

## **Minutes of the General Meeting of September 18, 2021**

Present: 19 persons, all entitled to vote. They come from all points of the compass, including Germany, Greece, Lugano, Langnau i.E., Basel, Zug and the surrounding area.

Excuses: none

Agenda

### I. Welcome

Renata Herger welcomes all present. The invitations to the AGM have been sent out in due time. No motions have been received.

Renata especially welcomes Gülistan İçer and Shevin Batu, who will introduce themselves later. Of course she also mentions Sam Salih, who has come especially from Germany. He coordinates and translates for us in Greece and Switzerland, especially when it comes to Yazidi refugees. It is very nice that Xenia Keller from EcoSolidar Basel, our new partner association, is also with us. Our new board members, Christine Zwicky and Natalie Chiodi, who are yet to be elected, are also warmly welcomed.

Although the number of voters is manageable, two tellers are appointed, Ruth Bachmeier and Thomas Chiodi.

### 2. minutes of the second general meeting 2019

Edith Bühler Jud, Actuary, briefly summarizes the minutes and they are unanimously accepted.

### 3. annual report

The biennial report (last year there was no general meeting because of Corona) is available in written form.

Renata tells about our work, about beautiful and difficult things, about success and failure.

In general, we have achieved a lot with the center and its offer of language courses, handicraft opportunities and various children's activities. The center has become a cozy, creative and important meeting place for the refugees. During the strict lockdown in Greece, we moved the activities to the camp with a lot of improvisation.

The wonderful work with the children of Finn and Bruna from Ireland and Natalie and Thomas from Oberwil/ZG brought a lot of normality into everyday life, so that the children could experience a lot of joy and also some structure in their lives again.

Very important was the one-week visit of André Affentranger and Xenia Keller from EcoSolidar, who appreciate our work in general and will especially support the work with the women in the center on a long-term partnership and financially. (See report about our project in Lavrio by Xenia in the EcoSolidar Info in the appendix).

We thank Renata with applause for the great work she tirelessly does.

After the break, a 20-minute film of our work in the two camps in Lavrio is shown.

Shevin Batu introduces herself: She is a 33-year-old, self-confident, Kurdish woman. After political activities in Turkey, she was constantly persecuted and eventually put in prison for two years for no reason. She was forced to abandon her biology studies. Even after her stay in prison, only obstacles were put in her way. She was forced to leave everything behind and flee to Greece. After a 3-month stay in Athens, she managed to escape to Switzerland. She learned German very well and was accepted at a technical college (especially for people with a migration background).

been accepted. Shevin's dream is to study environmental engineering, specializing in solar, after the one-year introductory course. She is still looking for a company where she can do a one-year technical internship.

#### 4. annual accounts 2019/2020

Rosmarie Meuli and Renata Herger explain the accounts together. Renata has v.a. knowledge about the background of the bare figures.

- Expenses: They are rel. High, because also the "wages" of the female employees are included in it. They receive 50 - 150 Euro /month. It is important to have a good, motivated team on site and make a difference there.

- Material expenses: Here we are talking about supplies on site. The 60'000 Euros include food bags and all the food for about 500 to 600 people, which can mostly be obtained from local vendors.

- Miscellaneous costs in Greece: The people in the camps need socks, underwear, glasses and medicine. Euro 17,000 are for the center (3 1/2 room apartment) and the warehouse, rental costs, utilities, materials for the children, costs for classes, fabric for mask production, support from Wave (organization in Thessaloniki for the homeless).

- Nea Kavala camp near Thessaloniki: expenses have been massively reduced. Behrooz, our translator

- no longer works there.

- Support of a refugee family in Glarus: Fr. 1200 /year

- Vehicle expenses: We had bought a car (Kia), but because of the lockdown it could not be driven to Greece.

Greece and was therefore sold again.

- Office supplies: Since everyone works voluntarily, only postage is to be charged.

Advertising: Costs for the website, printing of flyers and stamps for signet.

- Membership fees/patrons: Fr. 166'000

Details see annual accounts in the appendix

We have 147 members, 10 collective members

Auditor Beatrice Kehl thanks Romy for the good, exact keeping of the accounts and gives her discharge. The annual accounts are accepted unanimously. We thank Romy for the great work she does!

## 5. elections/new elections

Three members resigned from the board shortly after their election. Esther Moser is in Ireland and had other life plans, Erwin and Anna Huber withdrew at short notice for various reasons.

Christine Zwicky and Natalie Chiodi are both proposed as new members of the board and subsequently elected unanimously.

Christine Zwicky: She is from Sarnen, but has been living in Greece for 26 years, currently in Athens. She is a teacher for Greek and German and still works partly for a lawyer. She has been a great asset to networkANTHOPIA in Lavrio and Athens for a year now, mediating in Greek, giving lessons to children as well as adults and supporting Renata intensively.

Natalie Chiodi: Knows Renata from her time in the refugee camp in Idomeni in 2016. She works as a curative teacher in Zug. She has been part of the extended board since the foundation of our association, is always interested in our work and supports us generously.

In summer 21 she was with her husband Thomas 3 weeks in Lavrio, and had on site through the work with the children an intensive insight into our work.

We are very much looking forward to working with Christine and Natalie.

The board will be presented briefly and then re-elected with the auditor in globo.

## 6. outlook

We focus on our important work in development and cooperation in our center in Lavrio. We are happy to welcome Irini, a Greek sociologist, who is already off to a great start, has integrated very well and is doing wonderful work with the children.

Daniel Kemper, internist, has responded to an article in the Zürichsee Zeitung. He is spending some time each month with his family in Greece, very close to Lavrio. He will be volunteering to spruce up our orphaned Medical Center in the City Camp and Upcamp and provide medical care. He has already started his work and we are very grateful for it.

As before, the area of emergency humanitarian aid will be important to us, i.e. supporting individual people or families. The long-standing cooperation with "Wave" in Thessaloniki will certainly continue. Our help is urgently needed.

## 7. miscellaneous

There are no questions or miscellaneous.

A fantastic buffet, very generously donated by the retirement home Emmaus (!), awaits us. We enjoy the fine things and have time to discuss during the break. While eating we watch the Lavrio film and afterwards Gülistan Içer tells us about her past life.

Gülistan: We know her from our intensive 1 1/2 year collaboration in Lavrio. As soon as she arrived with a small backpack, she immediately took over the medical center in the city camp. She did a great job and was available for the many people in the camp day and night. Not only did she work as a nurse, but she helped everywhere, in the kitchen, sewing masks and as a translator in the school lessons and was a good friend to many. During the Corona crisis, which also left its mark on the camp, she tested and cared for the sick and made sure that the quarantine measures were respected.

Like so many, she was persecuted in Turkey after working in various refugee camps there.

She lived "underground" for almost three years in constant fear of being arrested. She eventually had to flee to Greece as well and after this intense time in our camp she managed to escape to Switzerland.

She now lives in Basel in an asylum center, continues to learn German diligently and hopes to one day find a job in her profession.

We displayed on a table all the wonderful work of our crafty women. We are pleased to say that the members purchased many beautiful handicrafts.

Weesen, 5. 10. 2021 Edith Bühler Jud, Actuary