



European Horticulture Teacher

General Assembly EU-Horticulture-Teacher.asbl

DATE: 04.04.2024

TIME: 8:50 -11:15

place: Langenlois, Austria

Chairwoman: Andrea Schulz

minutes: Matthias Alferink

Present:

See registration list on website

Apologies for absence:

The agenda was sent out in advance and includes the following items. Two additional motions were submitted by members in advance.

1 Welcome by the President, approval of the minutes of the last General Assembly
13.04.2023

2 Address by the President, review of the year

3 Financial report 2023 - approval of the actions of the Executive Board

4 Election of the Board

5 Determination of the membership fee for 2025

6 European professional competition 2024

7 Miscellaneous

o Age limit for European professional competitions

o Outlook for teacher seminars

o Outlook European Vocational Competitions

o E-learning area homepage



Item1: Welcome by the President, approval of the minutes of the last General Assembly 13.04.2023

All participants are welcomed in several languages. Presentation of the programme. Welcome by Franz Fuger and Andreas Kovac. Directors of the technical college and vocational school for horticulture in Langenlois. Franz Fuger welcomes those present and introduces the region, Austria's most important wine-growing region with 2200 hectares of vineyards. The school is known throughout Austria for its versatile training in the fields of horticulture and floristry.

Franz Fuger praised those responsible at the association for their commitment to European horticulture and wished them continued success with their events.

Thanks from Andrea Schulz to Franz Fuger, Ricarda Öllerer and Andreas Kovac, without the co-operation of the local schools such an event would not be possible.

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were published for members on the homepage (www.hortiteach.eu) and thus made available to everyone. They were also sent in advance by email. They were unanimously approved by those present.

Item2: Address by the President, review of the year

Andrea Schulz gives a brief review of the year.

The teachers' seminar took place in Carpentras in 2023. Valérie Pauleau had organised an interesting seminar last year. She is thanked once again for this.

The Board meets regularly to discuss the association's concerns. The visit to the IPM in Essen in January deserves special mention. For the second time, companies were specifically approached to support the association financially or with donations in kind as sponsors of the European Professional Competition.

Maria Kliem, a member of the association from the very beginning, passed away last year after a short but serious illness. Andrea Schulz presents Maria's work with the European Horticultural Teachers in an obituary. She served on the board for several years and had been the country representative for Germany for the European Vocational Competition since 2017. A condolence card was prepared and signed by those present. An obituary could be viewed by those present. A minute's silence was held in memory of Maria.

Item3: Financial report 2023 - approval of the actions of the Executive Board

Thomas Völkening gives a brief overview of the financial year 2023. Loss on account is not a loss of the association, but stems from the coordination of an Erasmus+ project. Membership fees have increased by 30% compared to last year. Details of the financial report can be viewed at any time on request from the Executive Board.

The two members Andreas Kopp and Oliver Piette have checked the receipts and statements in advance and confirmed their accuracy. Last year, he remarked that the same items should be marked in colour to make them easier to check. This suggestion was taken up and implemented by Thomas Völkening.



A further suggestion from Andreas Kopp is that in future, the proportion of money that is for Erasmus and the proportion that is not actually available to the organisation for specific projects should be divided up.

After a thorough examination of the cash register by Olivier and Andreas and also by all those present, the actions of the Executive Board are approved. Andrea Schulz thanks Thomas Völkening for his conscientious work.

Andreas Kopp has completed his two-year term as auditor. Olivier Piette will remain in charge of this task for another year. Following a request to all those present, Christian Heinz is available as the new auditor for the next two years.

He is unanimously confirmed by those present.

Item4: Election of the Executive Board

According to the statutes of the association, elections to the Board of Directors and the presidency take place every two years. With regard to the election of the Executive Board, it has already been pointed out in advance that one or two people should come forward to support the work of the Executive Board.

For the election of the Board of Directors, the current members will initially resign. Peter Stadelmann is asked to conduct the election.

Peter thanks the outgoing Board members for their work and commitment. He asks whether everyone is willing to be re-elected to the Board for a further two years. This is confirmed by Andrea Schulz, Esther Kirschfink, Kornelia Benasiewicz, Matthias Alferink and Thomas Völkening.

The Board of Directors is then elected unanimously by those present at the Annual General Meeting, with no votes against or abstentions. The second election concerns the election of the President. Here too, Andrea Schulz stands for re-election and is elected unanimously, with no votes against or abstentions.

The election is accepted by all and the Board resumes its work. It is pointed out that in two years' time, if possible, 1-2 more people should stand for election to the Board.

Item5: Determination of the membership fee for 2025

The membership fee is unanimously approved as proposed by the Executive Board. It will therefore continue to be €20 for individuals and €50 for schools or other institutions.

Item6: 10th European Professional Competition for Young Gardeners from 29 July to 2 August 2024

Information about the 10th European Vocational Competition for Young Gardeners. The anniversary competition takes place at the geographical centre of the EU (since Brexit). It has been held in a different European country every two years since 2002. After a break due to the pandemic, the vocational school in Kitzingen/Ochsenfurt (near Würzburg) has taken over the organisation of the next competition with our members Gertraud Herrmann and Petra Schuck.



Andrea Schulz shows all those present that registration will be carried out via the homepage (www.hortiteach.eu) for the first time. This will make the work of the future organisers on site easier. After the registration deadline (20.04.24), Andrea Schulz will send an Excel table with the registered teams.

Gertraud Hermann and Petra Schuck add that 3 project partners are now supporting the competition. In addition to their school, the school in Veitshöchheim and Don Bosco, Gadheim are also involved in the organisation. Detailed information can be found on the homepage.

The programme is as follows:

Monday 29.7. arrival, welcome evening

Tuesday 30.7. and Wednesday 31.7. competition in Gadheim,

Thursday 1.8. excursions, festive evening with award ceremony at the school in Ochsenfurt

Friday 2 August Departure.

Andrea Schulz points out that, for organisational reasons, a maximum of 24 teams can take part in the competition. If there are more registrations, a lot will be drawn to decide which country may only travel with one team.

Financing such a competition is not easy. Enquiries are made to various ministries on site and support is sought. In addition, the importance of using Erasmus+ funds to finance catering and accommodation is emphasised. All country managers should realise that without Erasmus funding, financing is not guaranteed.

The association has so far provided €10,000. The Executive Board has now decided to increase this sum. A sum of €12,000 will be made available for the 2024 competition. This sum was raised by the Executive Board through sponsorship requests to various companies.

Andrea introduces the sponsors (see homepage) and describes the amount of voluntary work that the Board has to do for this.

This year, for the first time, there is a fee for team registration. This is €50 per team, which is seen as a symbolic amount.

The Board would like to thank Gertraud and Petra for their exceptional commitment and voluntary work!

Item7: Miscellaneous, motions and outlook

o Applications to the association:

The age limit for the European Professional Competition is set at 24.99. Austria has requested that this be lowered and Germany has requested that the age be raised There are many arguments in favour of both requests.



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Esther Kirschfink briefly explains why the age limit has been set at this level and puts both requests to the vote.

1) Who is in favour of raising the age: Two votes in favour of raising the age.

2) Who is in favour of lowering the age: Three votes in favour of lowering the age.

Leave the same: 27 votes in favour

This means that there is no majority in favour of changing the age limit. The majority is in favour of retaining the age limit of 24.99 years at the start of the competition.

o **Outlook for European professional competitions:**

The 11th professional competition (2026) will take place in Poland (Bielsko-Biala, responsible Kornelia Benasiewicz).

For the 12th competition (2028), the school in Latvia (Bulduri, Gunta Jekobsone and Gunta Krastina) has confirmed its participation to the Board.

All those present were asked to consider who could organise the EU BWB in 2030.

Item8: Teachers' seminar

The teachers' seminar will take place in Luxembourg next year. Thomas Völkening is organising the next meeting and briefly introduces it.

Among other things, an image video about Luxembourg was shown. Programme: including a visit to the new LTA school, EU Parliament Kirchberg, LUGA national exhibition of urban gardens.

Reference to LUGA, opens in May 2025, but we will get an insight.

And the teachers' seminar 2026 in Hungary (07.04. -11.04.2026) will also be presented.

Tamara Tuza and Szusanna give a presentation about the school organisation and show an image video.

There are 5 Hungarian vocational centres under the Ministry of Agriculture, comprising 61 schools; Tamara and Sandor are here from the central training centre, which comprises 11 schools. (besides great plain region, south hungarian, north hungarian and ...)

General Assembly and Erasmus Assembly at the Magyar Gyula Vocational School for Horticulture (video on Youtube), first Japanese garden in Hungary at the Varga Marton Vocational School in Budapest, where the Skills Base is also located, National Botanical Garden, Royal Palace of Gödöllő, (international) vertical gardening project, Hungarian Tea garden, fruit trees, Hungarian spirit, homemade jam tasting (facebook: kerteszerno)(owner is president of the Hungarian Horticultural Association), Szuvandzsiev ornamental horticulture, specialmix. hu nursery of 17 ha, Wine tasting and wine yard visit at Soos Istvan Vocational School of Winery, Useful links about educational system.



After the General Assembly, the following schools came forward to organise the teacher training course after 2027

- o Liège and region (Daniel) (The last seminar was in Belgium in Eupen in 2006)
- o Estonia: The school in Rápina could organise a seminar (Keio Karloop) (The last seminar was in 2009 in Rápina, Estonia)
- o Switzerland: The school in Oeschberg would also offer a seminar (Daniel Jenny) (The last seminar was in Switzerland in Niederlenz in 2012)
- o

The new e-learning section of the homepage(www.hortiteach.eu) was already presented yesterday at the Erasmus projects and the marketplace.

Matthias Alferink briefly reminds us of the Instagram account. There are many activities that are worth reporting on. Input must also come from the members for it to work. The contributions should be sent by email to the association address.

Matthias Alferink points out that it is also possible to buy mugs and polo shirts this year. The sale is at cost price. Polo shirts and mugs, prices: €30 for polo shirts, €10 for mugs.

Questions/comments/information from the audience:

Ricarda Öllerer points out that the padlet she used to organise the marketplace can also be used to exchange good quality images. This should be used by everyone if possible.

Peter Stadelmann concludes by thanking the Board for their hard work!

The outsourcing of Erasmus projects is noted as a good idea at the General Assembly so that there is more time for these topics. Andrea will link the presentations on the individual Erasmus projects on the homepage.

Finally, Andrea Schulz thanks the organising team of this teachers' seminar and presents Ricarda and Andreas with the association's cup.

End: 11:15 a.m.