



E.R.I.C. – European Rotaract Information Centre

Minutes

Board & Country Representatives Meeting

REM Bratislava, Slovakia
14.01.2017



Meeting Minutes

Rotaract European Meeting, Winter 2017

January, 14th, 2017

Agenda

FIRST SESSION

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 09:00 – 09:10 | Anthems of Slovakia, Rotary & Europe | |
| 09:10 – 09:15 | Welcome & Introduction | Jens Christian S Pedersen, President |
| 09:15 – 09:20 | Country call, proxies, agenda | Fatima Sultygova, Secretary |

SECOND SESSION

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|---------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 09:20 – 09:35 | Q&A session to the board updates | Jens Christian S Pedersen, President |
| | | Fatima Sultygova, Secretary |
| | | Alex Storck, Social Officer |
| | | Sanja Šain, Marketing Officer |
| 09:35 - 09:45 | Q&A session to the EUCO updates | HOC EUCO Warsaw |
| 09:45 - 09:55 | Q&A session to the REM updates | HOC REM Ljubljana |
| 09:55 - 10:00 | Announcements | |

THIRD SESSION

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|---------------|---|
| 09:55 – 10:15 | Presentation of REM Winter 2018 candidate Izmir |
| 10:15 – 10:35 | Presentation of REM Winter 2018 candidate Vilnius |
| 10:35 – 11:00 | Voting for REM Winter 2018 |

11.00 - 11.20 Coffee Break

FOURTH SESSION

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|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 11:20 – 11:40 | Bylaws changes presentation |
| 11:40 – 12:00 | Voting for the bylaws changes |
| 12:00 – 13:00 | Discussion |
| 13:00 | END OF MEETING |



FIRST SESSION

09:10 – 09:15 Anthems of Slovakia, Rotary & Europe

09:15 – 09:20 Welcome & Introduction and agenda

President Jens Christian Steenvinkel Pedersen welcomes everyone to the second of the three conferences of the year 2016-2017, and announces the agenda for the meeting.

09:20 – 09:25 Country call, proxies

The Secretary Fatima Sultygova does the country call and checks the presence of Country Representatives (in the following shortened to CRs) and the previously declared proxies for absent CRs.

The presence list can be seen in the table at the end of the minutes. 32 CRs or their proxies are present, representing 99 district votes.

SECOND SESSION

09:25 – 09:35 Q&A session for the Board Updates (Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Social, Marketing)

It was at first decided to have only Q&A session for the Board Updates, missing out presentations themselves to save time of the meeting, as all the materials were sent to CRs prior to the meeting.

Question from Hanna (CR of The Netherlands): what are the plans of the Board for the rest of the year?

Answer: Jens (E.R.I.C. President) has answered to that telling about the plan of making a pan-European Social Project Buy-One-More, having some great workshops for the EUCO, composing a Whitebook, and smooth transition to the new board.

Alex (E.R.I.C. Social Officer) added to that telling in more details about the service project. He has also told about the procedure of BESP and TCA evaluation is year and the 2 webinars that will be done in nearest future (on BOM and on twinning).

Unfortunately, the overall experience of Q&A sessions instead of presentations can hardly be called positive. One of the reasons could of course be the fact that it was done for the first time, and CRs need to get used to this. However for a further note: it's better to have at least some reminders of the content of presentations in front of the eyes - on the screen or printed - if there is no time for full presentations.

As soon as the Board realized the concept didn't work as planned, we have switched to the old format, and asked HOCs Warsaw and Ljubljana to make presentations instead of Q&A sessions.

09:35 - 09:50 HOC EUCO Warsaw updates

Accommodation:

Two hotels are booked for the guests: Novotel Centrum and Novotel Airport.

Transfer time from one hotel to another is 20min by bus

If enough packages are booked in Novotel Airport, the HOC will provide a free shuttle which will run between the hotels 10 times a day.

Conference rooms:



Are available in Novotel Centrum, but HOC aims at reserving conference rooms in Palace of Culture.

Packages:

For now all 3-days packages in Novotel Centrum are sold out. Other packages will be sold in the following waves.

In total 400-450 packages are confirmed, the registration is going slower than expected. Many people are waiting till later and still making up their minds.

HOC has a chance to cancel up to 20% of the rooms booked in hotels only before February, 14th. Therefore, if before that time needed number of packages won't be booked, the HOC will reduce the number of booked rooms in order not to bear big losses.

Over 900 participants can be hosted with accommodation at the moment.

Meals:

Every day 1 meal apart from breakfast will be offered for all participants.

Some days there will be coupons for restaurants in the city center given out, and participants will be able to choose themselves, where and when to eat.

Parties and venues:

Wednesday – basement of national Opera of Poland, Indian decoration

Thursday - Opening

Friday – Space club (biggest club in Warsaw, up to 1500ppl)

Saturday – Gala will take place in Expo Hall (~10min from both hotels)

Optional Activities of all kinds will be offered

Service Project

There are 2 ideas: blood donation and baking cakes for homeless people

To make blood donation possible even during the event with parties every day, HOC thinks about making it on Wednesday when people just come from the plane, with still “clean” blood.

Then on Friday we will be baking cakes for homeless people and orphanage

Matthieu is still open for discussions on this topic

Extra costs:

4-6eur for drinks at parties

Group discounts at local museums

Payment system:

SEPA payments

Bank cards

Pre-EUCO will be in tri-city in north of Poland: Gdansk, Trimesto and Sopot



Post-EUCO will be in Krakow during the students week -> lots of parties and concerts. + lots of possibilities to discover history and legends of Krakow and go to Weliczka Salt Mine

Questions:

How will the meals work with 2 hotels?

If the meal is in Novotel Centrum, there will be a shuttle taking people from Novotel Airport there. Otherwise, with coupons people will be able to eat in one of many restaurants around the city (also there will be a restaurant next to Novotel airport).

How will you select, who lives in which hotel?

There are different types of packages. Normally for the EUCO conferences there are 2 types of hotels: a main hotel and a cheaper one. In the beginning we planned to book 1* Ibis budget hotel, but in the end we booked a 4**** Novotel Airport without changing the price.

How many participants do you have so far?

For now we have 415 packages confirmed, and few on-hold (those for which we still didn't receive the bank transfer confirmation). So in total we have around 700 packages still available.

For those who are not able to decide early, they might not be able to book their package?

The issue is that in our contract with the hotels there are dates on which we can still cancel some of the rooms without penalties. So in our case on February, 15th we can cancel up to 20% of the rooms. If we see that registration is going slowly, we will cancel some of the rooms. So the faster people will register, the bigger the EUCO will be, but of course, the registration will be open while there are still unsold packages.

09:50 - 10:05 HOC REM Ljubljana updates

David Lukanovic presented the website of REM Ljubljana, REM2017Ljubljana.org

Ljubljana is the smallest city that will be hosting an ERIC event, it has only ~300k citizens.

The theme of the event will be Green Fairytale because Ljubljana is called a green capital of Europe.

Accommodation

There are 2 main hotels with 360-370 beds. Half of the participants will stay in the Grand Hotel Union, founded in 1905 and having a great history connected with Rotary, and also the meeting place for Rotary Club Ljubljana. It's managed by a rotarian.

Another hotel, Lev, owned by the same person. It's a more modern hotel, 5min away.

Both hotels are in the city center, both are 4****, but Lev has a little bigger rooms.

HOC

The REM connects the whole district. 3 Rotaract clubs in Ljubljana + 4 clubs organizing 1 Pre- and 2 Post- trips.

Pre-REM: Maribor trip with wine-tasting, national cuisine, etc.

Post-REMs:

1. Land and time express (made by 2 clubs) – you will see the whole Slovenia



2. “Rehab” – thermal resort

Registration

Sales will start 2 weeks after EUCO Warsaw, the process will be same as for REST trip.

1 wave – 2 weeks after EUCO

2 wave – 1 month after EUCO

Payment methods: SEPA, PayPal

Social Project

Idea is to have something “green”

Questions:

Aren't you afraid of having a long registration period as Warsaw is having now? Because Athens also started right after EUCO Milan, and as a result was selling packages all summer long. Maybe it's better to start a little later?

No, we want to have only 2 waves, and I don't think the 3rd will be needed. Ljubljana is a small city, and it will be a comparatively smaller REM, so there won't be many packages. After all it also depends on what do you prefer. For us it's the end of May or beginning of June.

Will it be possible to buy Pre- and Post- REMs already in the 1st wave?

Yes, the money will be getting to the main account of the whole Rotary district, we are doing all the events in 1 country and 1 district, so all registration can be done together. To make it fair for those registering in the 2nd wave, the number of packages for the trips will be divided between the waves.

I can't tell you yet, how many places here will be in total for each trip, but the people responsible for it do their best.

10:05 – 10:15 RYLA NA presentation

Johannes Steininger is making a presentation about a RYLA North America.

What's RYLA NA?

The size is comparable to EUCO

There are people from 40-50 different countries.

Participants are hosted in George Washington University dormitories 200m away from White house.

Incoming RI President is there every year for the keynote speech – this tells you a bit about the importance of the event.

It's all about experience, many countries are presented in an “expo” similar to our Country Booths, teambuilding activities, contests, workshops, volunteering, embassy visits and a Gala in University Hall. Sightseeing is a must. Most museums are for free, and everything you see in movies, you can really visit.

Starting rate is 425\$ for a 5-day RYLA with accommodation. Dates are June, 17-22nd 2017.

The event is great but it has too little Europeans, so please come and improve it!



THIRD SESSION

10:15 – 10:40 Presentation of REM Winter 2018 candidate Izmir

HOC Izmir started their presentation with a promotional video

Izmir is a 3rd biggest city in Turkey after Ankara and Istanbul, and 2nd biggest city on Aegean sea after Athens with population over 4mil people.

Travel possibilities are quite good: the city is easily reachable: direct flights from biggest European cities, buses and trains from Balkan countries, ferry from Greece. For 100-150eur one can get there and back.

Proposed dates of the REM: 11-14th January, 2018

Packages are named after most popular towns in Izmir. Prices are:

- Full package 3 days: 165/195eur
- Full package 2 days: 130/165eur
- 3 days without accommodation: 115/125eur
- 2 days without accommodation: 85/95eur
- Gala only 75eur

Proposed schedule is given: social project is scheduled for Friday, ERIC Meeting, Workshops and Gala are taking place in Hilton hotel. Gala venue is for up to 1000 ppl.

Parties: “Oldies but Goldies 1970s”, “Henna Night” and “HaREM” for Gala

Accommodation: 2 hotels in city center next to each other

Social project, 3 options:

- Peace wall – painting a wall all together
- Rotaract Forest – planting trees
- Helping hand for Refugees – since Turkey is most inhabited with Syrian refugees, we can find a way to give them a hand

Several optional activities are presented: towns Cesme, Ephesus, Izmir sightseeing, Bergama and Pamukkale Travertens

Pre-REM will be in Istanbul, Post-REM – in Capadoccia.

Questions:

What is the visa policy for Turkey?

Some countries don't need a visa. Other countries need an electronic visa, but it only costs 15-20eur.

You said, there are 700 packages? Or is it wrong? How many packages are you planning to have?

Hotels capacity is 1000 people, so 1000 rotaractors can come to this REM. To think of how many packages to offer we should learn the past REMs capacities and attendance. I can't tell that now. – **It's less than a 1000. 700 is maximum** – so 700 is fine.

It seems that situation is kind of unstable there.

Izmir is safest place in Turkey. In Istanbul it isn't too safe because of government movements. The danger level is the same as in other European countries because the enemy is ISIS, and it's worldwide. Also, Izmir region was always after Ataturk party, which is not the leading party, so it's



not good for terrorists to bomb Izmir, since they are bombing those who support the government, and we are not.

What about unstable politics?

In April 2017 the regime will become stable after referendum.

Do you have any preliminary budget? Maybe you at least know your minimum target for sales? Breakeven point?

We can start the announcement after Slovenia, and in November we will have exact budget. Because we now say that we want 700 people, and there can be 600 people for example, so we can't say now.

I want 1 sentence from each of you: Why should we go to Izmir?

It has a best climate in winter, also you can see the historical places.

The people in Izmir are different because after the WWI lots of Greeks came to Izmir. And also food is different from the rest of Turkey, and you have to try the food culture.

10:40 – 11:05 Presentation of REM Winter 2018 candidate Vilnius

Lithuania as a history of more than 1000 years.

Presented the support letters of Governor, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, Prime Minister of Lithuania, and the Mayor of Vilnius. In 2018 Lithuania celebrates 100 years of Independence Restoration, so all the visitors will be warmly welcomed.

Access: Vilnius has an international airport, Kaunas airport is in 100km, Riga is in 300km + there's a shuttlebus with WiFi

Proposed dates: end of January

Everyone will live in 1 hotel, a modern Rock'n'Roll hotel 10min away from old town. Now there are also discussions with Radisson and Crowne Plaza. In case it succeeds, there will be a switch for the better quality.

Venues:

All the party venues will be the landmarks:

- Vilnius Town hall,
- Flour mill of 19th century in the middle of a forest,
- Palace of Dukes for Gala

Packages:

- 350 packages in total – there's a possibility to extend it to 500, but the desire of HOC for now is to limit it
- Full package: 165\195eur
- Without accommodation: 105eur
- Gala: 80eur

Registration waves will start after REM Ljubljana, payment systems are bank transfer and credit card.

Optional activities:



Brewing factory, vodka and champagne factories, food tasting and cooking, unforgettable banya experience to relax, and more.

There is a desire to make some CR-bonding activities during the REM in cooperation with the Board.

Workshops with local businessmen.

Social Project will be connected with Youth Hotline because Lithuania is now no.1 in Europe by suicide rate. And this is the project the Rotary district is now performing. Now only 1 out of 4 calls is answered. And the project needs sponsorship to make it at least 1 out of 3 calls are answered, or better every second one.

Pre-REM: Kaunas, 2nd biggest city in Lithuania full of history and UNESCO protected heritage.

Post-REM: in Druskininkai with 2 options: 1) skiing, 2) spa

Questions:

How can we support the proposed social project?

Now the project is performed by Rotary, and we want to support it with donations. And after that we will make a report saying how did your input influence the project.

What about something more hands-on instead of donations?

Well, this is just an idea, not a final one; but we want to work on this problem. So if you come with your best experience, it will be a great help.

What's the temperature in January?

Well, it can be from -4 to -15, but we promise you a warm welcome, and that you won't get cold.

Don't worry, the coldest time is first weeks of January, so you'll be pretty safe on weather.

One sentence why should we come to Vilnius?

First of all, we have a big support of the government, and thus all the doors will be open for Rotaract.

Secondly, there was never an event in Vilnius, and you need to see it.

And lastly, we really want you to come because there will be a celebration of 100 years of independence, and your visit will be a huge gift to us, for which we will pay you back with a warm welcome. REM will be the first big event of the year, so we will start the big celebrations!

You said you are planning 350 participants in total, so how many early bird packages do you offer?

We are planning 50 packages for ERIC, and 50 for early bird. If ERIC will want less packages, then we can make more early birds.

What's the biggest value of the Lithuanian people?

We are international. We've been the biggest country in Europe in 16th century, and thus now any country citizen can find something of their own culture in our country.

Early bird packages will be open to everyone?

Yes, as usual. After REM Ljubljana we will announce the exact date and time of the early bird wave start.



11.05 - 11.20 Coffee Break

FOURTH SESSION

11.05 - 11.10 Country Call before the voting

Second country call is made in order to check the presence of CRs after the break, give out voting bulletins, and start the voting procedure.

The presence list can be seen in the table at the end of the minutes. 34 CRs or their proxies are present, representing all 100 district votes.

11:10 – 11:15 Voting for REM Winter 2018

For decision to be taken, 2/3 of the votes is needed

Total number of votes	REM Izmir	REM Vilnius	Abstained
100	9	86	4

Result: *The REM 2018 Winter will take place in Vilnius*

11:20 – 11:40 Bylaws changes presentation

Fatima Sultygova reminded CRs the 4 proposed changes in Bylaws:

1. Adding the list of ERIC countries to the Bylaws p.4
2. Adding criteria of previously serving as a CR or a Board member to all Board positions candidates
3. Extension of Social Officer duties named in Bylaws. As explained by the current Social Officer, Alexander Storck, the duties added are now anyway performed by the Officer of each year.
4. Changing part 4 of the Bylaws, "The E.R.I.C. Meetings" according to a proposal made. Rewritten section has a structure similar to Event Manual and some additions to the rules of the events.

The discussion of points 2 and 4 has followed.

Discussion points

P2. Adding criteria of previously serving as a CR or a Board member to all Board positions candidates.

Points brought up FOR the change:

- Without previous experience, a person will lose a lot of time for learning;
- If a person is motivated enough to serve as a Board member, why can't he become a CR first?
- We want continuity in Board to progress, and hence the person who knows what was happening in past years will do better for the positions;
- To become a DRR you also normally have to formerly be a President of a club, and no one argues that;
- Every year there are 50 new CRs, so there is enough of diversity already

Some of the comments AGAINST the change were:

- The criteria narrows down the number of applicants;
- A former CR might not be the best person for the position comparing to other rotaractors;



- If a former CR and another Rotaractor apply together and have relatively similar background, CR will be voted through anyway in most cases due to his experience as a CR;
- IT and Marketing should be the people in the profession in the first place, CR experience is not as important for these positions;
- There are enough of active rotaractors with enough experience who though have never been a CR;
- Some people may want to be involved in ERIC dealings, but not interested in representing their country;
- The more things strictly regulated by Bylaws, the less deciding power the CRs have. So why not making it not a rule but a criteria/advise.

Additional comments: it would not be needed to put that rule in, if CRs would do their work telling the people, what is ERIC, how it works, and what is happening in there. Then people who are not CRs would also know everything, and the continuity will be possible.

P4. Changes to the part 4 of the Bylaws, “The E.R.I.C. Meetings” according to a proposal made. Rewritten section has a structure similar to Event Manual and some additions to the rules of the events.

Comments about the pricing policy:

Valeriu Istrati (Past-CR of Moldova): The more we sophisticate the system, the harder it becomes for us. I feel like if we make it a free market, it will regulate itself and solve itself entirely.

Bernhard Pribyl (Past-CR of Austria and past Secretary of ERIC): I think dividing Europe in 2 parts is not a good idea because first of all ERIC should bring Europe together, and not separate it. I can understand, why you did it and what is the idea behind, and as an Austrian, I can actually organize a EUCO now because of this pricing. The drawback is now with a huge gap in pricing there's no incentive for Western Europe now to try put energy in making events cheaper, and also I predict that now we will have conferences in the East with a lot of people, and conferences in the west with much smaller amount of people who can afford it. Also we had a really big issue with small amount of applicants, and narrowing down the number of countries who can apply can result in even more problems with this. So I say, let's see how it works, but in case it doesn't, we shouldn't be afraid to change it once more.

11:50 – 12:00 Voting for the bylaws changes

For decision to be taken, 2/3 of the votes is needed

Name of the issue	FOR the Change	AGAINST the change	Abstained	Total number
Adding the list of ERIC countries to Bylaws	84	16	0	100
Adding a criteria for each Board position applicant to previously be a CR or Board member	10	89	1	100



Fixing the list of responsibilities of a Social Officer	100		0	100
Changing the whole Part "4. The E.R.I.C. Meetings" of the Bylaws	70	23	7	100

Results:

1. The list of countries will be added to the Bylaws
2. The list of criteria for Board member applicants stays without changes
3. The list of Social Officer responsibilities will broaden
4. The Part "4. The E.R.I.C. Meetings" in the Bylaws will be changed according to the proposal of the Workgroup.

12:00

END OF MEETING

		Country Representatives						Presence CRs/ Proxies during Meetings [Present: 1, Not Present: 0]			
Country	CR 2015/2016	Proxy declared	CR declared	CR registered	District Votes	Country Votes	No district votes Reasons	9:25	11:05	TIME 3	TIME 4
Albania	Nermina Bakallioviq	Juliana Alijaj	1		0	1	Not an official District				
Andorra & France	Thomas Lamy		1	1	12	1		1	1		
Armenia					0	0	CR Cyprus				
Austria	Claudia Fallmann		1	1	2	1		1	1		
Azerbaijan	-				0	0	CR Turkey				
Belarus	Daria Savich		1		0	1	no signed papers				
Belgium	Ben Pintens		1	1	3	1		1	1		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Vojislav Gligic		1		0	1	CR Austria				
Bulgaria	Vyara Moskova	Anatoli Ganchev	1		1	1		1	1		
Croatia	Sandro Sertić		1	1	1	1		1	1		
Cyprus	Justin Hadjilambiris		1	1	1	1		1	1		
Czech Republic & Slovakia	Eva Harapesová		1	1	1	1		1	1		
Denmark	Louise Dahlerup Sørensen		1	1	4	1		1	1		
Estonia					0	0	CR Finland				
Finland	Tiina Lehti	Marie Eline	1		6	1		1	1		
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Nikola Marinovski		1	1	0	1	CR Slovenia	1	1		
Georgia	-				0	0	CR Cyprus				
Germany	Christian Püschel		1	1	15	1		1	1		
Great Britain	Sebastian Grieskamp							1	1		
Greece	Ekaterina Petkova		1	1	9	1		1	1		
Hungary	Asimenia Anthi		1	1	2	1		1	1		
Ireland	Adám Majoros		1	1	1	1		1	1		
Italy	Laëtitia Girot de Langlade		1	1	1	1		1	1		
Italy	Lucky Dalena		1	1	13	1		1	1		
Latvia	Janis Kundzins	Marius Krassauskas	1		0	1	CR Sweden	1	1		
Lithuania	Marius Krassauskas		1	1	1	1		1	1		
Luxembourg	Maria Jose Rodriguez		1		0	1	CR Belgium				
Malta	Jonathan Agius		1		0	1	CR Italy				
Moldova	Victoria Sirbu		1	1	0	1	CR Romania	1	1		
Monaco	-				0	0	CR France				
Montenegro	Aleksandra Dragoslavich		1	1	1	1		1	1		
Norway	Maria Eline Stigar		1	1	1	1		1	1		
Poland	Marcel Trzak	Ania Grzywacz	1		1	1		1	1		
Portugal	Susana Silva	Joaquim Freitas	1		2	1		1	1		
Romania	Raul Lupas		1	1	1	1		1	1		
Russia	Karina Episkoposyan		1	1	1	1			1		
San Marino	Carolina Mazza		1	1	0	1	CR Italy	1	1		
Serbia	Simona Zimonjic		1	1	0	1	CR Montenegro	1	1		
Slovenia	Ana Kisovar	David Lukanovich	1		1	1		1	1		
Spain	Maria Puy Guillén		1	1	3	1		1	1		
Sweden	Linnea Lundblad	Louise Dahlerup	1		6	1		1	1		
Switzerland & Liechtenstein	Natascha Hort		1	1	3	1		1	1		
The Netherlands	Hanna Tynke Visser		1	1	4	1		1	1		
Turkey	Olgu Özdemir	Aleksandra Dragoslavich	1		3	1		1	1		
Ukraine	Olena Vorobiova	Elena Trofimchuk	1		0	1	no signed papers		1		
		4 Missing Proxies			100 District Votes	39 Country Votes	District Votes present	0	0	0	0
							Presence %	0%	0%	0%	0%
							Country Votes present	32	34	0	0
							Presence %	82%	87%	0%	0%
Colour Explanations								Overview District Votes in Bratislava			
CR present								District Votes present at REM Bratislava		100	
CR present, no district votes								Total Number District Votes ERIC members		100 District Votes	
CR not present, Proxy declared								Presence Percentage		100%	
CR not present, Proxy declared, no district votes								District Vote Presence Guideline			
CR not present, no Proxy declared											