



together
Territories of coresponsibility

Act of the General Assembly of November 4, 2020

According with its convocation and its agenda, the General Assembly of TOGETHER, international network of co-responsible territories, took place on November 4, 2020 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Brussels time. This is the third extraordinary General Assembly of the network, after the founding General Assembly on November 4, 2013 in Strasbourg (France) and the General Assembly on November 4, 2016 in Braine-Alléud (Belgium). Initially scheduled in Cape Verde, this third extraordinary General Assembly finally took place online, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The following members participated:

- The city of Kavala (Greece), President of the Bureau of the General Assembly, represented by its Deputy Mayor, Mr. Georgios Michailidis, as well as Io Chatzivaryti, EU projects adviser;
- The city of Kairouan (Tunisia), Secretary of the Bureau of the General Assembly, represented by its Mayor, Mr. Radhouane Bouden;
- The municipality of Caminha (Portugal), President of the Board of Auditors, represented by its Mayor, Mr. Miguel Alves;

The municipality of Grândola (Portugal) represented by the Senior Technicians of the Social Development Sector, Otília Mesquita e Vera Antunes;

- Carine Jansen, Director of Social Cohesion of Wallonia (Belgium), President of TOGETHER;
- Jorge Guimarães representing the 9 Regional Partners Commissions (CRP) of Cape Verde;
- Christine Welche (Belgium), associate member;
- Isabel Sousa (Portugal), associate member and SPIRAL dynamizer in Portugal;
- Manuela Coutinho (Portugal), associate member and SPIRAL dynamizer in Portugal, represented by Samuel Thirion;
- Samuel Thirion, General Secretary of TOGETHER;
- Wislen Nevoa, TOGETHER volunteer.

According to article 7 of TOGETHER's Rule of Procedure, the General Assembly can be held whatever the number of members present or represented. It was therefore possible to start its work at the scheduled time, under the chairmanship of Mr. Georgios Michailidis, Deputy Mayor of Kavala, following the various items on the agenda.

1- Approval of 2016-2020 activity and financial reports

The activity report was presented by Ms. Carine Jansen, President of TOGETHER (see appendix 1). It was then put to a vote and obtained unanimous approval from the participating or represented members.

The floor was then given to Mr. Miguel Alves, President of the Board of Auditors for the presentation of his analysis of the financial reports for the years 2016 to 2019 (see summary in appendix 2). After confirming the compliance of all accounts and financial reports, he invited the

GA to approve them. Having then been put to a vote, the financial reports for the 4 years were unanimously approved by the participating or represented members.

2- Approval of the Action Plan for the next 4 years

The Action Plan was then presented by Ms. Carine Jansen, president of the network. She first of all recalled that this plan is the result of a consultation process within the network and with its partners around the project "Learning together to make the right choices" before and during the 4 days of the 4th International Meeting which just finished and its starting point. She then outlined the 4 axes of the action plan and its appendices.

The President of the Bureau of the General Assembly then opened the debate. Two proposed amendments were presented by Mr. Jorge Guimarães: the first consists of adding an axis on the continued application of SPIRAL in the territories, bringing the total number of axes to 5. The second consists of adding an update on collaboration with universities, specifying that work will also be carried out on fundamental concepts such as that of territorial governance.

The action plan with these two amendment proposals was then put to a vote and received unanimous approval from participating or represented members. It is attached in annex 3 of this act.

3- Modification of the statutes concerning associate members

Following a suggestion put forward at the last General Assembly in Braine-l'Alleud, it was proposed to the General Assembly to modify article 5 of the statutes (coordination bodies) to allow the election of any member to the three coordinating bodies, including associate members. The proposal was approved unanimously by participating or represented members. The new wording of Article 5 would be the following (are indicated in strikethrough words of the current wording that would be deleted):

“Article 5: Co-ordination bodies

Co-ordination of the Together Network shall be ensured by:

- a Management Board, comprising three ~~full~~ members (President, Vice-President and Secretary); its role shall be to co-ordinate the Network between general meetings, with the support of the Secretariat;
- a General Assembly Bureau, comprising three ~~full or ex-officio~~ members (President, Vice-President and Secretary) to organise and ensure the smooth running of the Network's general meetings;
- and an Auditing Committee comprising three ~~full or ex-officio~~ members (President, Vice-President and Secretary) to verify the proper management of the Network, in particular the annual financial statements, with the support of the Secretariat.

These different functions shall be specified in the Rules of Procedure. All officials shall be elected for a period of 2 to 4 years by the Constituent General Meeting, then by the Extraordinary General Meetings to be held on the occasion of the International Meetings of Territories of Co-Responsibility.”

Observing that it is not logical that members can be elected without being able to vote in the General Assembly, Mr. Radouen, mayor of Kairouan, and Christine Welche proposed that all members, including associate members, can vote at the General Assembly. This proposal was

validated by the President of the General Assembly Bureau as a proposal made to the General Assembly, then unanimously approved by the participating or represented members and will be submitted to the approval of the other members by email. The last sentence of Article 2 (Members) of the statutes would therefore be amended as follows:

Current wording: Only full members and full members have voting rights at general meetings.
New wording: All members have the right to vote at general meetings.

However, Article 7 of the Rules of Procedure specifies that any modification of the statutes requires the presence or representation of at least two thirds of the full and ex officio members. This is why the two statute modification proposals that have been approved by the participating or represented members will be submitted to all TOGETHER members before final approval.

The President of the General Assembly Bureau therefore suspended the General Assembly to allow this consultation of all members. It will be done by email. The response deadline is December 15. Beyond this period, non-responses from members will be considered as approvals.

As no votes against or abstentions were received at that time, the new wording of the statutes was unanimously approved.

4- Election of new network coordination bodies

Given the proposed changes in the statutes, giving the possibility to any member to be candidate and elected to the coordinating bodies of the network, the President of the Bureau of the General Assembly has decided to suspend the General Assembly also on this point. A call will be open during the next month to all potential candidates before moving on to the election of the three coordinating bodies (Management, Bureau of the General Assembly and Board of Auditors) after the approval or rejection of the two changes in the statutes. Once the election is completed, the General Assembly can be closed.

A call was then opened from 15 December to all potential candidates with a new deadline, this time for Christmas. A single list was drawn up and put to the vote by email until 15 January. As no votes against or abstentions were received by this date, the single list was unanimously approved. It is composed as follows:

1) Management Board

- President: Carine Jansen (Belgique)
- Vice-President: Jorge Guimarães (Cap Vert)
- Secretary: Constance Kenguel (Gabon)

2) General Assembly Board

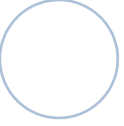
- President: City of Kavala (Greece) represented by Georgios Michailidis, Deputy Mayor
- Vice-President: Faiçal Kaabi (Tunisia)
- Secretary: Wislen Muniz Névoa (Brasil)

3) Auditing Committee

- Presidente Isabel Sousa (Portugal)
- Vice-President: Manuela Coutinho (Portugal)
- Secretary: Paula Alves (Portugal)

5- Other points

Samuel Thirion drew the attention of the General Assembly to the fact that although the Secretariat functions only on the basis of voluntary work, TOGETHER network risks finding itself without resources if the delays in payment of contributions accumulate. . Thus, the equity capital built up in



2016-2017 thanks to the CO-ACTE project decreases year after year by default of payment of part of the annual contributions. Therefore members are invited to pay their contributions late to find a financial balance. (for more details, see the summary of TOGETHER's accounts in appendix 2

Annex 1: Activity report 2016-2020

Presented by the Network Management at the General Assembly of November 4, 2020

This report presents the activities of TOGETHER, the International Network of Territories of Co-responsibility since the last General Assembly on November 4, 2016 in Braine-Alléud (Belgium). They are presented in chronological order, with an overall assessment at the end of the report



1- Closure and follow-up of the CO-ACTE project (2016-2017)

Reminder

The previous International Meeting of the territories of co-responsibility on November 2016 in Braine-l'Alleud (Belgium) was the culmination of the CO-ACTE project, carried out between 2015 and 2017. The objective of this project was to launch a citizen debate on the most relevant public policies to ensure co-responsibility for the well-being of all in the present and that of future generations. A consultation process had made it possible to trace citizens' expectations in terms of public policies and the links with their definition of well-being in its various dimensions and components.

Four thematic seminars then debated the responses already existing in civil society in relation to these expectations and refined the proposals that emerge from them. The output were integrated in a roadmap proposed to the public authorities for the following years, with three components: 1) The systematization of approaches to the definition of the well-being of all, in the continuation of the processes developed by the members the network with the SPIRAL approach; 2) Experimentation with a public policy to support local collaborative approaches on a larger scale; and 3): Experimentation of a deliberative democracy approach aimed at bringing out and validating lessons from the field and integrating them into public policies.

Finally at Braine'Alleud all these conclusions were widely discussed with nearly 250 participants and more than fifteen workshops. The General Assembly then validated the conclusions and the roadmap as an orientation for the years to come in terms of dialogue with the public authorities. In addition to the debates with the public bodies present or represented at the meeting, a first meeting was held in the wake with the Committee of the Regions of the European Union.

Follow-up to the 3rd International Meeting

Following Braine'Alleud meeting, all the conclusions of the meeting and seminars of the CO-ACTE project have been formalized. In addition to the summary of citizens' expectations and the roadmap for the years to come, a reference model summarizing all the conclusions has been drawn up and made available to all concerned.

It was also a question of promoting a dialogue with the public authorities, in particular at the European level, in accordance with the roadmap. Unfortunately, efforts in this direction have been in vain, due to a lack of interlocutors interested in the process.

Taking into account that the Network needed means and new channels to promote this dialogue, two projects were presented to the European Union, within the framework of the "Europe for Citizens" program, partly or totally integrating the 3 parts of the roadmap: one in October 2017 in partnership with the International Network for the Promotion of the Social and Solidarity Economy (RIPESS) and one in March 2018 with other partners.



2- Consolidation of the achievements of the SPIRAL approach (2018-2019)

Having had negative responses to these two projects presented to the European Union, a change of strategy had to be made, focusing rather the activity of the network on the consolidation of achievements with members. Six activities were developed with this objective in 2018 and 2019:

a) Sixth seminar-training of SPIRAL Odemira dynamisors April 2018

At the request of the Gabonese Well-Being Direction, a sixth seminar-training of SPIRAL dynamisors was organized at the CARMEN Centre in Odemira in April 2018. Unlike previous training seminars, it was not possible to invite dynamisors from all countries, but only those from Gabon and Portugal. The seminar therefore focused more specially on the SPIRAL approach in southern countries. The participation of five high officials from Gabon made it possible to work not only on the method, but also on the public policies to be put in place for a co-responsibility approach for the well-being of all at the national level, drawing as well inspiration from the Cape Verdean experience. The central question debated was how decentralizing a co-responsibility approach for the well-being of all in villages and neighbourhoods would bring much greater efficiency to social and development aid. The discussions resulted in a proposal for a call for a social development model based on co-responsibility for the well-being of all and a work plan for Gabon. [For more information click here.](#)

b) Participation in the Forum For Living-Well in Grenoble in June 2018

The City of Grenoble held the 1st International Forum for Living Well on 6, 7 and 8 June 2018 (see <https://bienvivre2018.org/>). It was an opportunity to organize a round table discussion between several of the most advanced cities, regions and countries in the application of SPIRAL: Mulhouse, Grenoble, Wallonia, Portugal, Cape Verde. The objective was to reflect on their complementarities in order to lay the foundations of what would be a wider SPIRAL approach, integrating the experience gained from these different applications of SPIRAL.

In addition, an assessment of SPIRAL's achievements was presented at the Scientific Symposium held during the forum. A practical animation of SPIRAL was also carried out for the interested participants.

[For more information click here.](#)

c) The SPIRAL approach in the Walloon SCP

The complementarities highlighted in Grenoble led to take advantage of the launch of the new generation of Social Cohesion Plans (SCP) in the municipalities of Wallonia planned for 2019 to train municipalities from the outset in the SPIRAL approach following a training approach developed in Portugal.



A cascade training process has been set up to train 110 municipalities interested in the approach, a first time in the last quarter of 2018 for the implementation of the approach and a second time for the development of the PCS in the first quarter of 2019. This experience was particularly important for refining the methodology in a context of preparing local 2020-2025 social cohesion plans at the regional level. In particular, the potential added value of an interaction between the process carried out within the multi-stakeholder platform (first

cycle) and with citizens (second cycle) was highlighted. The SPIRAL methodology has also been integrated into the grid of actions covered by the new plan. [For more information click here.](#)

d) Elaboration of the founding document of SPIRAL

Based on the assessment of SPIRAL's achievements presented at the Grenoble Scientific Colloquium, a founding document of SPIRAL was elaborated during the summer of 2018. The idea was to have a single document that integrates the achievements of SPIRAL and serves as a reference for all TOGETHER members and other interested users, the document being updatable according to the different achievements.

A first update was carried out in 2019, integrating the lessons learned from the training courses carried out in Wallonia.

[For more information click here](#)

e) The integration of SPIRAL training into a university curriculum

In June 2019, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Fernando Pessoa University of Porto for the integration of SPIRAL training into the Master's degree "Humanitarian Action, Cooperation and Development", with two objectives:

- To provide a solution to the difficulty of bringing together every year all the SPIRAL dynamisers. The training in English allows to follow it by internet in any country. Thus this training will serve as a reference and it will be possible for any dynamisor to make contributions.
- To have trainees trained in SPIRAL who will be able to develop the approach in the territories of their country or in other countries. As students are coming from other continents, it will be a way to spread the approach on a larger scale.



The main person who will provide this training is Manuela Coutinho, SPIRAL dynamisor, who lives near Porto and already teaches in this university. She will do this in agreement with all the other dynamisers who are interested in contributing,

so that it will be a course that integrates all the knowledge acquired in the different countries and will serve as a model of dynamisors training for all. Eventually, other dynamisors will intervene, including by teleconference, depending on availability and budget.

f) 7th seminar-training of SPIRAL dynamisors - Odemira July 2019

In order to prepare the university training, a 7th training seminar for dynamisors was held in July 2019 with a small team. The objective was to prepare the pedagogical materials that will be used for the training, in addition to the already existing founding document of the SPIRAL approach, by highlighting the three dimensions of the approach: the political dimension of co-responsibility for the well-being of all, the epistemological dimension of the co-construction of intersubjective knowledge and the methodological dimension of implementation in the field.

Much remains to be done to make this training operational, in particular to enable the systematic integration of the future new knowledge acquired by the dynamisors and to turn it into an online training for certified facilitators. But a framework now exists and all SPIRAL dynamisors are invited to participate. The training started in January 2020. [For more information click here.](#)



3- Préparation of the 4th International Meeting and a new perspective for the network (2020)

It was initially planned that the fourth International Meeting of the Territories of Co-responsibility will take place in Cape Verde. Unfortunately the covid-19 pandemic made this project impossible and the idea of online dating had to be moved. The idea was also to make this meeting a moment of renewal for the network, building on the lessons of the past years and taking into account the most urgent current and future challenges. This led to the design of the project "Together, let's learn to make the right choices" for the well-being of all and of the planet (future generations), inviting all stakeholders (citizens, public authorities, professionals, companies) to reflect together on this. what are the right choices for them in the current context. In particular, the climate emergency has led to closer ties with the Climate Resistance network and the tools they offer.

The 4th international meeting was therefore conceived as a moment of exchange on the various actors and themes concerned by this issue of the right choices so that together we can analyze its relevance and open a new perspective for the network. The wikispiral.org WEB site was itself structured to host this project, in particular by giving the possibility to any actor whatever it is to have his own WEB page where he can present himself and the choices that he / she does and appreciate the impact. The quantitative impacts (especially in terms of reduction of GHG emissions) are then automatically compiled to highlight the overall impacts.

4- Overall assessment and conclusions

In a world in deep crisis where citizens' initiatives and movements are becoming increasingly important in many countries, the gap is widening between their expectations in the face of emerging problems and the ability of public authorities to respond effectively to these issues. problems within the limits of the means available. In this context, the co-responsibility between public, private and citizen actors for the well-being of all promoted by the TOGETHER Network, appears more and more as a way of the future to be developed.

However, it is clear that the network has so far failed to make its proposals sufficiently heard among political decision-makers. The lack of echo to the roadmap proposed by TOGETHER and which was essential for its own functioning is the clearest manifestation of this.

Through the new project "Learning together to make the right choices for the well-being of all and of the planet", the opportunity is given to relaunch and consolidate the network in this period of health crisis where the co-responsibility is to all the more necessary to sustainably build a resilient present and a future bearer of hope for all.

Annex 2 : Summary of TOGETHER accountancy for the years 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019

2016

EXPENSES	-103038,49	RECEIPTS	101292,84
Website costs	-11501,62	Subventions	60650,00
Trainee's costs	-4641,25	Subscriptions	3105,34
Meeting costs	-67425,65	Loans	37500,00
Equipment & office	-2272,51	Together Portugal	37,50
Financial costs	-197,46		
Administrative costs	0,00	Receipts-expenses	-1745,65
Loans reimbursement	-17000,00		
Together Portugal	0,00		

BALANCE	31/12/2015	31/12/2016	Difference
Active			
Bank account	2681,12	855,17	-1825,95
Credit card	0,00	80,30	80,30
Cash	0,00	0,00	0,00
Total	2681,12	935,47	-1745,65
Passive			
Loans to be reimbursed	17000,00	37500,00	20500,00
Equity	-14318,88	-36564,53	-22245,65
Total	2681,12	935,47	-1745,65

2017

EXPENSES	-69839,37	RECEIPTS	92845,87
Website costs	-19456,52	Subventions	89850,00
Trainee's costs	-1966,73	Subscriptions	1857,87
Meeting costs	-2726,83	Loans	0,00
Equipment & office	-4870,00	Together Portugal	1138,00
Financial costs	-204,79		
Administrative costs	-2029,50	Receipts-expenses	23006,50
Loans reimbursement	-37500,00		
Together Portugal	-1085,00		

BALANCE	31/12/2016	31/12/2017	Difference
Active			
Bank account	855,17	23861,67	23006,50
Credit card	80,30	80,30	0,00
Cash	0,00	0,00	0,00
Total	935,47	23941,97	23006,50
Passive			
Loans to be reimbursed	37500,00	0,00	-37500,00
Equity	-36564,53	23941,97	60506,50
Total	935,47	23941,97	23006,50

2018

EXPENSES		-11749,38	RECEIPTS	5338
Website costs		-6066,48	Subventions	2835,00
Trainee's costs		-1262,07	Subscriptions	2434,50
Meeting costs		-3191,23	Loans	0,00
Equipment & office		0,00	Together Portugal	68,50
Financial costs		-48,80		
Administrative costs		-1180,80	Receipts-expenses	-6411,38
Loans reimbursement		0,00		
Together Portugal		0,00		
BALANCE	31/12/2017	31/12/2018	Difference	
Active				
Bank account	23861,67	17530,59	-6331,08	
Credit card	80,30	0,00	-80,30	
Cash	0,00	0,00	0,00	
Total	23941,97	17530,59	-6441,38	
Passive				
Loans to be reimbursed	0,00	0,00	0,00	
Equity	23941,97	17530,59	-6441,38	
Total	23941,97	17530,59	-6441,38	

2019

EXPENSES		-12008,66	RECEIPTS	7024,68
Website costs		-10128,92	Subventions	3465,00
Trainee's costs		782,76	Subscriptions	3506,68
Meeting costs		-1806,87	Loans	0,00
Equipment & office		0,00	Together Portugal	53,00
Financial costs		-117,63		
Administrative costs		-738,00	Receipts-expenses	-4983,98
Loans reimbursement		0,00		
Together Portugal		0,00		
BALANCE	31/12/2018	31/12/2019	Difference	
Active				
Bank account	17530,59	12546,61	-4983,98	
Credit card	0,00	0,00	0,00	
Cash	0,00	0,00	0,00	
Total	17530,59	12546,61	-4983,98	
Passive				
Loans to be reimbursed	0,00	0,00	0,00	
Equity	17530,59	12546,61	-4983,98	
Total	17530,59	12546,61	-4983,98	

Conclusion : The equity capital built up in 2016-2017 thanks to the CO-ACTE project decreases year by year from 5,000 euros to 6,500 euros per year by default of payment of part of the annual subscriptions. Members are invited to pay their late subscriptions in order to ensure financial balance.

Annex 3: 2020-2024 action plan

Approved by the General Assembly of November 4, 2020

The action plan proposed to the General Assembly is structured in a project, the project "Learning together to make the right choices", including 6 axes:

1- Open up the possibility not only for the territories but also for the actors (citizens, families, groups of young people, etc.) to have a WEB page with 6 points:

1. Who? (the actor)
2. His initial situation
3. His good choices
4. The results
5. Cooperation needs
6. Contacts

2- Continue the SPIRAL methodology in the territories

3- Adapt the SPIRAL methodology for actors by including carbon balances and ensure its appropriation by the SPIRAL dynamizers who will provide training.

4- Organize online exchange workshops following those that were launched during this 4th international meeting - In appendices are presented the workshops that were initiated in this 4th meeting and the follow-ups that are envisaged in others sessions to be organized as part of the action plan. The workshops are organized by type of actor (annex 1) or by theme (annex 2). Other types of actors or other themes may be proposed later.

5- Give visibility to processes, actions and their results.

For this :

- * Demonstrate the added value of the approach and highlight good practices;
- * Diversify the media, in particular by using video and film media;
- * Work with universities to: 1) bring scientific legitimacy to the process, which is important for political decision-makers, in particular: a) on intangible qualitative indicators and participatory evaluation and co-evaluation methods, b) on concepts fundamental for the approach such as that of territorial governance; 2) encourage research and publications, student dissertations, theses, etc. ; 3) help with a development strategy (in conjunction with other actors);
- * Create connections not only with institutions, but also with people who are more open and interested in these approaches;
- * Take advantage of partner networks and other partners to amplify TOGETHER's communication;
- * Develop tools such as computer graphics;
- * Develop online tutorials and training.

6- Set a timetable for the implementation of the action plan.

Appendix 1- WORKSHOPS BY TYPE OF ACTORS

Citizens

Workshops can be organized on demand on issues on which citizens or families wish to discuss.

Young people in precarious situations

This workshop initiated between Brazilian and French initiatives will be able to continue by widening the exchanges.

Municipalities

The first session of this workshop led to the observation of the need for greater visibility of initiatives by municipalities that promote co-responsibility and consultation with citizens on concrete actions, as Mulhouse has been doing for 15 years. How to ensure this visibility? This is a question which remains unanswered and on which the workshop will continue its activities in accordance with axis 4 of the action plan.

The participants therefore agree on the need to continue this reflection between municipalities in areas of co-responsibility in order to see, together, how to better assert and give more visibility to their action at other levels. It is proposed that one or more subsequent online meetings could be organized on this topic following the workshop, ensuring the presence of the majority of TOGETHER member municipalities.

Professionals

The workshop, the first session of which was held during the 4th international meeting, with the theme of professional co-development, could evolve towards the discovery and exchange of collective intelligence methodologies to learn together to make the right choices (general theme of the meeting), highlighting their differences, interests in various contexts and complementarities.

Public policies

Two orientations were defined for the following of this workshop:

- 1) Continue the debate to better specify the principles discussed in the first session. This can be done by e-mail exchanges visible on wikispiral;
- 2) Expand the group with the aim of networking all those who subscribe to this approach.

Appendix 2- THEMATIC WORKSHOPS

Co-actors for food and health

The workshop highlighted the interest, the possibilities but also the obstacles of an integrated approach between food and health at the local level, based on initiatives of co-responsibility between producers (food or health services) and users / consumers (rather becoming co-producers or co-actors).

Significant challenges remain to be met in order to integrate the two approaches. This requires

better communication between these initiatives, a rapprochement between towns and the countryside and processes of cultural transformation.

In addition, other challenges were raised in the workshop: for example, how to better integrate migrants into these processes?

This workshop would therefore benefit from leading to longer-term collaboration between actors engaged in local approaches to health and food to jointly explore these avenues.

Co-actors for space management

The first session of this workshop highlighted converging and complementary conclusions with those of the other workshops, namely the need for a dual strategy:

- on the one hand, encourage local, regional and national public policies creating the conditions for a genuine citizen dynamic, as has happened in Cape Verde or Wallonia for example, or at the level of municipalities;
- on the other hand, facilitate the networking of local citizen dynamics, especially where the socio-political context is not favorable to them and where they are isolated.

The workshop on this theme can continue with other sessions taking up these conclusions to go further in the reflection, to be carried out following this 4th International Meeting.

Other workshops

Other thematic workshops or by type of actor may be organized subsequently, depending on the request of the participants in the "Together let's learn to make the right choices" project.

More information can be found in the report of every workshop.