



Minutes

General Assembly

15 October 2021, 13:45 – 15:45

Venue:	City of Zurich, Tiefbauamt, Werdmühleplatz 3, Amtshaus V	
Present:	Rupert Wimmer	IMPACTS President and treasurer – Representing City of Zurich
	Angelika Winkler	IMPACTS Secretary General - Representing City of Vienna
	Adrià Gomila	Representing City of Barcelona
	Roberto Ríos	Representing City of Barcelona
	Willem van Heijningen	Representing City of Amsterdam
	Fabio Nussio (digitally)	Representing City of Rome
	Mikael Ivari	Representing City of Gothenburg
	Julius Menge (until 15:00)	Representing City of Berlin
	Brendan O’Brien	Representing City of Dublin
	Lola Ortiz Sánchez	Representing City of Madrid
	Burkhard Horn	IMPACTS Secretary
	Laura Mark	Assistant of IMPACTS Secretary
Notes taken by:	Burkhard Horn and Laura Mark	

1) Welcome by President and Secretary

Burkhard Horn and Rupert Wimmer welcomed everyone to the conference. Enough cities are represented to make formal decisions.

2) Approval of Draft Agenda

The agenda was adopted without amendments.

3) Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the last regular GA on October 16th, 2020 and the extraordinary GA on December 18th, 2020 (video conferences) were approved.

4) Activities since last GA

Burkhard summarized the activities since the last GA.

a) Video Conference

Since the last GA, there was the fourth video conference held about the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the cities, containing presentations by different member cities (with a special focus on cycling policies) and opportunities for in-depth discussions. Burkhard pointed out that video conferences can continue to be an option as a complement to the in-person conferences.

b) LinkedIn Account

A LinkedIn account for IMPACTS was set up with the main aim to acquire and inform new prospective member cities. Burkhard asked everyone who is interested to follow the account.

5) Financial Issues

a) Report of the General Situation (bank account, budget)

Burkhard referred to the closing of the bank account in Paris this spring. The current bank account in Belgium is fully accessible by Rupert as working treasurer and Pierre as vice treasurer. Rupert had sent out the financial report via email to all IMPACTS members; in addition Pierre has sent slightly revised numbers just before the conference.

Unclear/missing membership fees:

- **Barcelona:** Barcelona has not yet paid for 2020 – Adrià explained that Barcelona is planning on paying for 2020 and 2021 together when the invoice arrives before the end of this year
- **Madrid:** Since there is no formal proof that Madrid has been an official member of IMPACTS in the last years, the international department of the city is not willing to pay for the last years and the first three quarters of 2021. However, they are setting up the membership now formally and will pay for the last quarter of 2021. Lola agreed to talk to the international department in order to see if there is an option for payment for the whole year 2021. In any case, Madrid will pay the full membership fee from 2022 on.

b) Approval of the accounts 2018/2019/2020, approval of the budget 2021

Rupert stated that the accounts for 2018 were checked and approved by Claude. He then handed out the final reports of the accounts for 2019 and 2020 (checked by himself) and a preliminary report for 2021.

- 2019 and 2020: The General Assembly approved the accounts unanimously.
- The account for 2021 will be approved in the next GA.

Pierre is therefore released from all obligations regarding his work as treasurer for IMPACTS. However, he is willing to support Rupert as vice treasurer if there are any questions.

Rupert handed out an overview of the proposed budget of 2022.

Burkhard explained that the contract for his work as Secretary contains fixed, predefined prices for certain packages; they are only slightly changed every year since they are indexed to German wages. An updated summary of the accounts and the budgets will be sent via email.

c) Membership Fee

As had been recommended by the EMB at the last meeting in case of a physical conference this year, Burkhard suggests to raise the regular membership fee of EUR 3,000 for 2021. This was decided unanimously.

Rupert will send out the invoices; he asked everybody to send the addresses for the invoices.

It was also decided unanimously that the membership fee for 2022 will also be EUR 3,000.

6) Election of a new president

Burkhard thanked Rupert for being president for the last two years. He further explained that, as traditionally new cities get the option to host the annual conference (always combined with the IMPACTS presidency), he had offered the presidency to the city of Dublin represented by Brendan O'Brien. Brendan declared he would be happy to be the new president and host the conference in 2022 in Dublin. The GA unanimously elected him as new president.

7) Election of executive committee

The following representatives were (re-)elected unanimously to the executive committee:

- Angelika Winkler from Vienna as the secretary general
- Rupert Wimmer from Zurich as treasurer and Pierre Schmitz from Belgium as vice treasurer : both will continue to have separately the full rights on the bank account
- Senta Modder from Amsterdam (in absence), Adrià Gomila from Barcelona, and Josephine Vos from London (in absence) as committee members; Mikael Ivari will represent Gothenburg as a successor to Jan Rinman

Brendan O'Brien from Dublin will, as the IMPACTS president, also be part of the executive committee.

8) Report of the secretary

a) Yearly Conference in Zurich

Burkhard thanked the organizers and hosts from Zürich and shortly summarized his impressions from the conference. It has proved once again how important these "real" meetings are for IMPACTS acting as a network.

He stressed that IMPACTS is also aimed at the exchange between technical and political level. However, at the conference in Zurich no political representative attended. He asked the city representatives to think about how this could be achieved and talk to their political level.

Burkhard pointed out that the information and contact of the political representatives are collected in the members area of the website; all the member cities should check the information on the political representative and send additions/corrections to the secretary.

Other suggestions on how to reach the political level were:

- A more formal invitation, signed by mayor or deputy mayor of the host city
- Organizing a designated forum for political representatives (4-5 representatives; maybe: mayors forum)
- Organizing a possibility to meet other politicians from the host city
- Emphasizing to the politicians that there will be no public audience and it's a safe space to share experiences
- Setting up a 1-2 pager, explaining the benefits specifically for the political level (however, as Burkhard pointed out, a short summary of the benefits is already available on the website, although not specifically aimed at political level)
- Give politicians the option to participate virtually for specific sessions according to their personal preferences

b) Expanding the network in Europe

St. Petersburg and Hamburg both had a guest status, which has been extended to 2021, since the conference could not take place in 2020.

- St Petersburg: representatives have joined the video conference in March, since then they have not responded to any email → Burkhard suggests that therefore, their guest status will end and they will not become a member; since this was approved by the GA, Burkhard will inform them of this decision.
- Hamburg: the city continues to be interested in becoming a member, although they were not able to attend the conference in 2021 (however, they have given an input at one of the video conferences). Burkhard therefore suggested to offer them to become a member, and, in case they are not ready, give them the option to keep the guest status another year and attend the next conference before deciding to become a member. The GA approved this suggestion unanimously. However, as Adrià pointed out, the network should not grow too much and it should be an exception to have various cities from the same country.

Other cities that could be offered a guest status for the beginning without membership fee (in case of interest):

- Helsinki, Oslo, Brussels: Mikael will get in contact
- Copenhagen: Burkhard will get in contact
- Bratislava, Prague: Angelika will try to get a contact
- Ljubljana: no contact opportunity yet

9) Activities in 2022

a) Annual Conference

Burkhard and Brendan suggested to hold the conference in June, possible dates are:

- 1st -3rd of June or
- 8-10th of June

Brendan has reserved possible venues for both dates and asks the member cities to give a feedback on the preference on the date as soon as possible.

Rupert from Zurich and Fabio from Rome both prefer the second date.

It was decided to continue having the conference from Wednesday evening to Friday afternoon.

Possible topics for the conference in 2022 were discussed. We could once again have an umbrella theme, but it is not necessary. Suggestions for topics were:

- climate resilience/climate change (focus on local problems of climate change and approaches to adaptation)
- commercial transport
- digitalization
- planning processes, especially working with citizens on solutions

There seems to be a slight preference to set a main focus on the climate resilience issue.

There will be an EMB meeting in January 2022 to discuss the topics and the rough outline of the program; following Burkhard's suggestion, it was decided to keep on having the EMB meeting as a video conference instead of an in-person meeting in the host city.

b) Other activities

Burkhard pointed out that it is possible to keep up the video conferences on specific topics if a city can do the technical hosting. If anyone is interested they can approach Burkhard at any time.

Further, on suggestion of Julius it was decided to add 2-3 specific competences for each city representative in the members area on the website. Burkhard will write a separate call per email to the member cities asking for this information.

10) Any Other Business

Rupert expressed his thanks to Burkhard for his work and commitment for IMPACTS during the last two years.

No other issues were raised.



Brendan O'Brien, IMPACTS President

