



MINUTES

2005 EAERE Annual General Assembly of Members

Date/time: Friday, June 24th, 2005 - 18.15-19.00
Location: International University Bremen, Germany
Chair: Frank J. Convery (FC), EAERE President
Attendance: Over 40 members of EAERE were present.

1. PROGRESS, PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS

FC reported on the problems EAERE has been facing since early 2004, on the progress made so far, and on the prospects for the future:

“Remarks at General Assembly, European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, Bremen, Friday, June 24th, 2005

Frank J. Convery, President

I. Our Constitution (Statutes)

In our Constitution, our aspirations are stated as follows:

- Contribute to the development and application of environmental economics as a science in Europe
- Improve communication and contacts between researchers, teachers and students in environmental economics in the different European countries
- Develop and encourage cooperation between teaching institutions of university level and research institutions in Europe

We have spent 2004 and part of 2005 assessing how well we are doing on these objectives, and how to move forward.

II. The European Challenge

In a global environment that has been uniquely favourable, with booming economies around us in the US and China, Europe struggles economically and politically, with sustained high unemployment in leading economies. If the US and/or China slide to recession...?

There are obvious explanations for the mediocrity of our performance, and some of the prescriptions being proposed – e.g. trade restrictions – will make things much worse. There is a real threat that environment will be ‘sacrificed’ in an attempt to re-energise economies.

We in EAERE must do our part to reverse the economic decline, and show how this can be achieved without gratuitous environmental destruction.

III. The Challenge of Competition

When our inaugural annual meeting was convened in 1990, our conference was almost the only conference in our field, and most of us confined our travels to Europe and North America. We now face a situation where there are many more options for our attention, notably in Asia, and many national, regional and other associations that press for our time and attention. We must keep improving our performance and delivery to stand still. We have to further intensify the quality and range of our activities if we are to develop.

IV. Our Instruments – delivery mechanisms

We have three:

- The Annual conference
- Summer workshop
- ERE Journal

V. Our organisation

- Council
- Host conference organiser
- Secretary General and FEEM back up
- Funds – membership fees, conference levy, sponsorship

VI. Performance

My assessment of the situation at **beginning 2004** was as follows:

Objective	Grade	Comment
Contribute to development and application of environmental economics	B	EAERE conference, summer school and journal comprise significant contribution to development by various scholars and research groups. But weak in contributing to application
Improve communication and contacts between researchers, teachers and students	C	Annual conference an excellent information bazaar. Not clear what readership of journal is, but probably exclusively academic
Develop and encourage cooperation between teaching institutions of university level and research institutions in Europe	D	We haven't addressed this challenge, except as it is met indirectly by annual conference and summer school

VII. Pre-requisite for Effective and Sustained Action

Decision by previous Council to create permanent secretariat – delivery mechanism - and overlap in Presidency has been crucial in allowing us to progress.

VIII. Progress in 2004 - Consolidation

It has been a year of consolidation. We have invested considerable time and effort in:

- Ensuring that our membership data are complete and up-to-date
- Reviewing communication strategies, and piloting a number of initiatives
- Developing the Kempe context (where excellence in contemporary scholarship is recognised) to recognise lifetime achievement and contribution of practitioners.
- Widening the base of the annual conference to attract interest of practitioners and others.
- Understanding our financial status and developing mechanisms that allow costs to be identified and forward budgeting to be conducted
- Securing feedback from members on preferences regarding membership packages in context of journal.
- Identifying mechanisms for generating sufficient funds to guarantee the fiscal independence of the organisation and undertake new developments
- Creating structures (regular Council meetings, communication, and development of work packages and associated allocation of responsibility) that allow initiatives to move from concept to effective execution.

IX. Work Modules

From this base, we have identified **five work modules** designed to bring our association forward in a productive and positive fashion in 2005 and thereafter. Key objectives and the requirements needed to support the achievement of these objectives are identified, as are the benefits and costs of achieving same.

Work Modules for 2005 - Development

1. Membership development

The objectives of this work module were to:

- (a) Retain our existing membership
- (b) Get previous members to re-join
- (c) Attract new members, both full, and secondary (with Japan association)

The **baseline membership** in:

Year	Members	Change
2002	390	
		27
2003	417	
		31
2004	448	
		76
2005	524	

The **target** for 2006 is 700.

The **requirements** to achieve these objectives are:

- (i) To keep records up-to-date such that:
 - Everyone knows what their status is
 - Promising prospects can be targeted and encouraged to join
- (ii) Creating a membership pricing structure that supports membership retention and development
- (iii) Respond immediately and effectively - within 48 hours of query – to all who contact the Secretariat.
- (iv) Process membership applications in a professional and friendly manner
- (v) Transfer funds to bank
- (vi) Support the Council and other members in recruiting new members
- (vii) Provide a suite of services that makes membership worthwhile
- (viii) Communicate regularly and effectively with membership to inform, to encourage input and engender a sense of 'ownership' of the organisation (See also Work Module 3).

The **benefits** of this work module are an expanded and more proactive membership, generating an estimated 150¹ new members and associated annual revenue increment of € 4,700 **Costs** are estimate to be € 4,000, yielding a net revenue (minimum estimate) of € 700.

2. Financial Management and Fundraising

The key **objectives** of this work module are:

- (a) Transparent and complete accounting of income and expenditure
- (b) Ensuring annual accounts and budget projections are prepared in a timely and professional manner
- (c) Support the development of fund raising strategy.
- (d) Implement fund-raising strategy
- (e) Fiscal independence

The **requirements** to achieve these objectives are:

- (i) Clear and timely record keeping of income and outgoings
- (ii) Preparation of draft accounts for auditors and liaison therewith
- (iii) Presentation of same to General Assembly
- (iv) Preparation of draft strategy and associated budget for Council
- (v) Support for securing of sponsorship funding of annual conference
- (vi) Identification of possible target sources, preparation of funding requests, implementation of solicitation and feedback
- (vii) Handling FEEM contribution of over € 30,000 to cover operating deficit in 2004
- (viii) Generating levy and sponsorship support for 2005 and thereafter.
- (ix) Continuing liaison with donors
- (x) Support organisation of events associated with fund raising

The **benefits** of this work module are clear accounts and projections, with funds (additional to membership and conference levy) raised for 2005 of € 17,000. The **costs** of this work module are € 4,500, yielding a net revenue of € 12,500.

¹ Assuming that we recruit an additional 74 members July – December 2005.

3. Communication, generating and maintaining Stakeholder support

The key **objectives** of this work module are:

- (a) Support the establishment and maintenance of a system of electronic and other communication with key stakeholders, notably EAERE members, donors and key influence centres in government and the private sector.
- (b) Support the implementation of this system across a range of media.
- (c) Facilitate two-way communication between members, stakeholders and the association.
- (d) Support the achievement of a reputation for coherence, clarity and consistency in information preparation and dissemination
- (e) Ensure that environmental and resource economics research is adequately and appropriately funded by the European Commission in Framework Programme 7 and otherwise.

The **requirements** to achieve these objectives are:

- (i) Maintain and develop the web site and existing services
- (ii) Develop and implement additional services for members and stakeholders electronically that deepen their productivity and their interest, commitment and sense of ownership of EAERE.
- (iii) Facilitate two-way communications that facilitates members to become actively involved.
- (iv) Provide regular communication or commentary to the members from the President.
- (v) Support editor (Katrin Millock) in provision and dissemination of periodic Newsletter and other communications that inform and entertain.
- (vi) Support the effective lobbying of key state holders (Member States, European Commission and European Parliament) to achieve inclusion of environmental and resource economics in Framework Programme VII.

The **benefits** of this work module are an informed and committed membership whose productivity is enhanced. The **costs** to achieve these benefits are: €2,750.

4. Recognise Outstanding Achievement and provide Support for Annual Conference, World Congress and Council

The key objectives of this work module are:

- (a) Help the host ensure that the annual conference in Bremen (2005) is a major success intellectually, financially and logistically, including:
- (b) Implementation of contract with Webmeets.com for assessing papers submitted
- (c) Support the EAERE input into the programme and organisation of the World Congress in Kyoto in 2006.
- (d) Support the organisation and implementation of Council meetings in spring, summer and Autumn 2005.
- (e) Generate more evidence based analyses that links to the perceived needs of those in the policy process and addresses the 'application' deficit.
- (f) Recognise outstanding achievement intellectually and in implementation
- (g) Support organisation and implementation of General Assembly
- (h) Support the Council selection committee in choosing host for 2007 conference (and perhaps thereafter).
- (i) Support Council in selection of nominees for President (2008-2009) and Council (2006-2009), and in conducting ensuing election, with a high level of eligible voter participation, rising from 119 votes (92 valid) in 2003 to 300 in 2005.
- (j) Maintain cordial and productive relationships with other associations

The **requirements** to achieve these objectives are:

- (i) Continuing support for Bremen (Wolfgang Pfaffenberger)
- (ii) Create and implement Outstanding Achievement Awards
- (iii) Develop evidence based strands in annual conference
- (iv) Interact with Kyoto host (Kazuhiro Ueta) organisation and programme committee (Michael Rauscher)
- (v) Support preparation of Council agendas and supporting documentation
- (vi) Support organisation and implementation of logistics arrangements for Council meetings
- (vii) Support organisation and implementation of General Assembly, including interaction with auditors.
- (viii) Ensure that the valid register of electors is complete and up-to-date
- (ix) Support organisation of material providing information (short CV) and statement regarding all candidates for election
- (x) Ensure that all Members get relevant ballots and candidate descriptions (see vi above).
- (xi) Support the counting of ballots and dissemination of results.

The **benefits** of this work module are continuing excellence in conference implementation, and in the input to the EAERE Annual Congresses, informed, efficient and effective Council meetings and AGM, an informed electorate, and a high participation rate in elections, with ensuing increase in sense of ownership and participation and ownership by the members, and heightened legitimacy and credibility for Council. The **costs** are: € 7,375.

5. Support for Educational Outreach, including summer schools and the ERE journal

The key **objectives** of this work module are:

- (a) Continued development of the ERE journal to comprise an increasingly influential presence in the global intellectual market place
- (b) Provide members with timely delivery commensurate with their membership category
- (c) Continue the delivery of the Venice summer school
- (d) Examine options for further development of the outreach portfolio.

The **requirements** to achieve these objectives are:

- (i) Liase with editor of the ERE journal to support the latter's development.
- (ii) Liase with Springer executive to achieve 'fit' between membership category and journal delivery
- (iii) Liase with Springer executive to manage the cash transfers between them and EAERE.
- (iv) Support the leadership in development of the 2005 Summer School Programme to maintain its high standing
- (v) Support the Council in developing the summer school portfolio post 2005.
- (vi) Provide financial support (€7,500) to support Summer school costs
- (vii) Support the exploration of other options to expand the outreach programme.

The benefits of the Educational Outreach, including summer schools and the ERE journal work module are: association with a journal of high and rising standing, clarity for members as to their entitlements, and improved delivery of same, a high quality summer school that expands the knowledge frontiers for new scholars, and development of further outreach options. The costs are: € 7,500 contribution to Summer School, and € 3,000 to support the other elements, comprising a total of € 10,500.

X. Performance Evaluated

Objective	Grade	Comment
Contribute to development <i>and</i> application of environmental economics	B+	Addition of evidence based strands and implementation of Outstanding Awards
Improve communication and contacts between researchers, teachers and students	B-	Web site development, Newsletter, Commentaries. Feedback still poor.
Develop and encourage cooperation between teaching institutions of university level and research institutions in Europe	C	Creation of country representatives.

XI. The Future

I believe that Europe needs to move forward from the fantasies that have shaped economic policy and make this space of ours a place where full employment and rising living standards prevail, and where this dynamism is released in manners that enhances our environmental endowments rather than destroy them. Given current public attitudes and the associated political realities, moving forward in this fashion will be difficult, but it must be done, or our posterity will be condemned to unemployment, falling living standards and degrading environments. We collectively have to do what we can to make this transition as easy and effective as possible.

Moving from the magisterial to the practical, we should be aiming for 'A' in all three of our Constitutional imperatives, and this will require a dedicatedly professional and sustained effort.

We continue to face challenges and opportunities:

- * The European Union Framework 7 Research and Development programme is close to finalisation. This could provide a platform for advancing on the development of co-operation between research and teaching institutions. How can we individually and collectively maximise our access to these funds and our contribution?

- * With increasing competition, we will have to work harder and faster to maintain the health of our annual conference. How?
- * Although there is some progress, the 'application' part of our objective is still very weakly addressed – manifest in our membership (almost exclusively academic) – and our impact and influence is correspondingly weak. How can we develop this strand of our activity?
- * Some progress on membership numbers, but many European countries with no or very few members. Our 'country representatives' will help, but other measures necessary. What should we do? In country workshops and seminars?
- * Some progress with fund raising, but less successful than hoped. How can we energise our performance in this regard?
- * Some progress in communication. Do we need to do more?
- * The ERE journal has continued to develop well, and the likely move to electronic submission and assessment is to be welcomed (see presentation by Ian Bateman). The absence of Henry Hoogervost on sick leave, and the purchase of Elsevier by Springer created an administrative hiatus which has resulted in delay in delivery of hard copy for those with bundled memberships. I note with interest the decision by the American association to provide a policy, evidence-based journal, wholly owned by the association, and I wish them well in this endeavour. This is an initiative which deserves careful monitoring. The price of our various packages will stay the same as prevails in 2005 in 2006. There is a case for a reduced rate for the electronic version, and this needs to be pursued.
- * Our current delivery instruments are annual conference, journal, and summer school. Should we expand our portfolio? Consider a rolling series of schools, workshops, seminars? A new or different journal?

The progress we have made has been possible because we have had a strong, effective and persistent secretariat, embodied in the person of Monica Eberle, and I would like to personally and on behalf of the Council and you the members thank her for her superb contribution. Any of the areas where we have developed could perhaps be done by a variety of talented individuals on a voluntary basis. But continued execution, especially that which requires persistent attention over months, can only be done by a professional structure that works in our interest 24 hours a day. The world is now a colder and more competitive place than when we started. Misgivings have been expressed about levying our annual meeting to finance this essential level of support. If we get our fundraising act together, it may be possible to forego this mechanism, but in the short run, it has been essential to our coherence and my sanity. Without this level of support, I would strongly discourage anyone from going forward as a candidate for President. I believe that as we continue to focus our efforts, and address the realities we face with courage, enthusiasm and professionalism, we will give ourselves and our profession a great future. As Alice puts it in *Through the Looking Glass: Now here, you see, it takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you must run at least twice as fast as that!*"

2. MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MEMBERS OF 28 JUNE 2004

The minutes were approved.

3. 2005 ELECTIONS

FC reported that this year's elections set of candidates is comprised of Thomas Sterner (Sweden) and Henry Tulkens (Belgium) – candidates for President 2008-2009 -, and Matti Liski (Finland), Santiago Rubio (Spain), Efthios Sartzetakis (Greece) and Sjak Smulders (The Netherlands) – candidates for Council members 2006-2009.

In accordance with EAERE Statutes, the elections will take place by secret ballot. In early September members will receive a ballot to be sent back to the EAERE Secretariat. The envelope you will receive contains the ballot and a stamped envelope. The candidates profile will be posted in the EAERE website. After having selected your candidates, members must put the ballot into the stamped envelope and mail it. To be valid the ballot must reach the EAERE Secretariat before November 15th. The results of the elections will be announced by December 1st.

4. EAERE REGISTRATION

FC indicated the need and the desire to change the registration of EAERE from Germany. Klaus Conrad (and before him Rudi Pethiger) have up to now very generously acted for EAERE and incurred the considerable transaction costs associated with such registration. Klaus Conrad has indicated that he would like to be relieved of this responsibility. In agreement with the Council, FC proposed the motion that the registration be moved from Germany to Italy. As the General Assembly did not have a quorum to effect this change, it was agreed that TC will reconvene the General Assembly in late October or November, where the above-mentioned motion will be proposed for approval.

5. JOURNAL MATTERS – REPORT ON ERE, IAN BATEMAN

Ian Bateman – executive director of *Environmental and Resource Economics (ERE)* – provided statistics indicating a further improvement in quality and recognition of this journal over the last years. The main points reported were the following:

- The journal is developing rapidly both in terms of key quality indicators (e.g. rejection rate doubled) and submissions (increased by two thirds).
- The journal is attracting top-quality authors.
- The international profile of the journal is improving
- Electronic access is boosting readership of journal articles considerably.
- We have a dynamic and enthusiastic Editorial team.
- A number of ongoing initiatives seek to build upon this growth.

6. CONFERENCES AND SUMMER SCHOOLS

On behalf of EAERE, FC expressed gratitude to Wolfgang Pfaffenberger and the Bremen Local Organiser team for the excellent organisation of the 14th EAERE Annual Conference.

With reference to future conferences, FC:

- thanked Kazuhiro Ueta, vice chair of the Local Organiser Committee and Programme Committee Co-Chair, and Michael Rauscher, Programme Committee co-chair, for their efforts in the preparation of the Third World Congress of Environmental and Resource Economists, to be held in July 2006.

- announced that the Council has recently completed the selection of the Congress Venue and Local Organising Committee for the 15th EAERE Annual Conference. The Council has selected the proposal submitted by the University of Macedonia, which has therefore become the official hosting institution of the 15th EAERE Annual Conference. The conference will be held in Thessaloniki, Greece, from the 28th of June to the 1st of July, 2007. Prof. Eftichios Sartzetakis will be the Chair of the Local Organising Committee. He is also co-chairing the Programme Committee jointly with Prof. Aart de Zeeuw, from Tilburg University, The Netherlands.

- announced that a call for proposals for the Congress Venue and Local Organising Committee for the 16th EAERE Annual Conference to be held in 2008 will be launched in September 2005.

FC announced the calendar of future summer schools, from 2005 to 2009:

2005: July 3-9, Welfare Measurement and Cost Benefit Analysis in Dynamic General Equilibrium
Prof. Karl-Gustaf Löfgren, - School Coordinator - Umeå University, Sweden

2006: June 25 – July 1, Computable General Equilibrium Modeling in Environmental and Resource Economics
Christoph Böhringer, University of Heidelberg and ZEW Mannheim, Germany (Coordinator)

2007: July 4 – 10, Trade, Property Rights and Biodiversity
Cees Withagen, Tilburg University, The Netherlands (Coordinator)

2008: July 6 – 12, Space in Unified Models of Economy and Ecology
Anastasios Xepapadeas, University of Crete, Greece (Coordinator)

2009: July 5– 11, Economics, Transport and Environment
Stef Proost, Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium (Coordinator)

7. MEMBERSHIP PROFILE AND FEES

FC reported that EAERE had 542 members as of June 19th, 2005 and presented the proposal for 2006 membership fees which will be the same as 2005 with the re-introduction of triennial memberships and the possibility of asking to be billed. The fees were approved.

8. FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS, REPORT OF AUDITORS

The Assembly approved the EAERE accounts for 2004. These accounts had been previously approved by Marta Escapa and Matti Liski, 2004-2005 EAERE auditors, who checked the details of monetary transactions and stated their correctness. FC noted that EAERE received a financial contribution from FEEM of over €30,000 euro in 2004, in addition to the FEEM annual contribution for the Summer School. On behalf of EAERE, FC expressed his gratitude to FEEM for its generous contribution, which enabled EAERE to cover the operating deficit in 2004.

FC presented the 2005 budget, updated on June 21st, and EAERE assets.

BUDGET 2005

EXPENSES		INCOMES	
Secretarial Activities	€30,878.57	Membership fees	€11,079.55
Institutional meetings and duty travels	€3,168.65	Levy on registration fees (280 x €65,00)	€18,200.00
Summer School	€29,852.15	Summer School	€29,852.15
		<i>EAERE contribution</i>	€ 7,500.00
		<i>FEEM contribution</i>	€ 13,034.77
		<i>VIU contribution</i>	€ 9,317.38
Annual Congress	€362.00	Fund Raising	€18,000.00
		<i>Irish National Roads Authority</i>	€ 12,000.00
		<i>Sustainable Energy Ireland</i>	€ 5,000.00
		<i>UCD</i>	€ 1,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	€64,261.37	TOTAL INCOME	€77,131.70
		BALANCE	€12,870.33

ASSETS

1st January 2004	€ 39,460.80
EAERE contribution to the Summer School-	€ 6,093.50
31st December 2004	€33,367.30
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1st January 2005	€ 33,367.30
EAERE contribution to the Summer School-	€ 7,500.00
Estimated Balance 2005	€ 12,870.33
Projections for 31st December 2005	€38,737.63

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

An Extraordinary General Assembly of Members will be convened tentatively in Brussels, at the end October or in November 2005.