



## Minutes

### General Assembly

16 October 2020, 16:00 – 18:00

<b>Venue:</b>	videoconference	
<b>Present:</b>	Rupert Wimmer	IMPACTS President – Representing City of Zurich
	Jaagup Ainsalu	Representing City of Tallinn
	Nadhera Beletreche	International Relationships in the City of Paris
	Beatriz Huarte	Representing City of Barcelona
	Adrià Gomila	Representing City of Barcelona
	Senta Modder	Representing City of Amsterdam
	Pierre Schmitz	IMPACTS Treasurer
	Brendan O’Brien	Representing City of Dublin
	Angelika Winkler	Representing City of Vienna
	Fabio Nussio	Representing City of Rome
	Jan Rinman	Representing City of Gothenburg
	Burkhard Horn	IMPACTS Secretary
	Laura Mark	Assistant of IMPACTS Secretary
<b>Notes taken by:</b>	Burkhard Horn and Laura Mark	

#### 1) Welcome by President and Secretary

Burkhard Horn and Rupert Wimmer welcomed everyone to the videoconference. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic it was not possible to meet in an IMPACTS member city. Burkhard Horn stated that the General Assembly has a sufficient quorum for decisions. As the regular annual IMPACTS conference could not take place in Zurich in 2020 and has been postponed to 2021 Rupert Wimmer is reelected as IMPACTS President for another year unanimously.

## **2) Approval of Draft Agenda**

The agenda was adopted without amendments.

## **3) Approval of Minutes of Last General Assembly**

The minutes of the last General Assembly in London (October 2019) were agreed as an accurate record of the discussion.

## **4) Activities of the Association since last GA in London**

There were two videoconferences on the effects of Covid-19 on mobility and transport in the member cities. They took place on June 5<sup>th</sup> and on October 16<sup>th</sup> 2020 (right before the General Assembly). These conferences were considered as successful and as a proof for the importance of sharing knowledge and experiences between the cities using a network like IMPACTS. Due to Covid-19, there were no other activities since the last GA. The regular annual conference in Zurich announced for May 2021 had to be cancelled.

## **5) Financial Issues**

### **a) Report on the General Situation (bank account, budget)**

#### **Approval of the accounts 2018/2019, approval of the budget 2020 (if possible)**

Since two years there has been no access to the bank account in Paris. Therefore, the budget calculation can only be a simulation, since we do not know who has paid the membership fees in the last years.

Pierre Schmitz showed the simulation, assuming that all the cities have paid their membership fees, which would mean that in the beginning of 2020, there should have been around 67,000 Euro as budget for IMPACTS.

A new bank account in Brussels has now been established which can be used and can be accessed by Pierre Schmitz. 35,000 Euro from the Paris bank account were transferred to the new account in Brussels which means that current invoices can be paid until the beginning of next year.

Until now it has not been possible to get in contact with the responsible representatives from Paris (Claude Dargent who is no longer member of the City Council of Paris feels himself not responsible anymore for any IMPACTS issues, after the elections in Paris this year the process of defining new responsibilities within the city administration is still going on). The idea is to close the account in France and transfer the money to the account in Belgium. However, before being able to do that, we need to get access to information about the payments done in the last two years. This is necessary to be able to find out which city has paid their membership fees. Some cities have already stated that they were not able to pay, while for some representatives it would be complicated to find out if their city has paid or not.

Nadhera Beletreche, working for International Relations at the city of Paris, will try to find out more information about the bank account in France and help us with any communication with the bank and Amelie Gondre-Nascimento (former assistant to Claude Dargent and still working in the city administration), if possible.

Once the information about the payments on the French accounts are available Pierre Schmitz will prepare the tables of the budgets for 2019 and 2020 for approval.

Any further discussions about the accounts and the bank account are postponed until there is more information about the payments. There is going to be an extraordinary General Assembly in December (combined with the next videoconference on COVID-19) to deal with this issue.

#### **b) Membership Fees**

Pierre Schmitz made the suggestion to reduce the membership fees to 1,500 Euro for 2020 since due to Corona and the canceled conference there was less benefit for the cities and less costs for IMPACTS.

Rupert Wimmer added the question if it would be possible to not raise a fee for 2020 at all. However, this was opposed since IMPACTS did have some costs and will need some funds to organize the conference next year (after all the projected budget by Pierre Schmitz is probably rather optimistic). And at least there has also been some benefit in 2020 (videoconferences). Also, some cities stated that it would be complicated for them to not have the membership fee in the household every year, since they would have to explain this to their financial department.

It was agreed to raise a membership fee for 2020 but lower it to 1,500 Euro.

Pierre Schmitz stressed that this membership fee will go directly to the bank account in Brussels with no access problems.

Once it is clear which cities have not paid the membership fees for the previous years Pierre Schmitz (and/or the new treasurer) will discuss with each city separately if and how the old membership fees can still be paid. For example, an option would be to include those fees in the invoice for 2020.

If the cities can get the information about their payments directly from their financial department that would be helpful. Those who can should do that and communicate this to Pierre Schmitz. Adrià Gomila states that he knows that Barcelona has not paid for 2018 and 2019. However, some representatives are not able to get this information, so we will have to wait until we get the information from the French bank account.

#### **6) Election of a new Secretary General**

Claude Dargent is no longer a member of the City Council of Paris and therefore also has retreated from any function for IMPACTS including the position of the Secretary General. It is not yet clear who will represent Paris in IMPACTS in the future.

Angelika Winkler is willing to take the role as Secretary General. It is not a problem that she is not from Paris. However, it is necessary to keep in mind the regulations from France since IMPACTS is officially registered in France. Pierre Schmitz has offered his support for Angelika Winkler if there should be any questions.

Angelika Winkler was elected unanimously as new Secretary General.

#### **7) Election of a new treasurer**

Rupert Wimmer was elected as new treasurer of IMPACTS unanimously, getting into effect January 1st 2021.

Everybody agreed that Pierre Schmitz should stay treasurer until end of the 2020 to continue dealing with the bank in France and to send the invoices for the membership fees for 2020 (and maybe previous years).

Everybody agreed that Rupert Wimmer should get access to the bank account as soon as possible.

The bank in Brussels where the new account is also has a agency in Zurich. It would be possible to keep using this account and transfer it to Zurich. But these are decisions to make not before next year.

## **8) Election of the Executive Committee**

Jan Rinman, Adrià Gomila, Josephine Vos (in absence, therefore with reservation), Senta Modder, and Brendan O'Brien are elected unanimously as members of the Executive Management Board (EMB). Rupert Wimmer as president and treasurer and Angelika Winkler as Secretary General will also automatically be part of the EMB.

## **9) Report of the Secretary**

### **a) Videoconference on December 18<sup>th</sup> 2020**

There are already some offers for presentations. Everybody agreed that it is not necessary to have a specific topic. Instead, we should continue to focus on the experiences of the cities concerning the effects of COVID-19 on mobility and transport in their cities. The cities are free to choose the topic they want to discuss at that moment in this connection. Rupert Wimmer suggested to have some more time for discussion which could mean extending the overall time of the conference or having less presentations.

### **b) Our "new" website**

IMPACTS has a new website since about one year. The calendar function has not been used yet. Burkhard Horn asked for experiences in using the new website.

Pierre Schmitz stated that he is using the website frequently. The documentation of the older conferences (before 2016) is still missing and should be added. Burkhard Horn stated that not all content has been transferred due to time restraints but this will be done soon. For now, the announcement will be added that the old presentations will be transferred piece by piece.

Apart from that, the website is rather used as a reference to give to colleagues, for example for the presentations of the video conferences. Interest in the agenda function is low. No changes in design, structure and content are necessary (apart from adding the documentation of the old conferences).

### **c) Expanding the network in Europe**

**Hamburg** is still interested in joining IMPACTS. Besides Berlin, it would be the second German member city. However, Berlin is still not very active and there is still no representative on the technical level which makes cooperation difficult at times, as Burkhard Horn explained.

While Pierre Schmitz raised concerns about inviting a second city from the same country since it might be perceived as unfair by other countries and it might make the network grow too much it was decided that Hamburg could be invited to join the next videoconference and the conference in Zurich in 2021 as guest. The issue of a membership could be discussed again in the General Assmebly 2021 (also depending on the situation Berlin which hopefully will improve). It would also be an option to ask the other member cities if any cities in their countries might also be interested in joining (to avoid potential conflict).

However, as stated Ádria Gomila, it is not really a risk that IMPACTS will grow too much, and especially in this time of uncertain further development, it might be good to have a motivated city as an additional member of the network.

Everybody agreed that IMPACTS should wait until the bank account problem is solved before inviting Hamburg (or any other city) to join IMPACTS formally as a member city. Invitations to take part in conferences as a guest are possible.

**Geneva** is not participating in the network anymore for more than a year. Once the we know more about the payments of the membership fees for the last years we will know if Geneva has paid their membership fees. If not, they will no longer be considered a part of IMPACTS. This issue will be dicussed in December at the extraordinary GA.

**St Petersburg** started their participation in the network very actively. However, now due to the Covid-19 crisis and after a political change they requested the status of an associate member without having to pay membership fees for the next two years. It was decided unanimously that this is not possible. There is only the option to be part of the network (and pay) or not. Burkhard Horn will draft a reply and after discussing it with Angelika Winkler and Rupert Wimmer send it to St. Petersburg. It should be communicated that, if they decide to drop out now, they will be welcome to join IMPACTS again later.

## **10) Activities in 2021**

### **a) Yearly Conference in Zurich**

Burkhard Horn and Rupert Wimmer will look for dates in late spring/early summer 2021. The issue will be discussed again at the extraordinary GA in December, since there might be more information about the perspectives of having a conference in Zurich in 2021.

### **b) Other activities**

There are no other IMPACTS activities planned for 2021.

## **11) Any Other Business**

No other issues were raised. Burkhard Horn closed the General Assembly and thanked Rupert Wimmer for the hosting of the meeting via video by the City of Zurich.

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Rupert Wimmer, IMPACTS President

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Angelika Winkler, IMPACTS General Secretary