Minutes of the 6th General Assembly of Wikimedia CH
Saturday, 23 June 2012   Berner Fachhochschule, Bern

Attendance register (20 attendees):

Name/Nom	Vorname/Prénom	Ort/Lieu	Mitglied/Membre
Andrès	Charles	Cotterd	X
Ben Abdallah	Mourad	Genève	X
Bucco	Clément	Onex	X
Cassina	Mauro	Lugano	X
Conus	Gilbert	Echallens	X
Ebongué	Chantal	Epalinges	
Engelhart	Emmanuel	Zürich	X
Estermann	Beat	Ostermundigen	
Geay	Emmanuel	Genève	X
Hättenschwiler	Diego	Bern	X
Jehle	Bruno	Gontenschwil	X
Kenel	Patrick	Lauerz	X
Kienzle	Clemens	Fribourg	X
Maheswaran	Bagawathram	Busswil	X
Péron	Ludovic	Epalinges	X
Schneider	Manuel	Maulburg (D)	X
Schütz	Frédéric	Ecublens	X
Thullen	Gabriel	Genève	X
Thurner	Rupert	Zürich	X
Valdelli	Ilario	Lugano	X
			Total: 18

1. Introduction

President Mourad Ben Abdallah opens the assembly in the auditorium at 10:00 by welcoming everyone. He proposes English as principal language.

2. Motions concerning the agenda

None

3. Reports

3.1 Annual general report of the board

Mourad reads the Annual Report. It summarizes the main activities of the past and current year: GLAM, collaboration with universities and academics like at a scientific congress in

Neuchâtel, the completion of the Valdensia project, WLM 2011 and the next edition in cooperation with WMAT, TAO project activities in partnership with Seniorweb and Connaissance 3, the analysis of our implication in TAO, Wikipedia offline/openZIM and ongoing support for Kiwix and the Bamako project, support for photographers which took photos during various events.

Other things mentioned in the report: The hiring of Chantal Ebongué as the first person employed in an administrative position, the WCA and the relation to the WMF, Chapters meeting 2012 and the FDC. Concerning the latter, Manuel mentions that it's important to note that these funds come from WMF websites but independent fundraising should be strengthened. Ilario says that this comes after a long period of discussions; the current FR process will be re-evaluated in 2015. Charles says that we offer favours to the Swiss donors and that had to be stressed over and over. Manuel: «WMAT will just get a grant which is not bad either because you have to provide an annual plan». Frederic: «Our capacity to fundraise is important and the banner can have a good side-effect regarding visibility. It's an outreach medium like in the case of the former Geneva mayor». Emmanuel Engelhart: «Control over the money is even more important. It has largely been lost».

Wikimedia CH furthermore participated at the LinuxTag in Berlin with a booth. Financial support was offered to an OSM booth, the WikiCon in Dornbirn and for a contest on the Javanese WP. IT development: Drupal 7 and CiviCRM will be installed on the website. Bruno mentions IGE-Gespräche and lobbying for free content: «It's important to raise the voice against the extension of copyright. There should be measures to know the demand for free content. WMCH should take a strong part in this process». Frédéric says that regular meetings have happened between authors and collection societies. Gabriel volunteered to take part in a conference with WMFR. Having finished his presentation, Mourad tells that he intends to step down as president and thanks for the good collaboration.

3.2 Annual financial report of the board

Ram presents the balance sheet with a massive increase of capital because of FR donations, the webpage as unique property, increasing earmarked funds and reserves to be invested in projects. The income statements: donations increasing in a way that is not foreseeable, we hope that this will continue like that. Expenses: more projects with funds attributed, still no merchandise, the cost of the FR is about 1% of the income, assignment

because of a contract with the WMF, the annual income increases the organization capital for future years (418'698 CHF). Ram says that it was time-consuming but that he's proud of what has been achieved. He will continue and still wants to improve his job. According to Emmanuel Geay it would be good to have a budget during the year but Ram tells that it's difficult to predict how much revenue there will be. The expenses will certainly grow steadily during the next months for about 100'000 CHF. Charles: «TAO and WLM will be less expensive, others more».

4. Discharges and approval of the reports

The assembly approves both activity and financial report without abstention. The audit report is brought up by Ram: «Our audit company was stricter than last year. They said that the book-keeping of bills needs to be improved and reimbursement with original receipts only, in order to prevent difficulties». Overall, the auditor is happy and the engagement with him will be kept for the next year. The audit report is acknowledged without a special approval.

5. Board elections

5.1 Options

As always the assembly will have to choose between 5, 6 or 7 members on the future Board. Mourad is convinced that the composition with 6 Board members is functioning well overall, with 7 members you would need more time to vote. Moreover there aren't more than 6 members candidating. Gabriel raises the issue of a tied vote with the president deciding and Frédéric says: «There's never been a tie in a vote». Bruno: «It's time to have group of experts working with the Board. I never know if I'm authorized to represent the association or not». Chantal: «My role is to be a facilitator and medium between members and the Board». Mourad proceeds to a short vote on the three options. With the following result: 5 (0 votes), 6 (13 votes), 7 (0 votes). Therefore, the current composition will be maintained.

5.2 Elections to the Board

The candidates present themselves in alphabetic order:

- Charles Andres is willing to continue his work with universities, and continue Mourad work, in the professionalization of the assocation

- Patrick Kenel is ready to continue as secretary after a period spent with the TAO project.

However, he's looking to start his professional life, that's why he will have less time for

Wikimedia activities.

- Clemens Kienzle withdraws his candidature because he will leave for China in August.

- Ram Maheswaran thinks that it will be interesting to follow the future development. He's

still motivated to be Wikimedia CH's treasurer.

- Frédéric Schütz has taken care of donations so far. He now looks forward to do more

things related to content.

- Ilario Valdelli will also continue his grant committee function and will spend time with

projects in the Italian-speaking part.

To replace the withdrawal of Clemens, *Gabriel Thullen* comes up with a spontaneous

candidature: He's a school teacher in Geneva (mathematics and computer science),

showing his students how Wikipedia works. He would like to help out because he has

experience from various organizations. The Board is elected by acclamation.

5.3 Election of the president

Following the election of the Board, Charles is elected as president by acclamation as well.
End of the first part at 12:15.

6. Thematic workshops (afternoon)

After the common lunch, the afternoon session starts at 14:10 in room 205.

The workshops are introduced by Charles:

1) GLAM

2) People raising (evangelism ☺)

3) Strategy/staff

4) Offline solutions

He asks which topics should be discussed. Additionally a second assembly or a social gathering could be organized just to focus on these topics maybe in autumn together with the future budget. Motion by Manuel: He proposes to have such a meeting during this year and to stage the next GA in February 2013.

We move to a short round of presentation. It appears that the people in the room represent various topics: Senior outreach, digitalization, GLAM/Wikipedian in Residence (WIR), research, academic education, minor languages, Wikipedia offline, Wikimedia in Africa, creation of format, pictures, Wiki Loves Monuments (WLM), OpenStreet Map (OSM).

GLAM

For GLAM a working group called «Swiss GLAMour» and led by Rupert already exists. So far, no other such group has been formed on a national level.

According to Charles the working group should be nationwide but with collaborators from different language areas. Beat: «Universities, content liberation/GLAM, and schools are three different fields. WMCH doesn't have enough energy to do something on its own but should connect with organizations like Digitale Allmend and WMDE, mainly lobbying, press work. The reason is that you will be the only volunteer at the table and don't have a back office behind».

Communication tools and materials

Communication tools and marketing materials can easily be modified from other countries. The process of adoption should be started soon. Various members would like to volunteer to enable it.

Education

WMFR has a committee for school education that could be another group. Bruno could eventually make a bridge to apprenticeships in the graphic field.

To answer a question about her role, Chantal tells that she could support these groups but that in the beginning she won't have an overview. She has most insight in senior outreach but later on she will manage to coordinate more topics. Chantal has a strong experience in fundraising for specific projects, something done by funding agencies (institutional fundraising). A realistic target could be to have half the budget coming from sources

independent of the WMF.

Micro-grants

Charles proposes a micro-grant commission to review grants for members, coming in on a special forms, giving their opinion to the Board that will approve them. A micro-grant commission has been established in France, it is working well. The number of scholarship demands is increasing, and we should prevent a mess like for Wikimania this year. Manuel: «A checklist with recommendations has been established in Austria, the Board approves incoming requests, reporting is requested to the mailing list». Ilario: «Robin Schwab has written a reimbursement policy a few years ago but the objective of the proposed micro-grant committee is important. Scholarships are more important for the moment than material». Charles mentions that he proposed to draft more policies; measures concerning the committee will be reviewed again in autumn.

International projects

We have a history of collaboration with Africa, therefore it should be considered as topic of a working group». Ilario: «Our project Wikiafrica has only few links with Switzerland, so this could be an objective of this group». Charles: «The WMF doesn't care if a chapter supports activities abroad but for the donor it's important to know because it's not part of the bylaws». Chantal: «It would certainly be interesting for institutional fundraising, in connection with development in Africa». Emmanuel tells about Kiwix and Renaud in Mali which is looking to increase outreach activities. He thinks that this could be part of this outreach working group. We agree to call it «International projects» group. Rupert: «It's easier to sell a project to tax authorities».

Offline solutions

Offline solutions are not a topic to create a working group around but it fits in everywhere. It is for example related to international projects, to lobbying, and to education.

Strategic plan

According to Charles, the most important outcome of this session is that the members become more involved in the development of the association, through the means of working groups. To have a strategic plan is equally important according to Ilario. Manuel however is convinced that the bylaws are more important than set goals because the WMF

strategic plan tends to be misused. WMAT spent a lot to create a strategic plan in real life but now they have one. Its side effect is to know whom to hire. WMDC has also done a short strategic plan. Charles asks a basic question: «Do we want to have WMCH as the first organization to think of in Switzerland in terms of free digitalized heritage?» Beat would like to see a strategic working group with real life meetings. Manuel: «Whereas WMDE has created a wiki process called Kompass 2020, in Austria the Board has been unclear about certain things, and the later outcome of the meeting was a strategic plan». Chantal would like if not only the Board were involved but she doesn't want to have the whole association in either. A strategic discussion could be the basic of the annual planning 2013. It would be useful for the work of the Board and the staff. Charles proposes to discuss the annual planning 2013 in July and August, after the autumn meeting we should start to talk about long-term goals.

As a result of this discussion the following working groups are formed:

	Coordinator	Additional members
Swiss GLAMour	Rupert	Chantal, Beat (BFH), Emmanuel Engelhart, Ilario
Lobbying/press/FR campaign	?	Bruno, Gabriel, Mourad, Charles, Frédéric (PS fr), Patrick (PS de), Ilario (PS it)
Communication tools & materials	?	Emm. Engelhart, Gilbert, Clemens, Manuel, Mourad, Charles, Ilario
Education	?	Rupert, Diego, Gabriel, Mourad, Frédéric
International projects	Emmanuel Engelhart	Ilario, Gabriel, Mourad, Gilbert
Strategic plan/annual budget	Charles (pres.)	All subscribers to Executive ML

Each of them will have a wiki page on the Members wiki, except for the strategic plan which we will be discussed on the Executive ML. All members present at the GA will be subscribed to this list.

At this point, the attendees get together in small changing groups to discuss the course of action. At 18:00 the last people are told to leave the room.

Minutes taken by Patrick Kenel