

## **Position Paper 'E2C-Europe 2006 and ahead' (03-11-06)**



### **Introduction**

After a period of reflection and discussions about E2C-Europe in the future, we, the Executive Committee, are able to present the Position Paper 'E2C-Europe 2006 and ahead' to the members of E2C-Europe.

The discussion about E2C's future started in November 2005, when some members of E2C-Europe assembled in Brussels. The outcome of this meeting was translated into a Strategic Paper, which has been discussed by the different committees and bodies of E2C-Europe throughout a period of almost a year. It has been adjusted and completed over and over again. This Position Paper at issue is the final result of the last, energetic period.

Throughout the period the starting point for the Board of Administrators have been the in substance wishes of the members in regard to the Association's development in the future. This meant that:

- The activities of the Association should link up with the different political and strategic developments in the countries and regions, at all levels (authority level and school/associate level);
- The Association should be a European framework which makes it possible to react fast, efficient and effectively to the needs of its members to work on or develop (new) projects, exchange information and to tap financial resources on local, regional, national, and European level.

During the General Assembly of October the 6<sup>th</sup> the final touch has been put on the Strategic Paper. This meant that members of E2C-Europe voted on several aspects of the new structure and the way it has to work in daily practice.

This Position Paper contains a short description of the situation in the past, of the Second Chance movement in Europe. After that we move over to the new structure of the association and the most important tasks of the different bodies.

We have to say it is the broad outline of how E2C-Europe works. Detailed descriptions of projects and daily activities are not to be found in this paper. All these aspects are laid down in so called working plans, which will be produced every 1 or 2 year(s).

We want to thank everybody, who helped realizing this new momentum for E2C-Europe.

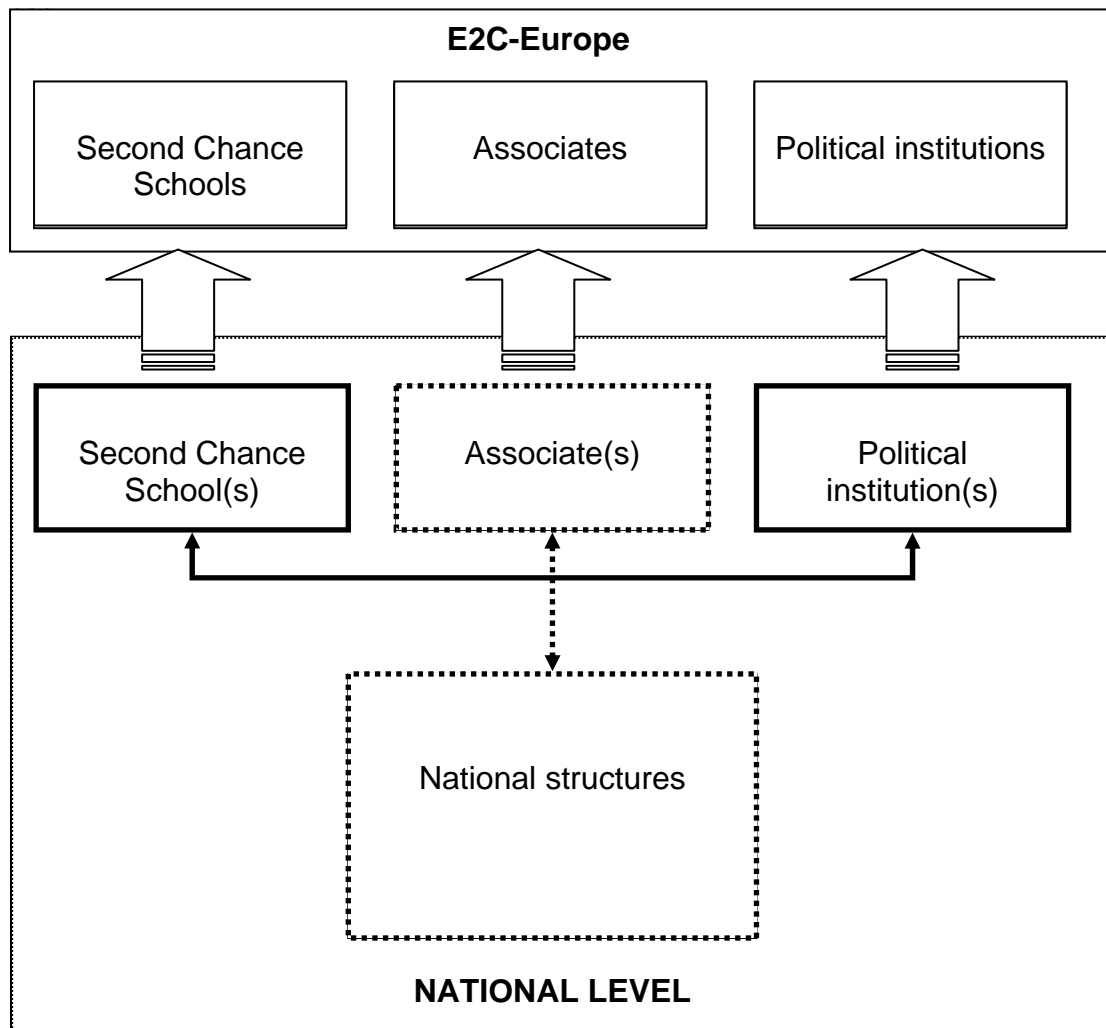
The Executive Committee  
Wednesday, October 18, 2006

## I. The past

In order to position the new structure of E2C-Europe we have to understand the diverse national developments of the Second Chance movement and the relation with E2C-Europe from 2004 until 2006. There are 3 aspects, always playing a role in the discussions on national/regional (but also European) level. Those aspects are:

- The structure: how to work (solely, collaborate (schools, associates), combined in national structures like federations)
- Objectives / targets: what to do (meeting criteria Second Chance Schools, monitoring results, exchange experiences → the possibility to do so depends on the structure)
- (Financial) means: how to make things happen (political targets, finances)

Translated into a scheme:



In the past E2C-Europe consisted of 3 different kinds of members (labelled Second Chance Schools, Associates and Governmental institutions). The Second Chance Schools, the core of the association, have been asking themselves 2 main questions:

1. Are we still what we want(ed) to be: what exactly is a Second Chance School, formulating criteria, assessing and evaluating the criteria?
2. Are we still doing what we intended to do at the beginning of the new association's structure in 2004: exchanging measurable and comparable performances?

The answer was NO: at least not like they would wish. A new structure was needed, taking the diverse national/regional situations, funding streams and wishes and demands of the European Commission and E2C members into account.

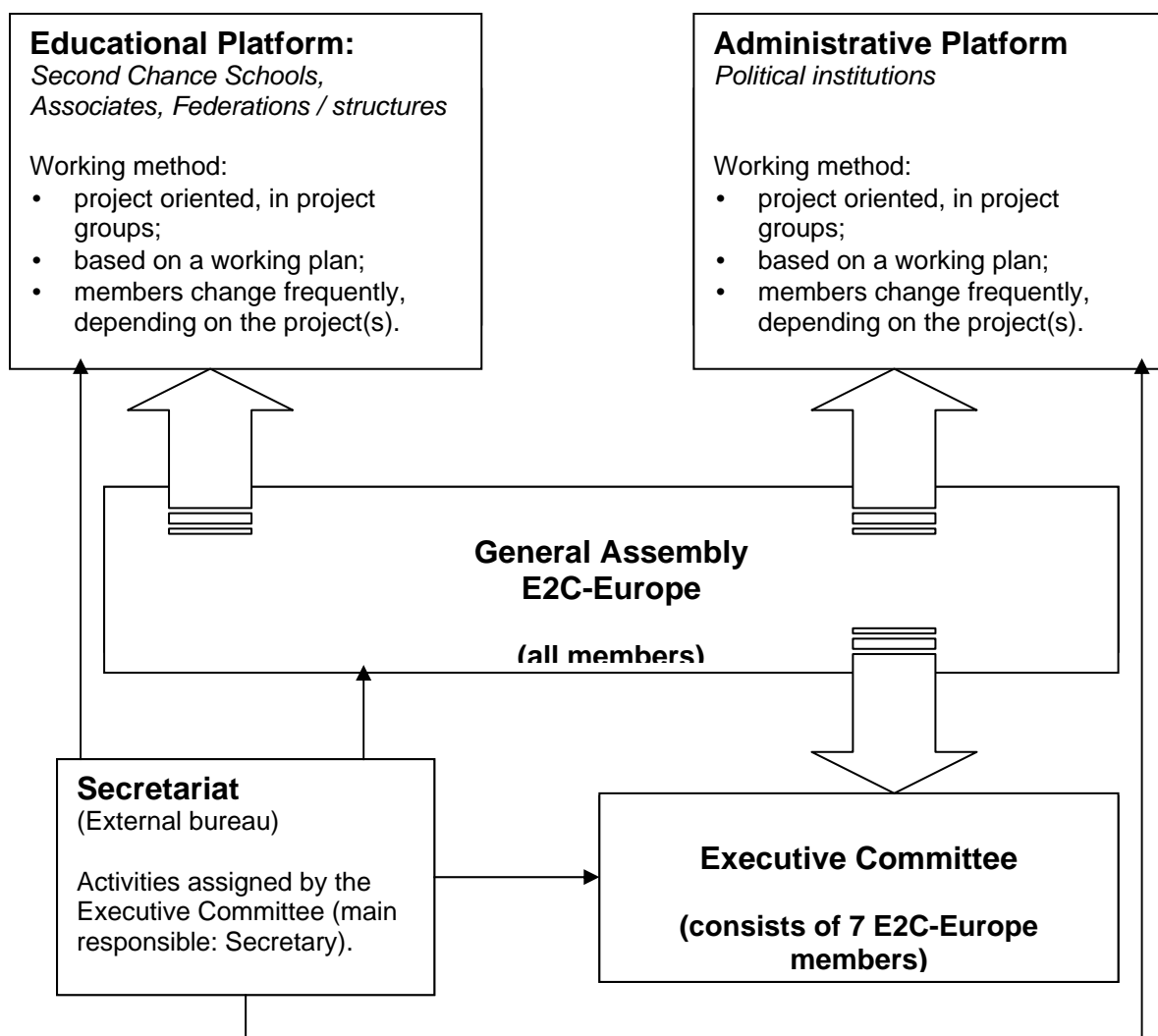
## II. The new organizational structure

### Introduction

To meet the demands and wishes as mentioned, 2 main platforms have been created. Next to the 2 platforms the structure consists of a General Assembly and Executive Committee.

First of all the new structure is illustrated. A description of the main tasks and responsibilities of the different bodies will follow.

### The structure



## **Activities of the different bodies**

In this part of the paper you will find a description of the main objectives, tasks and working methods of the different bodies. This is done for the Educational Platform, the Administrative Platform, the General Assembly, the Executive Committee and the Secretariat.

### **The Educational Platform**

Main objective(s):

- Enhancing the quality of the Second Chance School services in Europe;
- Monitoring the quality of member Second Chance Schools in Europe;
- Assessing and labelling associate (school) members of E2C-Europe.

Consisting of:

- E2C 'Associate' members;
- E2C 'Second Chance School'<sup>\*</sup> members;
- E2C 'Federate' members.

The Educational Platform is the 'pedagogical heart' of the association and works project based, founded on a 1 or 2 year(s) working plan with specified targets, time schedules, budgets and tasks and responsibilities of the participating members.

The composition of the Educational Platform changes every 1 or 2 year (connected with the working plan), although new project groups can be added if there's a need or wish to in the meantime.

For a description of activities we refer to the working plan of the Educational Platform.

*Special note:*

The Educational Platform works under chairmanship of the Vice-President of E2C-Europe, who is always chosen from a member Second Chance School (function: director).

### **The Administrative Platform**

Main objective(s):

- External (political) promotion of the E2C – Second Chance School concept;
- Creating contacts with governmental/political institutions and/or networks;
- Organising and/or participating in network activities of governmental/political institutions and/or networks;
- Lobby European Parliament / European Commission.

Consisting of:

E2C 'Institutional' members

The Administrative Platform is the 'political heart' of the association and works project based, founded on a 1 or 2 year(s) working plan with specified targets, time schedules, budgets and tasks and responsibilities of the participating members.

The composition of the Administrative Platform changes every 1 or 2 year (connected with the working plan), although new project groups can be added if there's a need or wish to in the meantime.

For a description of activities we refer to the working plan of the Administrative Platform.

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<sup>\*</sup> Those schools who have obtained the E2C-Europe Second Chance School label (after being assessed)

## **The General Assembly**

Main objective(s):

- Determining the strategic course of the association;
- Determining the main expenditures of the association;
- Determining the height of the membership fees;
- Approve the annual, financial report of the association;
- Choosing the members of the Executive Committee, every two years.

Consisting of:

All the members of E2C-Europe, which means:

- Representative(s) of all the member 'Second Chance Schools';
- Representative(s) of all the member 'Associates/federations';
- Representative(s) of all the member 'Institutions'.

The General Assembly is the most powerful part of the association and votes on annual accounts/budgets and mayor issues (like E2C strategies). In general the General Assembly takes place once a year, the association will try to organise two.

*Special notes:*

- During the meetings of the General Assembly every (1 representative of a) member organisation has the right to vote, if this organisation has paid its membership fee;
- A membership year goes from June 1 to June 1. To be able to vote means membership fees have to be paid before June 1 of the calendar year (invoices are send out every January of the calendar year);
- If a General Assembly takes place before June 1 of the calendar year, those who have paid their membership fees before June 1 of the year before, have the right to vote

## **The Executive Committee**

Main objective(s):

- To take care of the daily lead of the association (secretariat included);
- Keeping the association 'alive and kicking';
- Preparing the meetings of the General Assembly.

Consisting of:

- 3 – by the General Assembly (re-)elected – 'Second Chance School and/or Federate' members;
- 3 – by the General Assembly (re-)elected – 'Institutional' members;
- 1 – by the General Assembly (re-)elected – 'Associate' member.

The Executive Committee consists of 7 members (including the President, Treasurer and Secretary) and is chosen by the General Assembly, once in two years (last elections occurred in 2006).

The Executive Committee prepares (annual) budget, strategy and subsidy proposals to vote on by the General Assembly and is responsible for the 'daily lead' of the association (secretariat included).

*Special notes:*

- A member can only put himself to candidate (for election), if he has paid its membership fee;
- Only an 'Institutional' member can be nominated/elected for the function of the President;
- Only an 'Institutional' member can be nominated/elected for the function of the Treasurer;
- Only a director of a Second Chance School can be nominated/elected for the function of Vice-President;
- Only a 'Second Chance School' member can be nominated/elected for the function of Secretary;
- The members of the Executive Committee have to be from 7 different EU countries.

## **The Secretariat**

Main objective(s):

To carry out the activities, which have been assigned by the Executive Committee of E2C-Europe.

Especially the Secretary of the Executive Committee is in charge of the Secretariat, which is run by an external bureau (at this moment Maecon-Groep BV, Heerlen). The Secretariat supports the Executive Committee (preparing meetings, writing minutes et cetera) and will be assigned by them to support the other bodies, if needed.