

Dear colleagues

The manifold protective measures taken worldwide to prevent COVID-19 diseases intervene very restrictively in our lives and require completely new processes of communication for our private and professional environment - this also applies to the cooperation at EGNATON.

Two facts appear particularly disturbing in the current situation, which prevent a foreseeable return to normal living conditions for an indefinite period of time. On the one hand, we are only at the beginning of an increasing wave of infections with even more far-reaching restrictions - despite a perceived standstill already now. On the other hand, estimates of the length of time until normalisation only begin at around 1.5 to 2 years.

At EGNATON, there will therefore be no more meetings where physical presence is necessary for the participants until further notice.

### ***Conference calls***

We recommend the service of Telefonkonferenz.de <https://www.telefonkonferenz.de/> for the organization of conference calls. The service is completely free of advertising and the German-language service hotline is available around the clock.

No contract is required to use the service. There are no monthly fees. There is no need to make a reservation and you can start immediately with telephone conferences with up to 100 participants. There are dial-in numbers in 72 countries for free recording. There are 365 free plug-ins for Outlook, Thunderbird and Office that automatically check for new dial-in numbers, so your participant invitation templates are always up to date.

- Start by entering your email address to receive your free PIN.
- You'll immediately receive your free PIN, which you can use to set up your conference call. Your PIN will always remain valid. You can use your PIN as often as you like.
- Pass on this PIN and our dial-in number 01803 127 127 (fixed line price 9 ct/min\*) to the participants of your conference call.
- At the specified time, the participants dial in and enter your PIN to join the conference call.
- Each participant will then be charged a small fee per minute via their regular telephone bill.

If you would like to pay for the participants yourself, you can visit the SPEAQ.com conference service at <https://www.speaq.com/de-de/>. There you need a registration (contract) and you will receive a monthly invoice.

### ***Lifesize for video conferences***

During this time, we will use the tool lifesize, which we will initially use as a demo version and, if necessary, later as a standard version. If costs are incurred, they will be borne by EGNATON e.V. Lifesize is already used by some EGNATON members. The first EGNATON meetings held with it have already been successful.

The advantage of lifesize for participants is that only standard resources of a laptop are required for participation - namely a camera, a microphone and loudspeakers.

Access to these resources (especially microphone and camera) must be enabled on every laptop.

- This is usually done in the Control Panel under the keyword "Privacy".
- The access to camera and microphone must be set to "activated" there.

- Access to camera and microphone from desktop apps must also be enabled.

### ***Trainings and Webinars***

The training courses offered by EGNATON should also be transformed into the virtual world. Mario Don Porto Carero has already made this proposal completely independent of the Corona restriction, because it leaves the potential participants the decision about place and/or time for a training course to a large extent.

- For example, we are cooperating with Klinkner & Partner on our TTG programme in order to be able to replace the DECHEMA date with a webinar by December 2020. And we are trying to adapt the content structure and didactic means to the new medium.
- To this end, we are striving to use the iSpring Suite, which has all the necessary functions, but also comes at a price. Since we do not have any experience with the iSpring-Suite yet, we would like to ask our members for feedback on practical experiences with this tool.

### ***Virtual Events***

In the probable event that the conditions for holding conferences or trade fairs will not change much for the time being, EGNATON should also favour and prepare the use of virtual conferences or workshops in good time.

- Here, too, we count on the already existing experience of our members at the beginning.
- We are talking about events with between 50 and 500 visitors or participants and need a web tool with the appropriate capacity for this.

### ***EGNATON website***

The revision of EGNATON's presence on the World Wide Web is in full swing. The intention is to put a more modern outfit and better differentiated information and contents on the Internet.

- For the working groups we are starting with a starting content, whose future changes are to be supported by the working groups themselves.
- Our download offer to the outside world must also become more attractive. Of course, informative contributions from members can also be made available there.
- Past, recent and planned EGNATON Study Tours are presented and documented more systematically.
- EGNATON CERT and EGNATON academy will also be given more emphasis.

We intend to make the website available in English only at first.

### ***EGNATON dates***

As far as has been decided so far, the following EGNATON dates have been and will be cancelled, postponed or carried out virtually:

- EGNATON Conference 2020, planned 30.3.2020 at the ICM Munich initially postponed indefinitely (the most likely date is around 2.12.2020 in the Duisburg/Mülheim a.d. Ruhr area, but remains subject to normalised conditions).
- WG 3- Meeting, planned 7.5.2020 at WALDNER Bensheim will take place as a lifesize video conference.

- EGNATON Study Tour Portugal, planned for May 2020 cancelled without replacement
- WG 3- Meeting, planned 10.9.2020 at MPG Munich will take place as a lifesize video-conference.

On the other dates already set, we are endeavouring to make arrangements about 3 months in advance to facilitate the organisational preparations for EGNATON members and interested parties.

Events that we have already largely organized we are trying to postpone to safer times, but realize that due to the widespread common intention of many organizations, there will be a large density of postponed events in autumn 2020. Virologists also suspect that autumn cannot yet be considered safe. It is therefore likely that events will be postponed well into the next year.

We hope that with this announcement we are also sending a signal that there is no reason for an end-time mood at EGNATON.

- Our association lives and is moving - possibly not only temporarily - into a new phase of communication and public relations, which can be better reconciled with the foreseeable uncertain social boundary conditions now and in the future.
- This is not to say that we want to do without our personal and physical contacts with each other permanently, even if the restrictive conditions of pandemic protection measures have eased again.
- However, we also see the lasting side effect of intensified virtual communication, which is created by avoiding time, costs and energy for travelling and certainly does not harm the EGNATON image.

***Stay contact shy but healthy by way of exception.***

Yours Egbert Dittrich and Peter Neurieder

