

ISDE DB meeting online, 2025-01-22

Time and link provided by Erica (16:15 Vienna time)

### Minutes:

**Participants:** Roberto, Oral, Lilian, Peter vdH, Cathey, Erica, Vitalia (Italy), Bernhard, Hanns, Fabrizio (Italy)

Welcome, review of last minutes, **election of note-taker:** Hanns

Usual reports:

- **President:** involved in WHO negotiations (as non-state stakeholders): pandemic preparedness, world assembly, etc. Planning of ISDE assembly and anniversary started (see below: Calendar). 27-28 members according to our list on web-site, but only few are present at DB and in e-mail discussions. Different information about number of members. Voluntary work only, but still, we do a great job. Oral thanks us for our contribution to international for a. ISDE relevant player in the international field.
- **International Secretary:** Represents ISDE in WHO and UNEP procedures on EH. Supported by Roberto in collaboration regarding UNEP Chemicals / Climate Change & Health, CC&Air pollution. UNEP Basel convention (lead pollution) (in general, UNEP currently more active than WHO in EH field) Nano-materials, pharmaceuticals (review of the draft within expert group), Science-Policy interface. Strategy not approved, Plastic Pollution convention, nano-plastics from pharmaceutical industry. (Cathey: ISDE represented at Climate COPs every year! But process is slow and frustrating. And participation of NGOs gets increasingly restricted.) Discussion about visibility, proposal of publication of papers, presenting our feats on the website (photos of conferences, etc.)
- **Treasurer:** See annex. Discussion: not many members respond. Hanns will send new invoice for 2025 though. How is the experience of other NGOs like HEAL: (Peter) rich Europeans, offer of support for Brussels visits for HEAL AGM, extra project money – so not comparable. (Cathey: USA needs to figure out how to send money to Europe without fees! Erica: I can help!)  
[https://wise.com/nl/?lang=en&utm\\_source=google&matchtype=e&device=c&userlocation=9064073&keyword=wise%20bank&campaignid=20934525115&adgroupid=161278431007&utm\\_campaign=20934525115\\_161278431007&gad\\_source=1&gclid=EAlaIQobChMIIn6eb3eajiwMVUZqDBx1L\\_DUfEAAYAiAAEgl8ufD\\_BwE](https://wise.com/nl/?lang=en&utm_source=google&matchtype=e&device=c&userlocation=9064073&keyword=wise%20bank&campaignid=20934525115&adgroupid=161278431007&utm_campaign=20934525115_161278431007&gad_source=1&gclid=EAlaIQobChMIIn6eb3eajiwMVUZqDBx1L_DUfEAAYAiAAEgl8ufD_BwE) wise bank
- **Past president:** How can we make ISDE younger again? Invite new colleagues from all member countries (both national, but also ISDE global activities). (Peter concedes that it is not easy, but still, it is necessary). Many global challenges. Good examples from Italy (many young and active members), Austria (outreach of journal), ... ISDE should respond to international problems, e.g., US stepping out of WHO (open letter?) Oral: every member should bring one young person to AGM in November 23-25! (Lilian agrees: stick to EH issues! WHO has lost prestige in EH issues because of lack of resources.)
- **Scientific Office:** Conference in November. Draft sent out. Discussion of details of program (title suggestions, topics). Give feedback until end of February!

Participation of **ISDE in projects:** We need a plan of action! Peter reports about some good experiences with INCHEs. Can involve young doctors. NGOs can participate in stakeholder-groups in

large projects (advisory board). ISDE needs to be more visible to be invited! Contact Peter with questions! (Oral: seek funding for revival of ISDE bulletin)

**ISDE Website:** Hanns manages website. There have been technical problems recently. Now moved to a new server. Need input from members. (Short reports, on paragraph only per activity, eventually a photo) Bad experience with Tashkent Declaration: no decision within board! (Problems with provider in Switzerland, Erica volunteers to manage website: agreed!)

Peter van den Hazel (on communication issue in more general): 1. Research that we do within our national organisation is easy to publish; 2 Policy activities. these are more difficult to deal within in an international organisation. Frequent meetings where we discuss such policy statements can improve our visibility (when was the last time, we had a shared opinion?) 3. Training activities\*. That is depending on funding to organise some training or conference. This is a topic we can do together. It might help to increase visibility. Lilian: Add 4. Experts' contributions to international fora.

Bernhard: agrees with Peter's suggestions and presents examples from Switzerland. International activities must be rooted in national & local actions. (e.g., slow progress in COP. National activities are much more satisfying. But both sides are necessary!) Exchange best practices internationally!

\*(Erica): Regarding training, don't forget, ISDE is a cosponsor of NextGenU.org's Climate Change and Health course: <https://courses.nextgenu.org/course/view.php?id=307>

Discussion about Vice-presidents' and treasurer's **positions** (and decision about nomination committee for the president elect) Regarding treasurer: The Europeans present will try to find a young volunteer in their country (NL, IT, CH) (see also discussion about problems of transferring money from US to Europe). Peter chairs the nomination committee!

**Calendar** (next ISDE meetings, important other dates: both to clarify in the meeting minutes, but also as a proposal for the website): Roberto sent invitation to WHO side-event, WHO conference on Air Pollution in March 23-27 (Cartagena). Proposes follow-up online-talk on outcome of WHO conference as an "after the event" event. Only few invited people. Difficult to be on-site but only for few invited persons. If you want to go, tell Roberto before the end of January.

**Any other business:** none

Next meeting Wed., 26.2.2025: final program of November meeting, open letters

Closure of meeting by president, 18:30 Vienna time

**Annex: Report of the treasurer**

Financial status on Dec 31th, 2023: CHF 12,609.05 EUR 19,443.38 USD 1,386.91

Financial status on Dec 31th, 2024: CHF 12,687.95 EUR 17,156.81 USD 1,009.05

2024 out: Bank charges, ISDE Kenia Book, Int Secretariate conference participation

2024 in: CH, IT, Can

2024 in kind: AR: Int Secretariate, UZ: INCHES conference, AT: Vienna-Nukus-Workshop

Waiver requested: HOPE Gambia, SDPI Pakistan.

Question: invoice for 2025?

(In previous years also FR, NL, AT, UZ have sometimes responded and paid)