



**IENE**  
Infra Eco Network Europe

## **Minutes from the IENE GA 2012, approved POSTDAM, October 24, 2012**

by Antonio Mira

### **1. Welcome and approval of the agenda**

- The Agenda was approved by the GA

### **2. Final approval of new committees**

- Only 10 people voted online. The proposal for the new SC was approved univocally, 8 of 10 respondents approved the new EC while 2 respondents did not have an opinion. (See attached survey results)
- The GA officially approved the new SC and EC.
- We decided to continue with this complementary system of both online and *on situ* GA approvals.

### **3. IENE Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and criteria for Conferences.**

- The GA approved the changes proposed at the GA in 2011.
- Point 17.1 of the MoU, about IENE scientific workshops and conferences. GA approved to change the name “IENE scientific workshops” to “IENE workshops” but strengthened the necessity of having criteria that workshops must meet to be organized under the scope of the IENE.
- It was proposed to remove the point about Working Groups (point 13) because it is already at Point 14, about IENE projects. The proposal was approved but the text of the MoU must be adapted to these changes.
- The Draft document “Criteria for IENE international conferences” is online on the website. GA members can send comments and suggestions till the end of the year.
- The new version of MoU (version 2012-10-24) is available at the IENE website. Comments are always welcome.

#### 4. Activity reports 2012

- 10 SC meetings on telephone, 1 face to face meeting in Vienna May 29-30
- Anders Sjölund presented the SC activities, Andreas Seiler presented the Secretariat's general activities and J-O Helldin presented the budget and results for the last year. The IENE reports were accepted.
- Miklos Puky summarized the participation of IENE in the Carpathian Convention. He highlighted that IENE was for the first time officially invited as an adviser group to be represented on these kind of international affairs.
- It was also highlighted that IENE SC gave input to meetings of the CEDR task group on wildlife and traffic.
- Minutes of the monthly SC meetings can be accessed by IENE members if so asked for. The GA however agreed that there is no need to publish these minutes to IENE members by email, because important results and decisions of these meetings will be discussed at the GA. SC will send only the relevant information to IENE members, while all members are welcome to contact the SC and ask for additional or more detailed information in the time between the GA's.
- Funding of the IENE core activities. Only the Swedish Transport Administration is providing funding so far (actually since 2008). This funding is not intended to continue for many more year unless there is a strong contribution from other countries as well. Andreas Seiler reminded the GA that all members must try to get new funds from the road and railway authorities of their respective countries. Tony Sangwine also suggested that it is fragile to depend only on the Swedish budget; he suggested to try to get money with a recruitment campaign.
- Point 4.d No projects or activities were presented. However, IENE members are always welcome to propose new projects or activities to the SC or through the IENE members list.

#### 5. IENE awards

- Elke Spindler commented that there was a positive perception and evaluation of the award giving ceremonies. There was a proposal for paying the expenses of the conference fees of the winners and to make the decision of the winner earlier to allow the winners to arrange their travels in time.

- IENE members are invited to send nominations for projects and persons at any time, but the deadline for nominations for the awards of a given year will be April 30 (if not notified differently).

## **6. IENE workshops and conference**

- There are now 3 proposal for IENE workshops in 2013: from Czech Republic, Romania and Austria. The IENE SC will evaluate the workshop proposals and inform IENE members about which workshops will take place. There may be several workshops during one year.
- Erland Røsten presented the next IENE conference 2014 to be held in Norway through collaboration between the Swedish Transport Administration and the Norwegian Public Roads Administration. Possible dates are on the first half of September, but the final decision must take in account the necessity on avoiding overlaying dates with other conferences. Dates will be discussed with IENE members through email.
- It was suggested that IENE 2014 Conference should produce similar public outreach as the conference in 2012 (the IENE 2012 Declaration on Defragmentation and Green Infrastructure). A potential topic of the IENE 2014 declaration is the protection of roadless areas.

## **7. CEDR Working Group**

- Elke Spindler reported that the CEDR Governing Board had asked the CEDR Project Group Wildlife and Traffic to develop an implementation plan for three recommendations given in the report “Mobility for Humans and Wildlife – cost-effective ways forward” from 2010. This report plan is now available as PDF and can be downloaded from the CEDR and the IENE website.
- This implementation covers three activities:
  - a) Updating the COST 341 Handbook “Wildlife and Traffic”
  - b) An international research programme
  - c) Supporting European exchange of knowledge (IENE network)
- During the conference, CEDR held two workshops for the further work with activity a and b. Summaries from these workshops will be published at the conference website.

- During the workshop about the update of the COST 341 European handbook missing topics were discussed. Authorship of the new version of the handbook was discussed.
- Carme Rosell informed that the Spanish Working Group on Habitat Fragmentation due to Transport infrastructure hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, was involved in the elaboration of the COST 341 handbook and that it would be positive to maintain the WG also involved on the project.
- It was approved to inform and invite all the previous authors of the Wildlife and Traffic Handbook (Iuell et al 2003) to participate in the updating, but not to require their approval.
- Miklos Puky informed from the CEDR workshop on the international research programme. Research priorities were identified: (i) performance and monitoring standards; (ii) review of the existing data; (iii) research on infrastructure effects on population development and genetics; (iv) climate change and adaptation; (v) citizen science.

## **8. LIFE+ Information & Communication**

- Lázáros Georgiadis informed that IENE will apply to the EU for a LIFE + Information & Communication project in 2013. It was mentioned that IENE profile fit well with the requirements. The main idea with the LIFE project is to secure funding for IENE core activities.
- However, the leading organisation has yet to be decided upon; developing and managing a Life Project requires substantial administrative support.
- The application is open to all IENE members who wish to participate.
- A member of the GA from a NGO explained that there are many other funding sources, especially for networking. But the GA concluded that LIFE+Info fits best the aims and needs of IENE

## **9. Discussions and Miscellaneous**

- Andreas Seiler and Paul Wagner presented ideas for strengthening the cooperation between IENE and ICOET. Establishment of scientific cooperation and strategic directions should be a priority. Members of each network will be integrated in the SC of the other.



At the moment Paul Wagner represents ICOET in the IENE SC and Anders Sjölund represent IENE in the ICOET SC .

- The GA supported the idea that the use of social networks must increase efficacy of discussions among IENE members, besides helping in information dissemination.
- The GA supports the use of applets for mobile phones and tablets aiming to record road-kill data. Andreas Seiler suggested that IENE could establish partnerships in order to develop a European wide reporting system of this data.
- It was suggested that the Bern convention could be used to support the implementation of wildlife corridors among Natura 2000 areas.

#### **10. Closing of the GA 2012**

- The IENE host of the Conference and the GA, Marita Boettcher traditionally was awarded a gift from the IENE. She was given a “dalahäst” a horse sculpture, traditional handcraft from the county of Dalarna in Sweden.
- The IENE General Assembly was closed by Anders Sjölund, the chair of the IENE Steering Committee.

