CYE General Assembly GA 17.-19.2025 in Brussels, Belgium, hotel nHow

Minutes

Written by Arto Hanttu

Present:

Name	Country
Michal Florian	Czech Republic
Minona Schäfer	Germany
Anne Mühlenhof	Germany
Jan Speh	Slovenia
Ludovica Luetti	Italy
Coosje Endtz	the Netherlands
Elise Wessels	the Netherlands
Marie Maresova	Czech Republic
Sanne Burgener	Switzerland
Eduard Colomer	Spain (Catalonia)
Karoline Reimers	Norway
Paula Herz	Germany
Radu Vasile	Romania
Thalia Katri	Greece
Arto Hanttu (project manager)	Finland
Dana Limburg (financial manager)	the Netherlands
Abigail Zalba (general manager)	Spain

On Friday 17th we followed AOECS agenda and joined all discussions, break-out sessions etc. This was generally viewed as positive change to previous conferences.

On Saturday 18th we had our own agenda.

We started the day with a wake-up game.

Introductions. Everyone introduced themselves and their youth group. We shared the highlights of recent activities and upcoming events.

Coffee break. We enjoyed a wide variety of cakes and cookies with tea and coffee.

Working group presentations. We discussed the current state and progress of each working group.

- Social media (Paula). Instagram posts had been regular and of wide variety. The workflow of several people producing content and one person doing the actual publishing had been functioning well.
- Beat the Wheat (Jana Carnohorski joined briefly online). Blog posts were published monthly, but there had been lack of motivated authors.
- Travel Net (Radu). The entries of several countries had been updated. Most of the AOECS member and associate/affiliate member countries now have information presented.
- Summer Camp (Arto). The group had been on hiatus. We agreed that there is no need for this working group as it is now.

Summer camp 2025. Karoline presented a summary of summer camp 2025 organized by NCFU. The camp had been regarded successful, but the organizers agreed that communication before and during the camp could have been better. 57 youth from 14 different nationalities joined. The organizing team consisted of 8 youth and 2 employees of NCFU.

Pros of hosting a summer camp. We agreed that hosting is challenging but there are many upsides if one can manage it.

- Helps to grow your youth group
- It's fun
- Good way to raise awareness of coeliac organization and coeliac disease for the general public
- Good experience for organizers. A lesson in planning and organizing big events
- Develop a connection with local businesses, authorities and sponsors
- Gather more volunteers
- Become more effective team. A lesson in teamwork and delegation.

Challenges of hosting a summer camp. We discussed possible solutions for these challenges based on previous experiences.

- Finding a good place with affordable accommodation and interesting activities.
- Scheduling bus/travel to camp place and traveling during the camp. Possible solution: Fix the schedule and let everyone know in advance.
- Access to pharmacy/doctor, possible emergencies. Possible solution: First aid kit, personnel with medical knowledge, car with a sober driver

Lunch

Minutes 2024 and annual report 2024-2025. We presented and approved the documents. The financials of annual report will be updated later to cover the expenses of GA 2025 as well.

Presentation and voting for summer camp host 2026. Thalia presented Greece as a host for summer camp 2026. There were no other proposals. After discussion Greece was selected as the host for summer camp 2026.

Summer camp hosts for 2027 and 2028. Several delegates voiced a possibility to host. An online meeting will be held later to further this topic.

Airport project. We agreed that this topic is important and should be discussed further. A draft of data collection form was presented. A possibility to widen the scope to airlines, catering and train station was discussed. A reasonable scope should be agreed later.

Working group reform. We decided to try a new structure for working groups and online platforms. The main method of keeping in touch will be a Whatsapp community divided into several subchannels. Common documents will be kept in Google Drive. The board will develop this further.

The working groups. We asked everyone to choose at least one working group. We will ask again online later.

- Social media and Beat the Wheat
    - Ludovica, Jan, Anne, Coosje, Elise, Marie, Paula
- Travel Net
    - Sanne, Eduard, Radu, Michal, Minona
- Projects (Airport, summer camp)
    - Karoline, Minona, Marie

We also came up with ideas to improve overall workflow.

- General:
    - Put deadlines on tasks
    - Put all documents to Google Drive in folders separated by topic
    - Do not force to join working groups. Smaller group may be more effective if everyone is active
- Social media:
    - Integrate Beat the Wheat to Social media
    - Introduce the delegates and their youth group on Instagram
    - Start Tiktok channel
    - Get more people to do social media
    - Let travel-related topics stay on the website
    - Move everything else from Beat the Wheat blog to social media
    - Respond to comments in reasonable time
- WhatsApp:
    - Create a WhatsApp community and create subchannels by topic
    - Moderate who can join each subchannel
    - All coeliacs channel, but only moderators can post according to guidelines (no spamming)
    - All delegates channel for general chat

    - Pin relevant messages
    - Put a link to a Google Drive folder
- Travel Net:
    - Expand to popular travelling destinations outside Europe and AOECS members

Delegate of the year. Radu was chosen for his effort in Travel Net, Gluten advisor -app and photography.