

Europe
Rotaract



MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
EUROPEAN ROTARACT INFORMATION CENTRE
DATED 7 OCTOBER 2023

ATTENDANCE LIST

Country	Number of Rotaract Districts	CR 2023/2024	Attending
Albania	1	Geri Emiri	NO
Andorra	0	Pauline Lacan	YES
Armenia	0	Anna Gordienko	NO
Austria	2	Judith Leitner	YES
Azerbaijan	0	Not elected CR ¹	NO
Belgium	4	Mathias Van Cauwenberghe	YES
Belarus	0	Not elected CR	NO
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	Tamara Gojkovic (proxy: Judith Leitner)	YES
Bulgaria	1	Yoan Boychev	YES
Croatia	1	Lovro Rusak (proxy: Lara Rufenacht)	YES
Cyprus	1	Nicolas Lambrou	NO
Czech Republic	1	Jakub Machovec	YES
Denmark	5	Malene Nissen Gad	YES
Estonia	1	Ove Leisovnieks	YES
Finland	5	Miisa Korvenaho	YES
France	18	Pauline Lacan	YES
Georgia	0	Anna Gordienko	YES
Germany	15	Leander Rumps & Entela Safaj	YES
Greece	1	John Koutroumpris (proxy: Dragana Dojcinovic)	YES
Hungary	1	Blanka Bakai	YES
Iceland	1	Ásthildur Ómarsdóttir	YES
Ireland	0	Chris Mitchell	YES
Italy	14	Marcello Andria	YES
Latvia	1	Henriks Miesnieks (proxy: Aleksandra Voskoboņika)	YES
Lithuania	1	Agnius Stulpinas	YES
Liechtenstein	0	Lara Rufenchat	YES
Luxembourg	0	Armando Coviello	YES
Monaco	0	Pauline Lacan	YES
Montenegro	0	Jovana Nikčević (proxy: Dragana Dojcinovic)	YES
Moldova	0	Dan Zagnat (proxy: Zoltan Kato)	YES

¹ After the REM Stockholm, CR of Azerbaijan was elected

North Macedonia	0	Marko Paloski (proxy: Marija Mitrovska)	YES
Norway	1	Maria Waldenkratz	YES
Poland	1	Iga Koprowska	YES
Portugal	2	Henrique Sousa	YES
Romania	1	Georgia Rafaela Vusdea	YES
Russia	1	Alina Dvornik	YES
San Marino	0	Nicolas Rossini (proxy: Marcello Andria)	YES
Serbia	1	Dragana Dojčinović	YES
Slovakia	0	Monika Petrášová (proxy: Jakub Machovec)	YES
Slovenia	1	Monika Kern	YES
Spain	3	Wasima Cherif El Morabiti	YES
Sweden	6	Elin Nyberg	YES
Switzerland	3	Lara Rufenacht	YES
The Netherlands	7	Moreno Weilenmann	YES
Turkey	3	Orçun Güleç	NO
Ukraine	1	Tetiana Bilous	YES
United Kingdom	14	Chris Mitchell	YES
Total	119		
president		Veronika Botsova	YES
Vice-president		Katharina Weingärtner	YES
secretary		Adrianna Kończak	YES
treasurer		Stephanie Bramsell	YES
IT officer		Aron Pammer	YES
Social officer		Matteo Facchetti	YES
Marketing officer		Michel Jacques Verheyen	YES

41 CRs were present.

AGENDA:

1. Country Call

The country call was run by Adrianna.

Then, we celebrated birthday of Monika CR of Slovenia, who had her birthday on the day of the CR Meeting.

2. Updates from the Board 2023/2024

President

- o Veronika gave an update about a new procedure of selecting a social project and asked if all Crs received a CR handbook. The response was positive.
- o Veronika indicated that Rotaract Europe turned 35 this year and that board prepared a surprise to participants during gala². Rotaract Europe is the oldest MDIO and we should be proud of that.
- o Peace conference: Veronika explained that the idea started 2 years ago in Bosnia, last year the conference took place in Tunisia and most likely the conference will take place in March next year in Europe. Veronika encourage everyone to participate in the conference.
- o Rotaract App: The project started in France in Bordeaux, the group of enthusiasts is making currently a prototype. Soon we are having a meeting with IT of Rotary International about the application. We are going to ask CRs for a feedback about the application. There is not set deadline when the application will be launched. Next, Veronika presented to the CRs a promotional video of Rotaract App. Veronika was asked if French team collaborates with Germans who has already created a Rotaract app and as we understand the founders of Rotaract App contacted developers of other existing Rotaract applications. In addition, it is possible that there will annual fee around 10 (ten) EUR for subscribing the application.
- o WHO: We were invited by World Health Organization to one of its conference regarding the vaccination. This will be great opportunity to come and increase visibility of our organization. We will check if there are possible spots to come, please approach your countries and ask if there have any projects promoting vaccinations and please contact the board with that respect.

Vice-President

- o Katharina will organize one-to-one call with each Crs;
- o We will continue organizing workshops by the end of Rotarian year,

² We hope you liked the surprise!!!

- o Katharina is in contact with each HOC team of upcoming conferences in terms of organizing workshops;
- o CR challenge: most of the CRs haven't contacted it is buddy year, please do it as soon as possible; the Board hopes that each CR will have a change meet with its buddy;
- o Inclusivity & Anti-harassment committee is working to prepare an anti-harassment policy, the policy will be voted during REM Sofia;

Budget Update

- o Veronika and Stephanie presented update of the budget.
- o We are cutting costs of IT thanks to applying for free products designed for NGOs, if you need any help for example to obtain canva free license please let us know;

Social Officer

- o End Plastic Soup Clean-up Day: The event will take place between 14-15 October;
- o Matteo encourages everyone to engage clubs in one or more activities as part of the project;
- o Rotaract Europe Project 2023-2024: The theme of the project is Mental Health, the Crs will vote on the project. The application process will consist of filling out the project template and uploading it on a Google Drive form³

Marketing Officer

- o Michel informed that our goal is to inform followers and gain followers;
- o We lost one follower and we want to have more followers than Rotaract France ☺;
- o We want to reach more than 10k followers on Instagram;
- o We want to focus on Rotary themes;

IT Officer

- o We have a lot new free tools;
- o Voting tool provider: we migrated website and voting tool to a new provider;
- o Our goal is to build a new website with a new design;
- o We want to reduce IT spending to 0.00 EUR

³ Please bear in mind that after Rem Stockholm, Matteo send an email to Crs providing updated information about the Rotaract Europe Project 2023-2024

Presentation of the countries

- o We had presentations of three countries: Sweden, Czech Republic and Poland.

Sweden:

- o The presentation was made by Elin.
- o Elin said that they organize national conference every year, this year is going to be in Malmo.
- o Sweden used to have active national board;
- o Elin presented all active clubs in Sweden.

Czech Republic

- o The presentation was made by Jakub from Czech Republic.
- o There are 10 active clubs in Czech Republic, 4 in the making.
- o Jakub's district wants to organize REM in Prague in 2025;
- o There are two conferences each year, PETS and summer bonding;
- o Jakub presented couple projects of his districts;
- o Jakub encourage to follow his district on social media.

Poland

- o The presentation was made by Iga, CR of Poland;
- o Iga talked about biggest project of Poland started 6 years ago stop food waste now;
- o Iga was also talking about a project of her club "Młodzi Bohaterom (ENG: Young for Heroes) aiming at providing Christmas gifts to participants of Warsaw Uprising;

Coffee break

- o EUCO Milano Discussion Topic: What should be done to improve the quality of ERIC events in light of the experience from the last Euco?
- o We are trying to collect ERIC fees from organizers of EUCO Milano. Marcello said that organizers of EUCO Milano confirmed with him that the bank transfer has been made, however the due sum was decreased by the ERIC allowance.

- Veronika said that we will schedule a meeting with crs and past crs what should we change in our legal documents; we should discuss how should we act to make the events better, and what are the consequences of organizing a conference in a way not compliant with our bylaws. We will schedule the meeting at the end of calendar year. We will work with a legal committee to implement changes to our bylaws to ensure best quality of the conferences.
- Iga said that we should write in bylaws that HOC should consist of 4-5 people, 1-2 people can't handle organization of conferences such as REM or EUCO;
- Wasima said that Spain wants to propose the amendments to the bylaws that you have to be registered in the myrotary database to participate in the event or you can be invited guest of someone from Rotaract;
- ERIC board should have access to the budget, the idea is to control the HOC team once preparing and execution the budget;
- Matthias said that events committee does not have enough tools and it is not clear what is there responsibility, there should be one single point of contact from the events committee with the HOC team. Matthias organizers of conferences are struggling with payment system, we may try to implement Mollie system on the ERIC level, which is not free of charge. The team who wants to organize a conference should contact in advance HOC team before applying for organizing a conference;
- Entela: at each event people misbehave, we should have a team of people which you may contact in case of misbehavior, we want to great fun together, and not get drunk that don't remember everything. We should create a point of contact – a person that everyone may refer to if someone feels uncomfortable during a conference (such person would be sober during parties). Entela also added that is shocked by the level of unofficial Whatsapp group, his is the group started by friends and we can't moderate it, we can't stop the people from discussing there, we should encourage our delegation to enter the official group of events; Hajni added that EUCO Milano created a group where only organizers could make a post and it was a good idea;
- Max said that the problem is that people see events as parties not Rotaract, we do not live with Rotaract values;
- Wasima said that at next events we should have workshops how to increase the quality of events;
- Chris said that we should require financial transparency from organizers of conferences;

- Emil said that I REMs and EUCOs should be a learning experience for us, as in "what should be done and what should not be done in our events based on previous experiences". And perhaps share these experiences somehow with each other after event so that we keep doing what's done best and learn from and develop what could have been better. We now have an events committee which is working really hard on that which is great, but he would also recommend to have a more "hands on" intervention as most of the people organizing these events have never been part of REMs and EUCOs or maybe only to few which was not enough for them to have their expertise only involved in it. Or sometimes they're not actually sharing everything the way it really is with the Events committee and the ERIC board. So perhaps having the board or past members of successful HOCs being part of the new organizing committees would be a good idea if that works. He also recommends to have the venue of the sessions and meetings in the hotel if possible, as it would boost the attendance of the Rotaractors based on what I've seen before, as having the venue in a distant location makes people think twice if they go to the venue or do something else instead.

Voting topic – amendment of legal bylaws

- The voting topic was presented by Natalia, member of legal committee. The objectives of the amendment is to ensure compliance with new Luxemburg Law on Non-Profit Associations and Foundations (mandatory), continuing improvement in grammatical correctness and coherence of bylaws' wording and clarification on country voting method.

No questions were raised with respect to the voting topic.

Adrianna and Aron explained to CRs how the voting process will look like and CRs started voted process.

Adrianna announced the voting results, which are as follows:

First voting question: Do you accept the proposal of amendment of Rotaract Europe bylaws Part I and Part II?

Yes: 105 votes = 89,74%

No: 0 votes = 0%

Abstain: 12 votes: 10.26%

Second voting question: Do you accept the proposal of amendment of Rotaract Europe bylaws Part III.

Yes: 99 votes = 84.62%

No: 5 votes = 4.27%

Abstain: 13 votes = 11.11%

The both proposals were approved by the CRs and reached 2/3 majority of the general assembly.

OPEN MIC SESSION

- o Moreno presented vaccination project pursued by Dutch Rotaract and Rotary in India.
 - o Main part of the project was to vaccinate children against polio. The project consisted of two parts: first go to different villages to inform where and when to go and rotaractors also went to hospital to donate hospital supplies,
 - o The Whole goal of the rotary is to end polio, it is very heartwarming to see the project worked, we want to make a template to make it template for other rotary clubs.
 - o Veronika said that Dutch Rotaract did an amazing work, that are the project we want to see
- o Iga asked about sponsors outside the rotary, Rotary helped but it was most individual rotarians, it was too short to try to organise a big event with big sponsors;
- o Leonard said that so far no other clubs show interest to organize a similar project in Sweden.
- o Monika Kern asked how the idea of the project was created. Moreno responded that a few of us came to the idea and we reached to a club to India, this is something we want to do, we would like to replicate it and do it again. Moreno said that they will submit a project to project directory.
- o Tetiana, CR of Ukraine showed presentation about war in Ukraine
 - o She said that war is not over, 20 months ago, Russia started a full scale invasion, largest war in europe, Ukraine can't identify all numbers of deaths and victims;
 - o War is not politics, Russia commits crime everyday and infringes international conventions;
 - o Tetiana presented her experience of living in Ukraine,
 - o Lilya presented the latest Russian attacks in Kharkiv, which took place close to her home, her mum business was destroyed,

- o People who go to Russia and they spend money there, they help its economy;
- o Tetiana answered to a question how can you help Ukrainians right now?

Tetiana presented currently ongoing projects – the details you may find in the presentation attached to the minutes;

Tetiana thanked all the people who help Ukraine.

Armando said it was a very touchy presentation, and ask Tetiana to provide more details about ongoing projects.

- o Dragana provided information about Rotary Museum in Serbia. The objects will be segregated by the countries. Monika CR of Slovenia said that her father may donate objects to the museum.
- o Marcello asked when we are going to vote on the budget. Veronika explained that we voted on preliminary budget and we will vote on closing accounts of her term as president after 1 July 2024.
- o Asthildur presented event, which will take place at the beginning of November. She encouraged everyone to participate and said that participants will have a chance to admire northern lights, swim and eat Iceland food.

Update from upcoming events

- Marina presented next wave and deadlines.
- Social project: promotion of stem cells registry, Marina said the good thing that is international no matter from which country you're from you have your local registry, it is good we are from different countries, so we may promote this project in all Europe. How:? we will create a team and you will have certain steps you have to achieve.
- Local Currency is connected to euro, Bulgaria is not 100% cashless just in case have some local currency,
- There will be one hotel for the whole event
- Location of the hotel: very central location, you don't have to walk around, it will be convenient with all other things, for Thursday in the evening we are going to have a reception there, be before 18 on Thursday, because organizers will provide transportation to the venue,
- Marina presented the programme of the event: in the mornings: workshops and cr meetings + extra activities in the afternoon,
- Extra activities: exhibition: one day trip to the festival close to sofia → it is going to be a lifetime experience and iceskating;
- Pre-rem Skopje: The hotel will be Hotel London B&B right on the main square, kopje is located in the southern part of Europe: but please bring warm clothes,


- Moreno asked if all locations are going to be exclusive, Marina confirmed;

EUCO Bucharest:


- o There will be three main hotels, the main one will be Ibis Style;
- o President of HOC Team presented packages and deadline for registration for euco;
- o Georgia presented also extra activities and social project (duck race); and
- o Zato encouraged everyone to participate in Pre-EUCO which will take place in Transylvania in Târgu Mureş.

At this moment the meeting was closed.

Prepared and written by Adrianna Kończak

DocuSigned by:

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Adrianna Kończak

DocuSigned by:

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Veronika Botsova