



Funding of Working Groups

Paper for The General Assembly April 08 2011

The current funding for the working groups as a whole is €5.000. This is a very small amount but is limited by our expenditure elsewhere – mostly the Project Officer and the Co-ordinator. Now that this area of activity is growing we need to encourage it as much as possible within our limitations.

In previous years there has been little if any expenditure under this heading and the EMAS working group has on occasions actually paid money back. Last year the cost was €500 by the Biodiversity working group although it could be argued that some of this which was under the Green Week heading was actually down to that working group.

There has been some pressure for paying travel expenses for members attending working group meetings and this has so far been resisted. I believe this is correct under our present circumstances. Also members attending the GA's and the ExCo pay their own expenses. Travel and a possible overnight stop in Brussels would cost at least €200, sometimes much more, so the current allocation of €5.000 could disappear in a couple of meetings.

What then should qualify for working group expenses (all on the basis of no other funding being available)? I suggest:

Room hire and refreshments for meetings;

Teleconferencing costs;

Costs (travel and subsistence) for an invited speaker to attend;

Occasional costs for individuals to attend an outside event or meeting of clear importance to the working group;

Costs of arranging a seminar/conference on a theme within the interests of the working group (If this is likely to exceed €1000 the support of the ExCo would be required).

Any other ideas?

I think if these regulations were clear it would help to stem some of the pressures. I am not sure how many working groups can be considered as active but if it is five then €1.000 could be made available to each group to use as it considers appropriate. The situation could be reviewed at the end of each year.

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