



European Pacts 2013 General Assembly -

Minutes Work seminar for preparing our future

Toulouse, La Serre, 26 to 27 November 2014

Participants: Heike Birkhoelzer ; Patrick Boase; Brigitte Carraz; Amélie Demonchy; Berenice Dondeyne; Caroline Ferrafiat; Morgane Hostiau; France Joubert; Nicole Lancelin; Oliver Moore; Samantha Pellmann; Catherine Sabatier; Priscila Soares; Martine Theveniaut; Roger Winterhalter; Martina Wollny; Peter Wollny.

Apologies for absence: Cyrielle Berger; Samuel Bonneau; Andrea Caro Gomez; Jean-Pierre Pellegrin; Vaia Tuuhia; Sigrid Woelfing.

Statutory General Assembly 2013

President's report: France Joubert

2013 saw European Pacts coming of age, with the organization of activities and discussions as part of the movement and the Grundtvig PACTS collective project process (Learning and Cooperation Platform for the Social and Solidarity-based Economy). Driven by its founding values, European Pacts has implemented its approach and continued to make progress. Our collective was built upon a project and has ensured success, helped people to grow and improved as it has progressed. We have risen to the challenges we set ourselves, from the national to the international level. This process called for a great deal of investment, rigorous management and a presence on every front.

The current context is favourable to civil society: those who take action every day. Pooling and cooperation have once again become essential; undertaking actions and sharing must remain the guiding principle between partners.

Growing in what way? By setting and sharing our goals to ensure that we can tackle them effectively, create services supported/supportable by all network members, and continue our work based on our reflections and discussions and, at the end of the day, solidarity and fraternity.

2013 Activity Report (2014 additions): Martine Theveniaut

We have achieved results: Grundtvig: prepared and launched in October 2012, completed in May 2014, was a unifying project that helped the collective to move forward. Extract from the assessment: *“The project enabled the consolidation of a network of professional participants on a European scale. The high number of field visits (...) combined with participants’ access to cultural and linguistic diversity is a major element in the added value of your project. You also ensured that your project and activities were widely disseminated within specialist networks. (...)”* This constitutes a potential that the Agence Française encourages us to keep developing.

Our members in 2012: 6 French members; 7 *European members*, 6 *countries* - Total = 13 members.

2013: 12 French members; 4 *European members*, 4 *countries* (3 less European members) Total = 16 members.

2014: 13 French members; 4 *European members* - Total = 17 members.

French membership has risen, with the number doubled, while European membership has dropped.

Grundtvig has increased our European foothold by providing the funding that has allowed us to meet. It supported the French development of horizontal partnerships between close members, and resulted in the arrival of new members in several regions. What lessons can we learn at the European level? And in France?

Reminder of article 2 of the statutes that define the European Pacts network’s objective (2005): “to create a range of actions, local, European and international, designed to promote, consolidate, improve and link up all forms of cooperation concerned with rooting change in their territorial and human environments, within fields of activity that correspond to its members’ areas of expertise” (thus open ended).

Members’ areas of expertise in 2012: *“social cohesion, territorial cohesion, sustainable development, solidarity-based economy, food sovereignty, territorial social dialogue, democracy and citizen participation, social innovations”* (2012 revision).

Looking forward to 2015: how to ensure a lasting future for the network’s actions. Priorities: modify the operating mode, replace the treasurer, internal functioning.

2013 Accounting Report: Catherine Sabatier and 2014 carry-over

2012 General Assembly minutes and statutory reports voted unanimously

New treasurer

Heike Birkhoelzer agreed to take on the role. In late December 2014, she will receive an overview of the general situation; in late January 2015, a statement of accounts and of the financing of posts and activities, then a cash position every two months. Martina Wollny offered to explain and translate accounting terms into German.

Voted unanimously by a show of hands

Summary of the results of the members survey: Martina Wollny

All participants were warmly thanked for their availability, their support and the high standard of their answers, ingredients that made the survey a real decision-making tool.

Overview

The organizations operate in a **context** marked by a lack of security, lack of recognition, the increasing influence of digital tools and generational change. They feel that the network's originality lies in its horizontal, multi-cultural and professional approach that enables members to share ideas and information, learn and develop between expert peers within a friendly environment: a win-win formula.

This **fertile ground for expertise** finds concrete form in the highly productive process of interactions, with the Learning Journey in particular acting as its vector of development.

Weaknesses are identified primarily in the sphere of understanding other people, with different spoken languages and a diversity of cultural concepts and frames of reference. They are amplified by a lack of clarity in terms of objectives and themes and an approach that is too rooted in the French context.

Our dependency on funding (FPH) weakens the network. This is an obstacle to development.

Building the future

Members would contribute to the success of the project in the form of skills, intellectual output and, to a certain extent, premises and technology.

Missions are seen as the fast track to development:

- promote/disseminate expertise, internal and external network-building;
- get to know each other better and raise our profile: this communications work would go hand in hand with the choice of concrete and useful themes, refocused on members' needs;
- the Learning Journey, as a learning platform and melting pot for different cultures and disciplines, could be a tool capable of launching and supporting development in two areas: economic and R&D;
- ideally, this work theme would progress via interaction with a work methods laboratory for testing and developing new tools and practices;
- daily working life demanding ever higher standards in terms of efficiency, efficacy and ingenuity would result in the learning of new forms of collaboration and digital tools that would help to increase interaction and remote working;
- the search for funding should be a key work theme to ensure that the European Pacts project has a lasting future;
- members are not very inclined to take on responsibilities, most of them expressing their approval of a more collective and more European running of the network.

Summary of the discussions that followed: consensus on the following points

Test new forms and modes of communication to enhance networking

Introduce an operating mode that will help us to develop our practices, get to know each other better, increase trust and coordinate our activities:

- move forwards with the tools that people already know how to use as the starting point, so as not to intimidate those who are less familiar with these technologies, but to encourage them; possible creation of, for example, a Facebook group, use of Framapad for collaborative note-taking, etc. and gradually increase people's skills;
- move forwards by means of regular meetings on a suitable schedule, via Skype or telephone: discussions in small groups of our daily issues every month alternating with meetings in bigger groups every three months.

Focus on acquired skills and experiences to promote activities

- Draw up concrete and dynamic experience forms.
- A monthly newsletter to stay informed of the activities all members are undertaking both within and outside their organizations. This communications process, by highlighting acquired skills and experiences, will ensure the continuity of interactions and consolidation of activities and organizations.

Switch from a sharing-based principle to a product-based principle to fund activities

- For the network to continue, the 2015 priority needs to be on actively looking for funding for members and for European Pacts coordination. How can we switch from the sharing-based principle that has connected members until now to a product-based principle? Which services and which targets for which objectives?
- R&D is at the heart of European Pacts' activity. It could act to highlight the economic elements by transferring and raising the profile of experiences, and thus enhancing them and helping the network to progress collectively.

Properly identify members' expectations to determine which missions should be set up

- The members' profiles are heterogeneous. The priority is on which shared missions we need to set up. Once everyone has clarified their expectations, the search for funding will be organized within the shared missions.

Setting up missions

How to launch missions:

- 1 person agrees to coordinate the mission for six months;
- at least three volunteer organizations get involved.
- Half-yearly results:
 - validate work objectives;
 - define a realistic operating mode;
 - plan a work programme;
 - explore funding possibilities for 2015-2016;
 - set the date for the first mission meeting: open to other people (absent members, organization members, or even newcomers, etc.).

Review of the three groups' tasks

Mission 1: Highlighting resources

Coordinator: Peter Wollny

Group members: Morgane Hostiou (for ADEPES), Martine Theveniaut, Roger Winterhalter

Mission name: The Ressourcery

Objectives: Raise members' profiles. Choose between the many existing tools and agree on which ones to use.

Work programme:

The first three months will focus on internal communications:

- identify the tools used;
- draw up an inventory of existing document resources;
- report on this work so that it is visible;
- inform members via means to be defined;
- draw up experience forms to raise members' profiles;
- network the links, funding, our values and points in common.

After six months:

Draw up recommendations for the proposal to set up a platform to improve our communications and highlight our work and resources.

People/organizations involved: the other members are cordially invited to get involved in the project.

Mission meeting date: 15 December 2014 at 2.00 pm via Skype (a new experience for some of us!).

Collaborative notes: http://pad.sapie.eu/p/PactesEU_chantier_ressources

Mission 2: the FAAME work methods laboratory

Coordinator: Oliver Moore

Group members: Heike Birkhölzer, Priscila Soares, Martina Wollny

Mission name: the FAAME laboratory, standing for “Facilitate, Amplify and Adapt our Methods within European Pacts and across Europe”.

Objectives: promote and develop European Pacts members’ tools and methods.

Work programme:

- identify our wealth of knowledge and incorporate it in a catalogue of European Pacts services;
- study the feasibility of adapting our members’ areas of expertise to sell them in other countries, e.g. CEST training (TechNet), participative budget (InLoco) and participative methods (Cloughjordan Community Farm);
- research funding and organizations interested in members’ methods and areas of expertise.

First remote mission meeting: mid-December 2014.

Collaborative notes: <http://pad.sapie.eu/p/methods>

Mission 3: the Learning Journey lab

Coordinator: Amélie Demonchy

Group members Patrick Boase, Brigitte Carraz, Caroline Ferrafiat, Alan Kay (absent), Nicole Lancelin

Mission name: the Learning Journey lab

Work programme for the next four months:

- formulate the identity of the European Pacts LJ so as to be able to propose an LJ service (charter);
- examine an institutional organization of the LJ: which links, practices, bridges and coordination within European Pacts in relation to the Learning Journey?;
- create an identity form for each organization able and willing to provide an LJ service, draw up a table of possibilities, then link it to a financial set-up and the launch of a seminar in autumn (funded by Erasmus key action 1/Youth);
- create a catalogue detailing LJ experiences, target audiences and concrete proposals (Caroline Ferrafiat).

First remote mission meeting: not set.

European Pacts organization for the first six months of 2015

Results of the round table discussion on the network's future and a summary of schedules

- **Objective:** ensure a successful transition/transmission and achieve autonomy in terms of services by the end of 2015
- **Erasmus decision:** we leave Erasmus and keep the Grundtvig spirit.

- **Primary mission tasks**

Make as much progress as possible in small groups.

Then get validation from the others.

Summarise later on.

Communicate: the Ressourcery mission will find suitable tools.

The results will enable us to define the coordination roles.

- **Define coordination missions:** coordinate what and how, to arrive at a fairly finalised services tool by the end of 2015?

Proposal for a tree diagram showing who does what and who takes over tasks.

Suggestion: Martine looks after political coordination, Martina the European proactive side.

Coordination transparency: Martine and Martina will be sent messages and discussions to the email address coordination@pactes.eu. They will be copied to France Joubert.

Martine's paid coordination tasks for the first half of 2015 focus on:

- inventory of existing document resources;
- transmission/sharing to convey information and acquired skills to Martina and other members involved in the other missions.

Martina's tasks over the next six months are to be defined, in line with the missions' work and formalization of a missions form. A budget is attributed.

Minutes: Martine and Martina.