

# ISIE Annual General Meeting, 20 April 2023

8AM Eastern/New York, 10PM Australian Eastern, 9PM Tokyo, 8PM Beijing  
China, 2PM Vienna, 1PM UK

## MINUTES

<b>MEETING CALLED BY</b>	Simron Singh
<b>NOTE TAKER</b>	Irena Bitunjac
<b>REGRETS FROM BOARD MEMBERS</b>	
<b>BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDEES</b>	Stefanie Hellweg (SH), Hiroki Tanikawa (HT), Ming Xu (MX), Arnold Tukker (AT), Simron Singh (SS), Kuishuang Feng (KF), Matthew Eckelman (ME), Gang Liu (GL), Cristina Madrid Lopez (CM), Shoshanna Saxe (SSx), Jonathan Cullen (JC), Reid Lifset (RL), Ned Gordon (NG), Irena Bitunjac (IB).
<b>PREAMBLE</b>	The 2023 General Assembly of the ISIE took place electronically via Zoom. The meeting and associated chat discussions were recorded. 54 attendees were present. Proposals from Members had earlier been called for, and three were presented to the ISIE members. With the approval of the Board, an electronic voting system was set up on the ISIE website to enable attending and non-attending members to vote between the dates of 20th April - 3rd May 2023. As the meeting was entirely virtual, and proposals and other business could be raised by members well before the meeting, any members not voting were assumed to be abstaining.

## AGENDA TOPICS

<b>1.</b>	<b>WELCOME AND ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS AGM MINUTES</b>	<b>SS</b>
<p>A motion to accept the minutes from the previous AGM was made by <b>Simron Singh</b>. The motion was seconded by <b>Stefanie Hellweg</b>. The minutes were accepted based on the Results of the vote.</p> <p><a href="https://is4ie.org/survey/80">https://is4ie.org/survey/80</a> Results: YES: 55; ABSTAIN: 9</p>		
<b>2.</b>	<b>WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT</b>	<b>SH</b>
<p>Stephanie Hellweg extended her gratitude to the entire membership, the Executive Team that meets biweekly, for their valuable contributions.</p> <p>She expressed appreciation for the outgoing board members Heinz Shandl, Jooyoung Park, and Weslyne Ashton who have served admirably. Stephanie welcomed new members Shoshana Saxe and Jonathan Cullen. Additionally, she thanked everyone involved in preparing the meeting, specifically Ned, Simron, and Irena.</p>		

She also expressed thanks to all sections, committees, and individuals who engaged with the society, as well as to the Journal of Industrial Ecology (JIE) team. Stephanie invited everyone to enjoy the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Simron Singh invited Stephanie Hellweg to present the first of the 17 Reports, the President's Report.

### 3. PAST YEAR REPORTING

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Stefanie Hellweg**

The Society effectively transitioned its activities amidst the pandemic, embracing a hybrid approach with both in-person and online events. This approach ensured accessibility and engagement while accommodating travel restrictions, demonstrating flexibility and inclusivity in its operations.

Despite the tumultuous backdrop of the pandemic, the Society experienced a notable uptick in membership, reaching record numbers. This growth signals sustained interest and confidence in the Society's mission and offerings, underlining its relevance and appeal to professionals in the field.

While the immediate focus may have shifted due to the pandemic, the pressing global environmental issues remained at the forefront. The society recognized the continued escalation of challenges such as greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity loss, emphasizing the ongoing urgency for collaborative solutions.

The establishment of a section dedicated to the design of a sustainable circular economy exemplifies the society's strategic vision to broaden its scope and impact. By fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, the society aims to address complex environmental challenges comprehensively, leveraging its diverse expertise and resources.

The creation of policy-relevant outputs, such as the white paper on industrial ecology for a circular economy, highlights the society's commitment to influencing broader societal discourse and decision-making. Initiatives like video content further enhance outreach efforts, maximizing the dissemination of knowledge and insights to diverse audiences.

The society proactively addressed internal organizational aspects, including the establishment of a foundation to support expansion and fundraising efforts. Additionally, efforts to standardize processes and provide guidelines for conference organizers reflect a dedication to professionalism and operational excellence.

The society's journey towards improvement is ongoing, with continuous efforts to refine internal processes and enhance operational efficiency. These initiatives underscore a commitment to adaptability, innovation, and long-term sustainability in fulfilling its mission and serving its members effectively.

Overall, the society's ability to navigate challenges, foster growth, and pursue strategic initiatives demonstrates its resilience, relevance, and capacity for positive impact in addressing complex environmental issues on a global scale.

#### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Simron Singh**

The membership experienced significant growth, reaching an all-time high of over 900 members by the end of 2022. However, we did see some attrition during the renewal phase, which is common when some members fail to renew on time and are consequently removed from the list. As of March 23, our membership stood at 677, but with the Conference State approaching, we anticipated more renewals, bringing the current count to 855.

Geographically, our membership distribution follows previous trends, with a significant presence in Europe, followed by Asia and North America. However, it's noteworthy that certain regions like Latin America and Africa are underrepresented, indicating a need for targeted efforts to promote ISIE in these areas.

Regarding membership across sections, most members participate in 2 or 3 sections, demonstrating their engagement with different aspects of ISIE's focus areas.

A more detailed version of this report is available in the Annual report, accessible online.

### **TREASURER REPORT – Matthew Eckelman**

Despite the absence of our main meeting, which serves as a primary funding source, the ISIE remains in good financial health. The influx of new members and enthusiasm surrounding the society has been instrumental in this regard.

In 2022, our budget projected €18,000 for memberships and additional donations. However, we exceeded expectations by collecting nearly €32,000, including donations. This surplus is a testament to the vitality of our organization.

Operating with a lean budget has allowed us to maintain a surplus. Our expenses primarily consist of administrative costs such as executive director and assistant fees, with minimal banking and website expenses. Full ownership of ISIE as an independent entity has facilitated this streamlined operation.

We allocated funds for the executive director's travel to the GRC and supported various awards and scholarships, particularly for students. While some allocated funds for member activities were not fully utilized, they will carry over into the next budget cycle.

We conclude the year with approximately €182,000. To mitigate conversion fees, we now hold accounts in both euros and dollars. Looking ahead, we anticipate continued financial stability, with expected revenue from the Leiden Conference bolstering our finances.

As a nonprofit organization, we maintain a substantial cash reserve. Over the next few years, we plan to gradually reduce this reserve through increased support for member proposals and initiatives. For instance, our commitment to student scholarships has increased by approximately 50% compared to the previous year, with €15,000 allocated in 2023.

This concise report summarizes the financial status of ISIE, highlighting our prudent management and commitment to supporting our members and initiatives.

#### **Q&A:**

- Paul Hoekman asks about separating donation and membership revenues in the annual report.
- Matthew Eckelman responds, stating that ISIE doesn't receive direct government or foundation money, but members contribute personal donations on top of membership fees.
  - Main sources of income include conference proceeds and membership fees, as well as surplus from the journal, which is now owned by the society.
  - Discussing the potential for seeking foundation money is on the agenda, possibly in collaboration with the Development Board.

### **DEVELOPMENT BOARD - Tom Graedel**

The Development Board, a recent initiative formed 2.5 years ago, aims to raise funds to improve ISIE's financial state and support its activities.

Currently pursuing several active initiatives:

- Organizing financial structures to receive tax-exempt donations from various countries.
- Updating the ISIE website's book list to provide access to books for students and faculty in developing countries.
- Collaborating with pre-university teachers to integrate industrial ecology content into existing courses.

Plans for the upcoming year include:

- Exploring avenues to incentivize initial donations to ISIE.

- Implementing routine acknowledgment of monetary donors.
- Considering offering training and certification in industrial ecology for business professionals.
- Exploring the possibility of developing a summer school program for industrial ecology.

Q&A:

- Edgar Hertwich expresses support for the Development Board's efforts but cautions against taking on too much at once.
- Tom emphasizes the potential for corporate donations and encourages members with contacts beneficial for the ISIE's Development Board to get in touch.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE - Shweta Singh**

The nominating committee initiated the process early this year, with a meeting held in October.

Gratitude extended to all nominating committee members for their contributions.

Despite challenges, the process proceeded smoothly, with documented obstacles.

Low engagement from ISIE members posed a significant challenge, with only a few nominations received despite multiple email calls.

Additional outreach efforts, including assistance from Ned, were required to solicit nominations.

Executive decisions were made by the nominating committee to identify suitable candidates for various positions.

Challenges included difficulty in recruiting members from underrepresented regions due to perceived electoral barriers.

Emphasis on the need for transparency in voting patterns to address concerns regarding representation.

Hybrid meeting processes were adopted due to the international nature of ISIE, facilitating collaboration despite geographical dispersion.

Acknowledgment extended to Tamar for her valuable contributions as an outgoing committee member, particularly in Shweta's absence.

Q&A:

- Reed Miller raises a question regarding the possibility of organizing brief candidate presentations and Q&A sessions for major positions like the President in future elections.
- Shweta acknowledges the challenge encountered in the President-elect election due to multiple declines from potential candidates and minimal nominations. She agrees with the suggestion of having more engagement from senior leadership in such crucial elections.
- Despite efforts to engage past Presidents, the challenge persists, reflecting low overall engagement in both nominations and voting, with only 218 out of 800 members participating in the voting process.

### **CAREER COMMITTEE - Reed Miller**

The Career Committee has undergone several meetings to fulfill its proposed initiatives, spurred by the previous AGM proposal.

Originating from the interest expressed during the last AGM in enhancing the job board and fostering mentorship and professional development, the Career Committee has amalgamated these activities.

The focus is on revamping the job board, incorporating features like location, activity status, and curated external links for a more user-friendly experience.

A proposal will be drafted and submitted to the Executive Committee for approval, utilizing remaining funds from the previous proposal.

The mentorship matching program aims to pair industrial ecology members across career stages and geographical regions for mutual insight and support.

Surveys will be launched to gauge interest in mentorship roles and conference attendance, facilitating personalized mentor-mentee connections.

Once surveys are complete, a follow-up survey will allow participants to rank their preferences, akin to medical residency matching processes.

Efforts will be made to facilitate initial meet-and-greets for matched mentors and mentees during the Leiden conference. Reed Miller concludes the presentation and welcomes questions from the audience.

Q&A:

- Shoshanna Saxe inquires about the intended scale of membership for mentorship, seeking clarity on who qualifies as a mentee or mentor across different career levels.
  - Reed Miller responds by indicating a flexible approach, proposing that initial surveys will allow individuals to specify their roles and preferences, ensuring inclusivity and avoiding exclusions based on perceived age or career stage.
  - Shoshanna Saxe recommends clearly defining the transition from mentee to mentor to avoid ambiguity, suggesting that individuals might feel uncomfortable participating if roles are not clearly delineated.
  - Reed Miller acknowledges the point raised by Shoshanna, emphasizing the need for terminology clarification and encouraging participation from individuals across all career stages.
  - Shoshanna Saxe expresses concerns about potential awkwardness in mentorship pairings, particularly if students are matched with faculty members without their supervisor's consent, highlighting the importance of ensuring mutual agreement in such arrangements.
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- Reid Lifset raises three questions, offering offline answers if necessary. Firstly, he mentions past discussions about utilizing the job board as a revenue source, suggesting options like advertising functions for companies posting jobs. Secondly, he brings up the idea of using small apps to scan websites for broken links, potentially aiding in updating outdated entries. Finally, he asks if there have been assessments of how many jobs or interviews have resulted from the job board.
  - Reed Miller responds, appreciating the questions. Regarding the revenue source, he mentions considering a potential membership category for job posters to streamline the process. He acknowledges the suggestion about updating outdated entries and proposes involving the web management company, Penguin Collective, in addressing this issue. Lastly, he mentions personal success with the job board but notes the lack of systematic data on its effectiveness in job placement.

#### **CONFERENCE COMMITTEE - Tomer Fishman**

Over the past year, the Conference Committee has focused on updating the Call for Potential Conference Hosts and the Guidelines for Potential Conference Hosts. These revisions considered member feedback from a recent survey and the emergence of online activities like IE Day. We also explored different formats for online events, considering the impact of COVID-19 and other global shifts.

The updated guidelines emphasize upfront standards and addressing environmental and social issues. The new call for hosting the 2025 conference has been issued by the ISIE board.

However, there are still open questions regarding responsibilities between ISIE and local organizers, as well as the involvement of different sections in conferences.

Anna and Tomer will be stepping down as co-chairs of the Committee this year, allowing for fresh perspectives as the committee evolves.

Tomer is looking forward to seeing everyone in Leiden soon.

#### **IE DAY REPORT - Weslyne Ashton**

IE Day took place on November 30th. The decision to host IE Day was made by the Executive Board in July 2022. Due to the late decision and the summer season, organizing efforts commenced in September, resulting in a short timeframe for planning. Heinz, Eugene, Christina, and I were tasked with organizing IE Day, with each of us focusing on different regions: Heinz on Asia-Pacific, Eugene and Christina on Europe and Africa, and myself on the Americas.

Although we faced challenges in garnering participation from colleagues in Africa, we managed to host several events primarily in Europe, with one event from Latin America and two from North America. In total, there were 14 events organized, aiming to create 24 hours of industrial ecology activities, starting from Sydney, Australia, and ending on the west coast of the US.

Attendance at the events was varied, with the US West Coast event having the smallest attendance (approximately 5 people) and the Australian event being the most attended (approximately 79 attendees), totalling around 450 participants.

Key takeaways from the event include the necessity for more advanced planning. Despite this, IE Day provided an opportunity for global participation, particularly for those unable to attend in-person conferences. We recommend continuing IE Day but advise starting planning well in advance, including setting dates, issuing an open call for proposals, finalizing event decisions, and advertising the program sufficiently in advance.

Another decision point was whether to open the event solely to ISIE members or to the public. We opted for both, believing it to be a beneficial way to showcase the society's activities worldwide. The website registration process proved effective for managing registrations.

In conclusion, IE Day was a valuable event, offering insights for improvement in future iterations. It is a concept worth continuing, with the potential for further enhancements.

### **JOURNAL OF INDUSTRIAL ECOLOGY - Junming Zhu**

**Key Highlights:** Our impact factor has increased from 6.9 to 7.2. There has been a significant rise in the proportion of open access articles, with over half of our articles appearing as open access. The 20% discount on the Article Processing Charge (APC) still applies to all ISIE members.

**Special Topics Issues Published:** Data Innovation and Industrial Ecology, Industrial Ecology for the Oceans

**Continuous Collection:** Articles Awarded Data Badges, Product Lifetime and a Continuous Collection of Articles Awarded Data Badges

**Upcoming Special Issues:** Product Lifetime (based on the Plate Conference), Life Cycle Sustainability Assessment (LCSA) for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Articles cited in the recent IPCC Working Report, with a virtual special issue highlighting these articles.

**25th Anniversary Celebration:** A landmark event for the Journal. An event was held at the Gordon Research Conference. 25 important papers representing the history, quality, depth, and breadth of our field were selected and compiled into a virtual special issue available online.

**Promotional Efforts:** Continued efforts to promote all articles. Establishment of a WeChat Channel. Introduction of LinkedIn and Twitter Channels for article promotions. Introduction of the "Editors Choice" articles, selected and promoted on a monthly basis.

Thank you goes to all members of our society for the contributions to the Journal, including submissions, reviews, and article promotions.

#### **Q&A:**

- Tamar Makov raised a technical question regarding the Journal's recent increase in impact factor and inquired about its relative ranking, emphasizing that some institutions prioritize relative ranking over impact factor.
- Junming Zhu acknowledged the question, stating that while they are cautious about discussing impact factors due to certain limitations imposed by institutions, according to the Journal Citation Reports, the Journal of Industrial Ecology (JIE) still ranks in the top 25% (Q1) in multiple categories. However, Junming highlighted that the impact factor is not the sole metric favouring JIE. Alternatively, considering the Scopus ranking, JIE is ranked number one in the 'General Social Science Category,' which includes over 260 academic journals. Junming suggested that this information might be useful when introducing the Journal to colleagues or institution
- Shweta Singh raised a technical concern regarding the handling of database editor invitations. She noted that as a database editor, they often face challenges with receiving separate emails and clear instructions for database reviews. This confusion sometimes necessitates the handling editor to reach out separately to request a database review. While Shweta hasn't observed any new invites in the past couple of months, she emphasized the importance of distinguishing between invitations for database reviews and regular reviews.
- Junming thanked Shweta for bringing up the issue, acknowledging that they have also noticed articles that have completed the editorial process but are awaiting database review. Junming assured that they will work together to streamline the process and address this issue effectively.

Short reports were presented directly by Section leads or members:

### **ENVIRONMENTAL EXTENDED INPUT OUTPUT SECTION**

Update provided by **Kuishuang Feng** on the activities of the EEIO section for the year 2022.

Membership stands at 268, indicating positive growth and a healthy membership base.

The section collaborated with the EEIO Association to organize webinars, focusing on input-output analysis research. Attendees were encouraged to participate and engage with the shared information.

The section organized a session at the EcoBalance 2022 conference held in Japan from October to November.

New co-chairs were elected, adding two new members to the leadership team.

Collaboration with the Life Cycle Assessment Group, particularly focusing on exploring the practical applications of input-output analysis in corporate settings, was initiated. This collaboration aims to provide valuable insights for supply chain management and climate mitigation strategies.

Kuishuang Feng volunteered as the co-chair of the working group and extended the invitation for interested members to volunteer.

Kuishuang concluded the report, highlighting the activities conducted in 2022 and expressing anticipation for future updates from the new chairs.

### **ISLAND INDUSTRIAL ECOLOGY SECTION**

Update provided by **John Telesford** on the Island Section's activities for the years 2022-2023.

The section experienced significant growth, with membership increasing from 50 members in 2020 to 121 members in 2023.

Events organized in collaboration with the Sustainable Island Solutions through Systems Program at the University of Aruba focused on sustainable island futures. Symposia were held in June and November 2022, with the latter coinciding with International IE Day.

Discussions were held among the executive members to expand and scale section activities, ensuring broader reach within the IE community.

Proposals were made to advance island sustainability curricula in island universities, emphasizing systems thinking and industrial ecology. Opportunities for deeper collaborations with coastal communities and island-based universities, particularly in Portugal, were explored.

The section contributed news items highlighting member publications, particularly in areas such as energy transitions and circular economy. Blog posts on the ISIE website showcased the work of island scholars, including virtual talks and presentations, such as the one held at the University of Mauritius in February 2022.

The section's library on the metabolism of islands expanded significantly, with over 600 items currently, including 40 new island-related articles added to the repository.

Plans are underway for the delivery of introductory lectures targeting professionals in industrial ecology and the wider community interested in IE. These lectures may evolve into a webinar series in collaboration with the Risks and Working Group on Islands.

John Telesford concluded the report by expressing gratitude and anticipation for the section's future activities.

### **LIFE CYCLE SUSTANABILITY ASSESSMENT SECTION**

Update provided by **David Font Vivanco** who summarized the key activities of the LCA Section for the year 2022 and outlined plans for the future.

Significant efforts were dedicated to a special issue on Life Cycle Sustainability Assessment (LCSA) related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This issue is expected to be published soon, with several previous members serving as editors.

The year 2022 witnessed significant changes in the board, including the election of new members in December. David Font Vivanco and Oludunsin Arodudu assumed the roles of chairs, along with new board members Andrea Hicks, Peter Berrill, Paul Wolfram, and Qingshi Tu.

The new board is in the process of setting up and aims to be highly active in the upcoming year. Plans include organizing webinars in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, with the first webinar expected to be held soon. Additionally, efforts will be made to increase activity on social media platforms such as Twitter and LinkedIn, which have been relatively inactive in the past year. The section also aims to enhance the use of the Member Spotlight section of the website to showcase the work of early-stage researchers and provide greater visibility to their research efforts.

David Font Vivanco concluded by expressing optimism for the year ahead and the section's commitment to advancing the field of Life Cycle Assessment.

### **SOCIO-ECONOMIC METABOLISAM SECTION**

Update provided by **Hiroki Tanikawa** on the activities of the Social, Economic Metabolism (SEM) Section.

Hiroki highlighted the historical journey of the SEM Section, tracing its inception from 1996 to its current iteration within the International Society for Industrial Ecology (ISEM).

The section organized both virtual and physical conferences, including a conference in Vienna and plans for another physical conference in Beijing in 2024. Efforts were made to enhance scientific communication and support the development of Material Flow Analysis (MFA) internationally, particularly amidst the challenges posed by COVID-19.

A significant achievement was the SEM Perpetual Online Conference, initiated in 2019, featuring special sessions with speakers and discussions. The conference witnessed participation from over 650 attendees in real-time, with over 1400 views on YouTube. A submission system was made available on the ISIE-SEM website for future conferences.

The SEM-MFA Data Exchange Guideline was successfully published, contributing to the dissemination of knowledge in the field. Additionally, the section organized a physical conference in Vienna, attracting over 100 oral presentations, 50 poster presentations, and 180 registered participants.

The section experienced a significant increase in membership over the past two years, with efforts focused on improving the ISIE website, Twitter, and YouTube platforms to enhance outreach and engagement.

Hiroki Tanikawa concluded by expressing satisfaction with the section's progress and thanked the members for their contributions.

## STUDENT SECTION

Update provided by **Kamila Krych** provided an overview of the activities and initiatives undertaken by the Student Section.

Kamila highlighted the geographical distribution of the section's members, with a significant representation from China and the United States. The majority of members are from Europe, followed by Asia and North America, with fewer members from South America and Africa.

The Student Section Board comprises 10 members, with new members joining this year. Kamila expressed appreciation for the dedicated team and their engagement in driving initiatives forward.

Several initiatives were undertaken in 2022, including the establishment of a standard process to award funds for conference participation. Additionally, the section organized virtual networking events and a Career Series Webinar aimed at providing insights into post-graduation career paths. Support was also provided for the Gordon Research Seminar for Industrial Ecology, along with efforts to increase the visibility of the Journal of Industrial Ecology (JIE) on social media platforms.

In 2023, the section aims to enhance diversity and inclusion efforts by engaging more individuals from underrepresented regions, particularly Africa and South America. Continuing the Career Series, planning webinars, and hosting virtual networking events are among the planned activities. Additionally, the section plans to organize a Wikipedia event to create entries related to industrial ecology in different languages. Efforts are also underway in preparation for the conference in Leiden, including the administration of student scholarships, organizing a student poster award, and planning a student symposium preceding the conference.

Kamila concluded by expressing excitement for the upcoming events and initiatives and thanked the team for their dedication.

## SUSTAINABLE URBAN SYSTEM SECTION

Update provided by **Melissa Bilec** on the activities and initiatives undertaken by the Sustainable Urban System Section.

The section boasts a membership of about 360 members, showcasing growth from the previous year's count of 293.

**Virtual Seminar Series:** The section hosted a virtual seminar series featuring notable speakers such as Shoshana Sax and Joe Bosman, focusing on topics like cities and circular economy.

**Fireside Chat:** A fireside chat was hosted at the Gordon Research Conference, providing a platform for engaging discussions.

**LinkedIn Group:** The section maintains an active LinkedIn group, providing members with opportunities for networking and collaboration.

**Industrial Ecology Days:** The section organized an event focused on emerging professionals and their research, garnering significant participation.

**Research Priorities:** The board worked on identifying research priorities for sustainable urban systems, resulting in a paper published in the Journal of Industrial Ecology (JIE). The paper focused on social equity and justice, circularity, and applications of digital twins.

**Member Spotlights:** The section continues to highlight members through member spotlights.

**Leiden Conference Planning:** The section is actively involved in planning activities for the upcoming conference in Leiden, including the presentation of research findings and organizing activities aligned with the section's focus areas.

Melissa concluded by expressing excitement for the future initiatives and encouraged members to engage actively in the section's activities and discussions.

**RESULTS** of the vote: Do you approve the 2022 Annual Report and Forward Budget?

YES: 65; ABSTAIN: 2

<https://is4ie.org/survey/79>



## 4. MEMBER PROPOSALS

This year three proposals are being presented for consideration.

### 1. A platform for sustainability literacy and research dissemination

The proposal was presented by **Maximilian Koslowski**.

**Project Description:** The project aims to create an online platform that opens up the rich toolbox of industrial ecology methods and insights to the general public, students, and professionals alike. It will blend elements of an online encyclopaedia, MOOC, and research blog to provide accessible, community-edited material for various experience levels. The platform will cover topics such as socio-economic metabolism, analytical methods, and pathways to a sustainable future. It will serve as a space for continuous learning and research dissemination, filling the gap in entry-level information currently available in the field.

**Benefits to Industrial Ecology:** Increased visibility for industrial ecology. Driving change among the general public by improving environmental literacy. Providing an alternative form of research dissemination, particularly beneficial for early-stage researchers to practice communication skills. Potential for commercialization of selected sections, offering an additional source of income for the ISIE.

**Budget:** Up to EUR 2500.

**Budget Breakdown:** Entire budget allocated for setting up the online platform structure via the ISIE website's IT company. Contributions from ISIE members will not be remunerated.

This project aligns with the recent call for an industrial ecology introductory lecture series and will be initially overseen by the Student Chapter Board, with the possibility of establishing a new board or working group in the future.

#### Q&A:

- Reid Lifset raised concerns about the competitive landscape of online platforms and information sources on the Internet and inquired about the strategy for dealing with competition and reaching specific target audiences. - Maximilian Koslowski acknowledged the crowded online environment and mentioned existing platforms listed on the ISIE website, such as Coursera. He emphasized that while these platforms cater mainly to students, their initiative aims to target a broader audience, including the general public.
- Reed Miller asked if there were plans to merge the initiative into existing platforms like Edx rather than creating a new platform from scratch. - Maximilian Koslowski considered the idea of merging with existing platforms and highlighted the Student Chapter Board's willingness to spearhead the initiative. He mentioned ongoing discussions about hosting the platform on the ISIE website initially, with further details to be elaborated upon.

Casted the votes: <https://is4ie.org/survey/81>

**RESULTS** of the vote: Do you accept the proposal "A platform for sustainability literacy and research dissemination"?

YES: 93

ABSTAIN: 23

NO: 11

### 2. Member Proposal: Industrial Ecology methods crash course

The proposal was presented by **Shiva Zargar**.

**Project Description:** The crash course will focus on industrial ecology methods, covering topics such as life cycle assessment, techno-economic analysis, material flow analysis, industrial symbiosis, and social metabolism. It will be divided into three levels: basic, intermediate, and advanced. Each session will include a lecture, Q&A, and hands-on activities. The course will provide practical experiences and insights into well-known methods in the field. Volunteer instructors, including experts like Professor Marina Fischer-Kowalski and Professor Stefan

Pauliuk, will lead the sessions. Required and suggested readings will be provided before each session, and participants completing all sessions will receive a certificate of attendance.

Benefits to Industrial Ecology: Raise awareness and provide practical knowledge about industrial ecology methods. Empower participants to implement industrial ecology methodologies in their communities, institutions, organizations, and industries. Improve knowledge in industrial ecology methods and foster meaningful community involvement.

Budget: Up to EUR 5000.

Budget Breakdown:

Preparation and resources required: €1000

Recruiting presenters and participants: €375

Facilitating sessions on various topics: €1000

Overseeing communication media (Slack), problem-solving: €1050

Editing recorded videos: €2800

Preparing and distributing certificates: €250

Total Estimated Cost: €6,263

Budget from ISIE: €5,000

Self-funding: €1,263

Q&A:

- Bob Paul expressed appreciation for the initiative and inquired about the possibility of providing certificates upon completion of the courses offered by ISIE. - Shiva Zargar emphasized the importance of providing certificates to participants who commit to attending the courses, completing exercises, and assignments. She highlighted the value of having a reliable certificate for individuals to showcase their expertise and knowledge, which can be beneficial for their resumes.

Bob Paul acknowledged the potential usefulness of the certification at all levels and expressed a desire to see politicians engage with the courses to inform decision-making.

- Reed Miller asked if participants would be required to pay for access to the courses and certificates. - Shiva Zargar clarified that currently, access to the courses and certificates is free for members. However, she suggested that charging a nominal fee could increase the perceived value of the courses. She welcomed further discussion on this matter to ensure the best approach for the community.
- Paul Hoekman expressed his ambition to support the project and offered his assistance as a volunteer. He emphasized the importance of trying out the initiative and encouraged the team to consider him for any help needed. - Shiva appreciated Paul's offer of assistance and acknowledged the value of having volunteers contribute to the project. She noted that the budget for the project is currently low, assuming that some professors and instructors may volunteer their services. However, she suggested that depending on the community's needs, allocating more funds for presenters might be necessary, especially if high-level professionals are involved. She affirmed that accepting volunteers willing to give back to the community would be the primary option.

Casted the votes: <https://is4ie.org/survey/82>

**RESULTS** of the vote: Do you accept the proposal "Industrial Ecology methods crash course"?

YES: 103

ABSTAIN: 15

NO: 17

### 3. Member Proposal: Islands at Risk

The proposal was presented by **Dominik Noll** on behalf of the Island Section.

Project Description: This proposal aims to create a short documentary focusing on "Island Industrial Ecology" (Island-IE) by documenting presentations, discussions, and interviews at the second International Conference on Small Island States and Subnational Island Jurisdictions, hosted by the University of Aruba and the University of Prince Edward Island, Canada. The documentary will highlight island resource use, food, water, and energy security, waste management, resilient infrastructure, and the marine system. It will also feature interviews with island politicians, policy-makers, and prominent scholars on industrial ecology approaches to island sustainability. The documentary will serve as a showcase of Island-IE's work and promote ISIE's expertise in island sustainability.

Benefits to Industrial Ecology: Promotes IE topics and communicates section activities to a non-technical audience. Produces a compelling documentary hosted on ISIE's YouTube channel and potentially broadcast on television channels in the Caribbean. Attracts young scholars to become ISIE members and serves as a teaching resource for island sustainability programs.

Budget: Up to EUR 5000.

Budget Breakdown:

Researching/writing the script, filming, and editing: €2,500 (shared between two tech-experienced Island-IE student members).

Lease of equipment: €1,250 (€250/day \* 5 days).

Editing software license and backup drive: €500.

Incidentals (local transport, meals, etc.): €500.

Total: €4,750.

Casted the votes: <https://is4ie.org/survey/83>

**RESULTS** of the vote: Do you accept the proposal "Islands at Risk: showcasing and teaching Island Industrial Ecology"?

YES: 114

ABSTAIN: 12

NO: 13

## 5. UPDATE OF PREVIOUS PROPOSALS

**1. Introductory Video Series** - Ned Gordon provided a brief update on the progress of the project aimed at producing a series of introductory videos covering various methods and topics related to industrial ecology. He mentioned that the project had a slow start but has made significant progress.

The project was fortunate to hire a co-op student named Michael Co from mid-January to mid-May. As co-op students have a limited time period, Michael's tenure will soon come to an end.

Michael is close to completing one video tied to the white paper on Industrial Ecology - Insights for the sustainable circular economy. It is expected to be finished within a week. Additionally, progress has been made on two other videos related to the island section and sustainable urban systems. The aim is to complete these videos before Michael's tenure concludes

**3. Establishing a standard process to award student scholarships for ISIE conference participation (ISIE Student Chapter Board and Alumni represented by Kamila Krych and Miriam Stevens)** – Kamila Krych provided an overview of the proposal for establishing standard guidelines for awarding student scholarships within the society. She emphasized that the proposal did not request any funds but aimed to foster engagement among all society members, particularly the executive team.

The executive team, including individuals such as Ned, Stephanie, and Matt, collaborated to create a draft of standard guidelines for awarding student scholarships. This initiative aimed to streamline the process, as previously, decisions on scholarships were ad hoc and lacked consistency.

Kamila highlighted the importance of addressing key considerations in the scholarship decision-making process. One crucial aspect was balancing quantity and quality when allocating funds. The team grappled with whether to distribute funds to more students with smaller amounts or to provide full scholarships to fewer students, considering that some recipients might lack financial resources.

The involvement of multiple stakeholders in the decision-making process was instrumental in ensuring fairness and equity in awarding scholarships. Kamila expressed gratitude to all individuals engaged in the scholarship process for their contributions.

**4. Improve ISIE Job Board and create Jobs Committee (Reed Miller, Aishwarya Iyer)** – Reed already gave info in his previous report on Career Committee.

## 6. THANKING STEFANIE HELLWEG, OUTGOING PRESIDENT

MX

Ming Xu expressed gratitude to Stephanie for her leadership over the past two years, particularly highlighting her guidance during the pandemic and her dedication to the society. He acknowledged Stephanie's vision for the society and the field of industrial ecology, thanking her for her hard work.

MX took the opportunity to share a few words as he assumes the role of President of the Society for the next two years. He expressed his excitement to work with all members and emphasized the society's current positive state in terms of finances and growth. However, he stressed the importance of continuous effort to ensure the society's ongoing growth.

MX highlighted the increasing division in the world but noted that sustainability remains a topic that can bring people together for collaboration. He emphasized the crucial role of industrial ecologists in advancing sustainability and expressed the society's potential to serve as a platform for collaboration despite diverse backgrounds and opinions. He underscored the importance of expanding the society's reach beyond academia to effect real change.

MX welcomed suggestions and proposals from the membership at any time and expressed his anticipation of working with everyone in the coming years. He encouraged participation and hoped to see many members at the upcoming conference in Leiden during the summer.

SS also extended his gratitude to Stephanie for her dedicated work as the President of the ISIE.

**7. WELCOMING MING XU, INCOMING PRESIDENT SH**

SH expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to serve as President and thanked everyone for their collaboration. She highlighted the constructive meetings and positive atmosphere throughout her tenure. Stefanie also expressed confidence in Ming's ability to lead effectively and expressed excitement about the future of the society under his leadership.

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business.

**9. CLOSING OF GENERAL MEETING MX**

MX and SS closed the meeting.

**MEETING CLOSED AT 10.02AM US EST**