and Marinella Mitica
2. Approval of Minutes of the General Assembly of 19th September 2015	

3. Arising out of the minutes	Dolores Gauci mentioned that she appears twice in the said minutes: both as an individual member and as RICHMOND Foundation representative
4. Presentation of new GAMIAN-Europe members	ADHD-Hungary application for membership is accepted by the General Assembly subject to more information that the new Board will seek to obtain.
5. President Report 2015-2016 by the President Yoram Cohen	<p>The president, Yoram Cohan addressed the General Assembly to present the report for 2015-2016.</p> <p>Since the last General Assembly held in Brussels at 19th September 2015, there have been many changes. Sadly, former president Pedro Montellano passed away on 2nd October. In recognition of Pedro the Board renamed the Good Practice Award and Pedro's wife Filomena and her 3 children presented the 1st Pedro Montellano Good Practice Award to the Hungarian organization "Awakening Foundation" on the 'Hearing Voices' project.</p> <p>On the changes on the board occurred during the year. Rebecca Muller resigned from her duty as treasurer and Ausra Mikulskiene replaced her. Yoram Cohan assumed the position of Acting President until the Board appointed a President in September.</p> <p>On March 1st 2016 Nigel Olisa became the new Executive Director, replacing Paul Arteel who has become our Senior Consultant.</p> <p>During the year of 2015/2016, GE organized two Board Meetings, three Executive Committee Meetings, and a Regional Educational Seminar in Prague. It was also organized a Strategy Meeting and a Meeting with sponsors.</p> <p>The purpose of the Regional Seminar titled 'Migration, mental health and the European Impact' was to address the impact of the current migration crisis on mental health. The day prior to the General Assembly, GAMIAN-Europe members presented good practices from different countries. As an organization, GE worked on a Written Declaration on Mental Health and Asylum Seekers hoping to table it in the European Parliament.</p>

In April, for the first time, GE initiated one full day of Strategy Meeting with the participation of Board Members, staff and facilitated by Paul Micallef. That was an opportunity to review activities and planning for the future. Issues addressed included:

- What needs to be done in order to strengthen membership?
- The necessity of working in coalition with other organisations;
- The need to carry out a survey to find out what members expect from the organisation;
- How GE could sell itself in the best and effective way;
- A decision to review the vision and mission statements;

GE organized several Board committees throughout the year including Executive Committee, the Governance Committee, the Research Committee and the Editorial Committee.

Board Members and staff represented GAMIAN-Europe in activities hosted by other organizations such as European Brain Council (EBC), European Patient Forum (EPF), European Patient Association (EPA), European Federation of Associations of Families of People with Mental Illness (EUFAMI), World Health Organization (WHO), European Federation of Neurological Associations (EFNA), WFMH, Expert Platform, European Medicines Agency (EMA), LEAR and at events organized by pharmaceutical companies.

Three meetings of the Interest Group Meeting were organized and GE participated in the Joint Action on Mental health and Well-being. Besides, GE worked on the Written Declaration on Mental Health and Asylum. Three newsletters were produced and distributed to members and other interest parties. The GE website was updated and a meeting of the Patient Advisory Board was held. GE were in contact with the Commission regarding the research projects.

Regarding to the financial situation, since the end of March 2016 GAMIAN-Europe has been losing income given to the loss of grants GE used to receive from its major sponsors. The Board has decided to establish an Emergency Committee which analyzed the situation and accordingly the Board made some decisions regarding encouraging income and reducing expenses. This was the reason behind the decision to change the GE Annual Convention from the usual three days to one day Convention.

	<p>It is necessary for GE to define our financial status and get details of income, expenditure and outstanding debt. Also, GE board members need to discuss GE business functionality and review GE funding and fundraising base.</p> <p>On one hand, GAMIAN-Europe's income needs to increase and new resources needs to be found. On the other hand, several unnecessary costs need to be cut. Nigel will be tasked to inform the Board on the financial situation and the options available to GAMIAN-Europe.</p> <p>In parallel, GAMIAN-Europe will reduce costs by organizing only one event per year, combining the Convention and the Seminar, the Board will organize virtual meetings and all expenses will be considered carefully, usually according to the budget.</p> <p>Yoram expressed his gratitude towards all the members, the Board Members and the staff for their dedication and encouraged all to keep working on being the voice of patients affected by mental health conditions.</p>
<p>6. Strategy meeting</p>	<p>The aims of the meeting were to take stock of GE activities until now, while keeping a clear eye on the future. Stability and continuity are important for an organization – but so is innovation.</p> <p>Membership – What GE has to offer? Why should organizations become members? In order to strengthen membership – better communication is required, we need to motivate members become engaged and involved. GE has to think of new ways of 'dressing up and selling' itself, find new ways to attract organizations to join. As for now GE identity is currently unclear and it is hard to sell the organization. This is why the unique properties of the organization should be identified, visible and built on.</p> <p>Currently not all EU countries are represented in the organization. GE also need to think about working with others to make its voice stronger, working in coalition with other organizations as family and patient associations.</p> <p>It was underlined that the content is not updated. The website is difficult to manage and needs to be addressed. It should be a clearing house for quality information. We will need to carry out a survey to find out what members expect from the organization.</p>

GE needs to make sure that companies realize that they benefit from this partnership, that GE is the collective and strong patients' advocacy voice. The question remains as to how GE sells itself in the best and most effective way, evolving into a more innovative body.

We need to revisit GE vision and mission statements, it is the 'why' GE exists (vision), the 'what' GE should do (mission) and the 'how' (core values). Draft vision statement was agreed: **"Our business is to ensure that the patient's voice is expressed, listened to, understood and responded to"**. Draft mission statement was agreed: **GE advocates in a caring, passionate, transparent and collaborative manner for positive outcomes.**

Decisions: Adopt of draft vision and draft mission, renew of Membership Committee, organizing 2 meetings with sponsors during a year, collaborate with organizations, delegate the website from Paul Arteel to Eric Vander Eycken, initiating a 2nd Strategy Meeting.

Elise Torossian raised a concern about the terms of participation in regional meetings and mentioned that she would like to have an observatory status and not be excluded.

The President explained how the regional seminars are organised and added that the new board will have decided how to proceed with regional seminars, taking into consideration the organization's financial situation.

Bill George asked about the links between EU Parliament and GAMIAN-Europe and did not have any reply. John Bowis mentioned that Christine Marking knows all the present information about this. Bill George then asked for information about the EP Interest group. The President said that it is a very important issue for GAMIAN-Europe, and he added that on 15-SEP 2016 the Board decided to ask every member organization to support GAMIAN-Europe in its work on refugee/asylum seekers and Mental Health issues.

Andre Castalan asked for more details about the way GAMIAN-Europe works with the EP, including the names of the people GAMIAN-Europe is in contact with.

Nigel Olisa replied to Andre that the reports of the IG in the EP are uploaded on the website. John Bowis asked Nigel Olisa to provide the General Assembly with a list of supporters.

	<p>Urve Randmaa mentioned that she is visiting very often the organization’s website and that she finds a lack of transparency. She wants to find information about every meeting in the EP on the website. She said there should be information about the meeting and the outcome.</p>
<p>7. Financial situation by Nigel Olisa</p>	<p>Urve Randmaa made the following remark: <i>I checked all the reports and contracts. I have some recommendations. We have to be careful because Board members may be held responsible by their own property. Second, in the past when we did not have money we were buying less services and we were organizing less seminars and meetings, including less Board and executive committee meetings.</i></p> <p>Andre Castalan made the following recommendation: <i>you need to monitor closer the expenditures. How do you manage and how will you improve?</i></p> <p>Nigel Olisa responded saying: <i>‘by finding new funders’</i></p> <p>Andre asked: <i>will you do this yourself?</i></p> <p>Nigel replied: <i>I will try to engage new funders, also put some marketing strategy together, i.e. being involved in meetings where potential funders will be. This will involve extra work.</i></p> <p>Andre replied: <i>I have experience in this. We changed our process and it cost more money than before. Please pay attention.</i></p> <p>John Bowis proposed to broaden the sponsors.</p> <p>Katerina Nomidou, pointing at the figures on the slide, asked if these are the final results and Nigel Olisa replied positively. Raluca Nica added that it comes from loss of sponsors.</p> <p>Elisa Torossian asked Nigel why sponsors are not interested in mental health. Nigel Olisa explained that some sponsors used to be interested in mental health but now have changed focus i.e. rare diseases.</p>

	<p>John Bowis added that many companies sell parts of their companies and spend money in specific fields while leaving others suffering underfunding.</p> <p>Luis Manuel Nascimento de Oliveira asked why we don't consider Horizon 2020 projects. Nigel Olisa said because the projects take much time to be approved and because GAMIAN-Europe cannot be the leader of projects since we do not have the capacity to undertake such projects as a leader, at least for the moment.</p>
<p>8. BUDGET PROPOSAL 2016-2017</p>	<p>Urve Randmaa said she wants to understand the budget line per line. She wants the details of expenditure. Urve recommends to buy less services.</p> <p>Nigel Olisa replied that it's difficult to collect membership fees. Robert Kristof reminded the Assembly that Paul Arteel was reducing membership from reimbursement of travels to seminars. Andre Castalan mentioned that this is difficult and he would prefer to separate these. John Bowis mentioned that if an organization does not pay until a certain day then this sum will be deducted from the reimbursement amount. John Bowis said he will refer this point to the new Board.</p> <p>Urve Randmaa added that she wants information only about expenditures.</p> <p>Nigel Olisa says that there is only one meeting in person now (the others by skype)</p> <p>Dolores Gauci proposed to start cutting down the catering cost of IGs (500 x 4 = 2000). Nigel Olisa replied that these costs are important because it is during lunches where networking takes place.</p> <p><u>Travel/parking 1500:</u> The Assembly proposed to delete this line from the budget</p> <p>Urve Randmaa said that the General Assembly amount of 20.000 Euros is too low. She proposed to cut money from a staff salary and to add it to the General Assembly.</p> <p>She also proposed to diminish Christine's fees. Yoram Cohen said that the budget is just a frame, that what Christine is doing is part of our income and that Nigel Olisa supports Christine's work.</p>

	<p>Raluca Nica asked how does Christine get paid from the 3 Horizon2020 projects. Nigel Olisa replied that Christine Marking gets paid for her involvement in the EC Research projects based on her attendance to the consortium meetings, reporting to the EC on the project progress, amendment of the project newsletters and promotion of the project amongst GE members. In addition to this, she is paid a maximum of 30.000 Euros a year based on her original consultant contract with GE for the promotion of GE and its activities i.e, written declaration, adaptation of documents, involvement in Research Committee and also for the organisation of the Interest Group Meetings (insufficient reply)</p> <p>Kristina Jandric mentioned that project money should not top salaries but cover salaries.</p> <p><u>General opinion:</u> the % of EU money allocated to salaries is not clear in the budget. John Bowis asked the Assembly to vote on budget.</p> <p>BUDGET UNANIMOUSLY approved subject to changes of presentation.</p>
<p>9. Activities planned for the next year</p>	<p>Nigel Olisa talked about the schizophrenia guide. Andre Castalan said that previous years what they received from GAMIAN-Europe was not possible to distribute it because there was no mention on the writers and copyright infos. Nigel Olisa explained that GAMIAN-Europe cannot fund printing and translations.</p> <p><u>Schizophrenia Companion Guide:</u> 48.540 Euros (see pages 24-25 of the Conference package) Katerina Nomidou proposed to not make deals with companies like Oxford Pharma without clear numbers.</p> <p>Bert Aben said he has a question about the auditor, because the way the balance and budget is presented is quite strange. He mentioned that he had discussed this already with Paul Arteel. He continued saying that he does not understand how it is possible to have a loss of 52.000 and a loss of 22.000, and added: <i>I don't say the figures or the auditor are wrong. I don't understand. I propose us as a board to talk to the auditor. Paul was doing this his way. It is important for the new board to discuss procedures and publications with the auditor.</i></p>

	<p>Dolores Gauci asked Bert Aben if his problem is the way our auditor presents his reports. Bert Aben proposed to employ an international auditor, i.e. Deloitte and Dolores replied that GAMIAN-Europe cannot afford this cost.</p> <p>General Assembly agreed to appoint the Auditor and John Bowis added that the auditor report should be improved.</p> <p>Control commission of three members: Gordana Boric, Elise Torossian and Urve Randmaa.</p>
10. ELECTIONS	

John Bowis closed the meeting of the General Assembly of GAMIAN-Europe at 10:30.