

**Minutes of the European Folk Network Annual General Meeting (AGM)**  
**Monday 15 March 2021 15.30 (UK GMT) by Zoom**

The meeting was convened by Chair **David Francis**.

**Attendance:** The meeting, held online by Zoom, was attended by 76 members.

**1. Constitutional & legal position**

Interim Administrator Nod Knowles outlined the position of the EFN as follows:

EFN was registered on 17 January 2019 in the Judicial District of Brussels as a not-for-profit association number 0718 789 695. Registered address: Bloemenstraat 32, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

EFN's normal financial year was 1 January – 31 December. The first AGM and accounts were to cover the period from registration to 31 December 2020. Accounts were to be presented to members by the end of June each year and the AGM to be held by end of September each year.

All members have one vote. Under the constitution the Board have the responsibility of proposing by laws/internal regulations for annual elections and other policies.

**2. Report of Activity**

EFN had been active from the outset. The 2019 activity began in April when membership was launched and subscriptions and donations began. In October EFN was represented at English Folk Expo, Manchester and at WOMEX in Tampere and in November the first EFN Conference was held in Brussels.

Activities continued in 2020. In January EFN was represented at Showcase Scotland in Glasgow. Fundraising was undertaken for the Mapping Research and research was conducted from May to November. A parallel strand of Youth Engagement research was conducted from May to December. An EFN Facebook Community forum was established and membership grew throughout the period and new Board members were co-opted. In October EFN participated in WOMEX online

**3. Accounts 2019**

The 2019 accounts, which ran from the opening of the bank account on 01 April 2019 to 31 December 2019, were presented by the Interim Administrator. The accounts were APPROVED by a unanimous vote of the members present.

**3.1 Accounts 2020**

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**4. Additional financial information**

Nod Knowles confirmed that EFN had benefited from funds granted to Traditional Music Forum (Scotland) from British Council Scotland and Creative Scotland for Mapping The Traditional Sector - Stage One. EFN had undertaken the research on behalf of the Traditional Music Forum. Additional funding for Mapping-Stage One came from Newcastle University and additional funding for Youth

Engagement research from Wales Arts International was paid directly to a separate researcher.

## **5. Plans 2021**

Nod Knowles and David Francis outlined the list of activities planned from this point forward, subject to the restrictions of the Coronavirus pandemic. The main items would be:

- continuing to run Spring Forward #1, #2 & #3;
- creating a long term strategic plan;
- developing an EFN Manifesto;
- running a conference in November in Budapest;
- visiting a number of showcases and expos;
- recruiting new members;
- working on fundraising from appropriate sources;
- disseminating the Mapping research;
- publishing the Youth Engagement research;
- building EFN's profile and communication on social media;
- and joining and participating in Culture Action Europe

## **6. Plans for By-Laws/Internal Regulations**

Nod Knowles noted that EFN still had to create further details of its democratic structure and therefore arrangements for annual elections for the Board (by the creation of an appropriate internal regulation) were necessary. The meeting APPROVED the proposal that the Board should bring forward internal regulations that would be the basis for Board elections at the conference in November.

There would also be a need to create other policies and procedures in the future, which should include policies on equal opportunities, conflict of interest and accounting procedures.

## **7. Thanks**

David Francis thanked the Board and Interim Administrator for all their work to date. He looked forward to meeting members again at Spring Forward #2 and #3 and at the November conference. He then closed the meeting.