

JEDI COUNCIL MEETING held 31st October 2015 At The Folk Exhibition Museum Monastraki Athens



Present:

Sven Sandstrom Chair
Ann Shacklady-Smith Minute taker
Yvonne Bonner
Cora Reijerse
Leif Josefsson
Lisen Kebbe
Yianna Klissaii
Anthula Athanasiadou
Karin van Kesteren
Markos Perakis

AGENDA

1. **Minutes of the last meeting in Visbey** Minutes were read out, Jedi were reminded of the key decision points and they were accepted as a true record.

2. Matters Arising

Evaluation of the Ai company visits at Visbey was completed by Sven And Lisen and since published on the networkplace.eu website. There were other matters arising apart from those covered in the following agenda:

3. Review of Athens Meeting

Below a summary of the key learning points that were raised by Jedi members present.

3.1 Grateful thanks were offered to our Athens hosts for organising a special meeting. To re-connect with our Greek colleagues and have the opportunity to learn more of the Greek economic and social situation were two highlights.

3.2 From the organisers there was a tension between designing for self-organising and offering a structure which was clear and could be recognised by newcomers. This tension was at times played out in the meeting when judging how much self-organising activity should occur and when to stick to the structure. It was also tricky at times to know how to change the structure as it could be seen to be disrespectful to facilitators, particularly when volunteers had come forward to host.

It was suggested that the network should keep in mind the purpose of the meeting - what are we here for and let the purpose help the hosts/facilitators to decide whether to keep or to change structure.

3.3 There was general agreement that sessions covering the economic and social situation of Greece were wonderful the speakers were well received and the insights given were both enlightening and inspirational. The open space sessions were well structured and allowed sufficient time to discuss topics properly and to hear different voices.

3.4 Jedi recognised that it is sometimes difficult to organise Ai consultancy cases visits due to time, geography and language. In Greece (as with Reggio) it worked to bring the company voice into the meeting.

3.5 The hosts reaffirmed that in Greek meetings the organisers worked with what they have - in this case bringing companies in to the meeting to make the connection with the meeting theme. The example of the Gastronomy museum also illustrated how the speaker was modelling his theory-in-practice and the network was privileged to see and taste the results. There was a double modelling occurring here!

3.6 The opening questions got the network to look outside of itself and how to consider its future and proceed to **be** the new form Ai Euro network.

3.7 From a newcomer's viewpoint "*there were no expectations but enjoyment at re-connecting with known colleagues, and I tried to be a helpful newcomer.*"

3.8 The structure of the meeting and the opening questions were enjoyed, it was felt that some participants were not so worried about the focus on the future of the network.

3.9 The point was made that this was a programme for co-creating the Agenda not a prescriptive programme, so there was opportunity to vary the content. This was appreciated, but perhaps not well understood by all participants at the meeting.

3.10 Athens meeting also offered low cost accommodation venues, making it more accessible to those on a budget.

3.11 There was a perception that open space can invite topics that are often values based and the discussions can create uneasiness. This was seen as a good thing to do, to not be afraid to follow difficult topics at the meeting.

Regarding the landscape theme, there was a view that we are introducing more emphasis on the aesthetic aspect, this is welcome and should be encouraged for future meetings.

3.12 There was common agreement of the *"Brilliant way to host Ai cases, offering, something new and the guest speakers were good and focussed"*. It was felt that this approach gave something new to the network, and could be extended to considering "problems of society" using Ai practice, or in a summit format.

3.13 The suggestion was made for convening a smaller 'family meeting' in the autumn to prepare for the larger open meetings in the spring.

3.14 Jedi were asked also to recognise, when designing meetings, that people arrive to the meetings after a long journey, in the middle of a working week, have probably worked hard up to the start of their journey to clear space from their work to attend the meeting and likely arrive tired. We need to recognise this for creating space in the programme and managing energy levels on the first day.

3.15 A couple of insightful learning points were highlighted from the speakers and open space sessions they were: *"The public story - I choose the story I tell. **And** in the session: Question of transition, it is important to say goodbye and how we do this is your own story."*

3.16 **Conclusion of the Athens Meeting Review discussion:**

Jedi agreed the following

- i) To express grateful thanks to Anthoula and Yianna and all their Hellenic colleagues who created a wonderful learning time and rich experience of Hellas. Also that key learning points mentioned above should be reflected in the design of future meetings. In particular:
 - 2.1. Agreed it is important to establish some basic freedoms, values, rules and structure concerning how we interact with each other. How we talk, listen appreciatively and how to leave space for the new voices, how to create safety.
 - 2.2 Recognise that new things emerge as we would expect in a co-creative process and the meeting should be designed to accommodate that.

4. **Planning for the next four meetings**

4.1 Hasselt meeting has been thoroughly discussed at the meeting and some great ideas have emerged through the open space session. Volunteers are needed to help with aspects of the programme, practicalities, and finances.

It was agreed that volunteer organisers opt to take care of specific activities. All offers of help to go to Cora in the first instance.

4.2 This core Jedi group should know what progress is happening with the programme, scheduling, marketing and finance, particularly if we needed to make some strategic decisions re changes in the size of venue or financial assumptions on which the Jubilee meeting has been devised. It was agreed to have a check in point to review and assess progress. Leif will help to e-connect for this purpose.

Agreed: Cora will liaise with Jedi on plans and progress, the Jedi will have a check in point for 15th February.

4.3 Autumn 2016

Yvonne to contact Sherry Fuller in UK to explore the commitment to co-create a future meeting. Yvonne would help Sherry with the design

NB See Ann's addendum post Jedi meeting note below.

4.4 Spring 2017

Leif will contact Eberhard, Fritz and Agnes with a view to establishing their interest in hosting a meeting in Germany.

Agreed that proposed hosts should have attended the previous meeting to the one they propose to host as a minimum requirement; and be open to co-creating the design of the meeting to assure the network that the spirit and core values of the network are carried forward.

5. Documentation of meetings data

5.1 Jedi expressed concern about how meeting content would be collected and kept in the future. Looking back at early meetings pictures were taken of all flip charts that were produced through discussion and of the environment, concern was expressed at how will this get harvested in the future. Certain aspects of the experience, such as landscaping and the meta analysis or meta-thinking that arises from the meeting is however not documented.

5.2 Jedi discussed:

How to document the meeting substance? What minimum level of documentation is required? How to make the evolving network story available on the network site. How to provide A different type of documentation to help new people to understand who the network is, what it does and how to get involved. It was proposed that A *'light touch manual of guidelines'* would serve the

purpose and should include: procedures, programmes, tips, hints, policies, decisions. It was acknowledged that many items to be included in the manual would be available as part of meeting preparation and design, and of written or photographic documentation of meeting proceedings. However someone in the hosting team, or network, would have to take on the specific task of writing up the meta analysis based on a discussion or process to develop the analysis. This suggestion was accepted by Jedi. It was acknowledged that the proposal needs more thought, but for a start the following was agreed as an outline list of documents that should ideally be included in the manual for each meeting:

5.3 Jedi Agreed the following as an outline structure:

- Guidelines for design and meta analysis of the meeting to be done at the end specific person(s) to volunteer to produce this
- Place
- Hosts
- Cost
- Values
- Who was there
- Programme
- Theme
- Flip charts
- Photographs
- Briefings for Ai cases and reports
- Evaluation report
- Jedi minutes

5.4 Jedi agreed that this data should be available per meeting for the website.

It would be possible to produce this retrospectively for some past meetings although there would be gaps (as the History book writing team has discovered) it would be helpful if future meeting hosts could work to this structure.

6. Website

6.1 It was announced that a support person for Leif Josefsson to assist in managing the website has come forward and Jedi is pleased to thank Kees van den Berg for his offer of help.

6.2 Leif summarised the work needed to be done to transform the website and integrate tools to manage meetings and communications with the membership. The current tools are not sophisticated, word press was suggested as an alternative and Leif is investigating the possibilities with a view to transferring the site to a new platform and new domain. The first step, Leif advised, is to review the current site. Leif will continue to promote meetings and communications until Kees is able and willing to take over.

6.3 The Jedi thanked Leif for his support and guardianship, of the e-network and site for the last 10 years and the personal time and finance he had contributed for the benefit of the network. The point was made that the network has been lucky with Leif having both IT skills and a systemic understanding of the network and its values. This comes across in the quality, type and frequency of mails sent to members which provide the correct spirit of communication. It is important that we continue to have both elements present in future management of the network and site. Jedi unanimously acknowledged the contribution from Leif over the years and he was warmly applauded for his generous spirit and efforts in this.

7. Finances

7.1 Cora sent the finance report (from Cora Reijerse, Peter Bach Lauritzen and Steve Lorraine) in advance, all accepted and approved the report. It was affirmed that the system is working well. All meeting registrations and payment were made in advance and organisers could be relieved of financial stress.

7.2 It was proposed for the future that new members register their membership and pay at the same time. This is done in two separate transactions currently and can cause confusion among members about what they have paid for. All Agreed

Cora reminded Jedi what membership benefits were derived from registration they were:

- reduced fee at the first meeting
- advanced information about news items, conferences, things of professional interest
- Members information possibly a newsletter (in the future)
- contribution to administration of the network

It was also agreed that those people who have registered without paying a membership fee should be invited to pay to build the membership.

The point was made that the network should be clear about what members receive for the registration fees.

There was a suggestion for an early bird fee to confirm attendance.

7.3 Jedi also agreed that there should be a clear financial rule about meeting payments, early bird fees, and dates for a sliding scale of refunds with nil refund at a certain point. The finance team to develop on a workable model for Hasselt.

7.4 Cora reported that we currently have 69 paid up members who have paid €20 registration and meeting participants contribute and €50 per person from the meeting fee to the Network. This is helping to build up a healthy balance in the network finances which will be needed for the website and other upcoming expenses. She was also concerned not to build up too much of a surplus as there would be personal tax implications for her as she stands as the network's bank holder.

Cora suggestion to spend the surplus:

- 1) To help to attend the meeting maybe to host within someone's home Agreed to be explored further per each meeting.
- 2) To make a small movie about the network and perhaps have this produced at the network, Cora to seek proposals Agreed
- 3) To fund the travel and accommodation costs in modest for the authors and copy editor to meet in December at the Hasselt site to pull together the first full draft of the e-book. This meeting will combine two work activities as the team are also part of the organising team and Jubilee related site visits and opera rival arrangements can also be achieved during the visit. Jedi were advised that the writing team have already funded 3 trips and hosted accommodation to work together and write. Agreed

A discussion about companies marketing courses and private sponsorship took place with differing views expressed about how to do this to benefit members and the network. It was agreed to refer to the finance committee to come back with proposals.

Agreed that financial proposals discussed above will be sent to Jedi a nil response will be regarded as affirming the decision.

8. Evaluation

It was suggested that we at the conclusion of each meeting there should be an evaluation process that is different from ritual of saying farewell. This may involve sharing visions, cover uneasy questions and may contribute to a meta reflection and analysis of the meeting as raised earlier in the discussion about documentation. This idea could be tried at the Hasselt meeting.

Ann offered to develop and circulate a draft document, for Jedi comment, to outline the process which would take personal and meta evaluation forward.

The meeting closed for 12.40 with hugs and appreciation and thanks to the chair for a timely finish.

Addendum to the minutes 3/11/15 Hosting Autumn 2016 meeting

Since the meeting Sarah Lewis has proposed to host an autumn 2016 meeting in Greenwich, London, calling on David Shaked and Ann Shacklady-Smith to help. Jedi response has been affirmative of the proposal so far, so I have included this note to be added to the actions above in scoping potential future hosts. My sense is that had the invitation been received at or before the meeting the invitation would have been accepted and other hosts proposed would be sought to host meetings thereafter. Emails since seem to confirm this, but please Jedi confirm my understanding.

Best wishes,

Ann Shacklady-Smith

3/11/15