Policy Plan Sichting Geschiedenis Actueel

GA!

GESCHIEDENIS ACTUEEL THINK TANK

Hugo Abrial

Founder and President

10/10/2024

Foreword

This document is a reflection of the past and a thought for the future. Foundations Geschiedenis Actueel grew exponentially during this crucial year of this existence. This is the first official report of the foundation. Therefore, this policy plan also covers some history. Furthermore, we will cover more of the history of the Think-Tank than will be reported in future policy plans. Indeed, as this policy report begins in September 2022 until October 2024; next policy reports will only be composed of future plans and end-of the-year reports will reflect on the workings of the Foundation from October to October.

Executive summary

Introduction and Mission

This policy plan reflects on the growth and development of GA! from September 2022 to October 2024 and outlines the foundation's future strategies and ambitions.

Key Reaches

Structure

GA! was established in 2022. Later on an informal board of directors was formed. In the autumn of 2024, just after the officialisation of the foundation, a new structure of the foundation was proposed with an Strategic Board and an Executive Board.

Activities

- 11 podcasts published, 12 produced.
  - 3 part podcasts with CWRN in the making
- 3 Magazines published
  - 1 Magazine security themed in the making
  - 1 Special edition of Spain in the world in the making
- 1 Symposium made with 30 participants from different fields, including professionals, students and academics
- 24 monthly meetings since two years
  - 2 expert meeting since the summer,
  - 1 member insight night

Partnerships

GA! has partnerships with the MA IRHP, UCU PoliticsCO, SIB.

The IRHP partnership that is under the umbrella of the Applied Research Lab started already, earlier than expected with the new Associated Research Fellow Pepijn Lapidaire.

Finances

The next step for GA! is the finding of structural and project based finance. The foundation is in debt to the first Strategic Board and the Executive Board.

Long Term Vision

Further growth of GA! influence within academic and policy discussions by strategic partnerships with the establishment of GA!'s presence at other Universities and other institutions such as Clingendael and HCSS.

Diversification of funding sources through grants, donations and crowdfunding for specific projects and operational costs.

Strengthen relationships with universities and potential corporate sponsors for long-term collaboration and financial support.

Future Projects

Continuing the timely productions of products of the think-tank. Development of specialized research projects within the various GA! committees (such as Security and Sustainability). Organization of workshops and networking activities to better prepare students for careers in international relations and policy.

Evolution of the Thinktank from September 2022 until October 2024

In September 2022, Hugo Abrial wrote a document called: “Think-tank proposition”. The document outlined a plan to establish a think tank focused on international relations (IR) topics, with an emphasis on incorporating historical perspectives. The proposal aimed to create an opportunity for students to engage with IR topics in a practical way while developing valuable skills for their future careers. It emphasized the importance of historical knowledge in understanding and shaping current international relations. It had a clear purpose (to produce policy papers combining academic knowledge and practical solutions, and to provide a platform for students to contribute and develop skills), rationale (addressing the lack of historical context in IR policies and bridging the gap between academic knowledge and practical application) and target audience, students.

It also outlined potential activities: writing policy papers, analyzing IR currents and their History, producing book reviews and creating debate platforms.

Sending this document to friends from his bachelor History at Utrecht University, the idea found some success: Jelle Timmermans and Jesper van Der Most sat down and elaborated the plan further.

Together they promoted the idea under the student community and before long a group of 7 students met up, once a month, to present and discuss international relations from a historical perspective. They published a trial edition, the first edition of GA! Magazine, in the theme of small states. In three months time, a debate platform and a forum for enthusiastic students was born, meeting up in cafés in Utrecht. Nevertheless, the students had finished a magazine.

Finishing their Bachelor year, Jesper van der Most and Hugo Abrial, left on a 6 months exchange to Lithuania. This was a hard time for the future foundation. After reflection, Jesper chose another path and quit the de facto board, composed of Hugo, Jesper and Jelle. From a distance, Hugo decided to create a bigger board where each director would have its portfolio. Hugo would be president, Jelle secretary, Christophe van der Kwast director of research, and Alicia Derksen PR Manager.

Yet, fall 2023 would prove decisive for GA! New members joined the community, and some even joined the board, namely Tom Draaijer as Publication Director and Antonios Paraschos as podcast Director. A broader organization seemed to take form.

As individual publications found their way on LinkedIn and the Website, at the rate of once a month, GA! gained in visibility inside Utrecht University but also outside of it. Before long, GA! participated in its first international conference on the 24th of November, the Second edition of Spain Today, to represent the student voice. November was also marked by the first produced podcast by the new director of podcasts Antonis. From now on, until November 2024 Antonis produced a podcast every month, interviewing experts as student alike.

The podcast and the international conference gave new momentum to the initiative: more students joined the initiative. During the relatively calm month of December, with only a monthly meeting, the board members of GA! prepared for the new year. The meetings will, from now on, be organized more professionally and a real editorial team prepared for the second edition of the Magazine.

January was marked by the meeting discussing Germany's OstPolitik and its historic roots. The podcast prepared the upcoming magazine and discussed the new BRICS alliance. The monthly meetings changed locations, from cafés GA! moved to the Faculty Club in Utrecht, enhancing the quality of the meetings. Moreover, the idea of a very own GA! symposium was launched, as were the preparations.

February meeting was a reflective meeting talking about the future of the think tank, the vision on the magazine and its BRICS issue, and in true GA style, we discussed important IR developments. This month, the podcast analyzed the historical position of the EU towards Israel and Palestine. Moreover, the MA IRHP tasked Hugo for his applied research lab task to research the possibility of a cooperation between the MA en GA!

The second edition of the GA! Magazine was published in March this time in the theme of the BRICS countries, titled: *The BRICS: Navigating Multipolarity and the Challenging World Order*. It was a relative success. As the Taiwanese elections were a hot topic, the podcast delved into that subject in March.

The first expert podcast interview with Dr. Paschalis Pechlivanis was published in April, giving insides into the politics of football. In May, MBS was discussed and in June the power dynamics in Central Asia.

As the board member had to graduate, from April onwards the think tank slowed down a bit. But its ambition was up: it was decided that GA! was to be an official foundation. The presentation in June of the report made by Hugo to MA coordinators encouraged the students to perennialize this initiative. GA! will offer a possibility to students to be Research fellow under the Applied Research Lab track of the IRHP master.

It would take all summer to finalize the creation of the foundation. The final construct, the organigram, of the organization you will find later in this document.

GA! board members, in coordination with MA IRHP, encouraged new students of the MA to join this new adventure in September. Martin joined the think tank as podcast director when Antonis, returning to Greece left the board. Moreover, the first meeting of the year was hosted by Luuk Pepers, Expert at the Clingendael institute, who gave a workshop on international negotiations. The meeting was well attended, as 18 students were present that day. The podcast's subject this month was the complex politics of Energy in Europe with Doctor Marloes Beers. September was also the month of the last preparation for the upcoming symposium that would happen on October 8th.

With around 30 attendees from students, to professors, to those external to Utrecht University, the event, a first for GA! was a resounding success. Speakers were Dr. Marloes Beers assistant professor in the History of international relations, Diederick van Wijk, EU expert, from the Clingendael institute, and Frederick Mertens, TNO strategic analyst. Alas, Frederick Mertens could not make it due to sickness. After a very informative lecture with a student panel, the evening was closed with some drinks. This event would have been not possible as it was without the logistical support of the PoliticsCo, providing a room and drinks. This is the first time that GA! collaborated in organizing an event. The month October was also marked by the publication of the podcast on the changing demographics in the world.

Moreover, the start of the first Research fellow under the Applied Research Lab, IRHP student Pepijn Lapidaire, was an important event in October. He contributes to the upcoming magazine on security, and writes a weekly new reviews with historical analysis.

Structure of the Foundation & Policy plan

The members of the Strategic Board are the ones whose names are written on the act of foundation of the Think-Tank: those are the President -Hugo Abrial-, the Secretary -Jelle Timmermans- and the Treasurer- Christophe van der Kwast. The strategic board has the power to make structural decisions, for example: naming of the executive board, financial decisions and payment, and changing the household rules.

The Executive Board are students that are running the day to day affairs of the think tank. They are running the operation. The executive board is composed of a President, Secretary, Publication Director, Podcast Director, Event Director, and PR & Acquisition Director. Notably, the Secretary can also be combined with another position, except the position of President. All members of the Executive Boards actively contribute to the physical products of the Think-Tank, therefore they are also Research Fellows.

As Director, they are de facto also directors of a Committee. That committee is composed of Associate Research fellows.

Composition of the Executive Board with Goals, objectives and quantified objectives.

1. President

The President coordinates the executive board's activities and fosters partnerships for collaboration.

Goals:

- Coordinates the production and the functioning of the executive board of the think-tank
- Reach out to interesting third partners for potential collaboration

Objectives:

- Preside over directors' meetings and prepare agendas in collaboration with the Secretary.
- Meet regularly with the advisory board for strategic discussions.
- Provide logistical support to directors as needed.
- Guide directors in their tasks while overseeing research outputs.

Quantified objectives:

- Conduct quarterly advisory board meetings to assess collaboration opportunities.
- Conduct every week an Executive Board meeting, and manage the projects.

The President of the executive board is a key figure in the organization. He controls and coordinates the whole organization, he makes sure that the deadlines and the timeline is respected. He is also responsible for writing the year report and presenting the products to the strategic board and the advisory board.

2. Secretary

The Secretary manages communications with strategic partners, organizes meetings and keeps the documentation in the archives.

Goals:

- Facilitate coordination among different stakeholders.
- Organize monthly meetings with members and experts.

Objectives:

- Maintain documentation related to the think tank's operations.
- Record minutes from directors' meetings for accountability.
- Plans the executive board meetings, and the meetings with strategic board and Advisory board.

Quantified objectives:

- Organize 5 monthly meetings with experts, 5 with students, that are altering.
- Ensuring all meeting minutes are documented within 48 hours post-meeting and signed by the president of the strategic board.
- Ensures that all documentation is neatly organized in the Drive
- Find new solutions and tools to make the team collaboration more effective.

The Secretary of the executive board plays a vital role in ensuring the smooth operation of the organization. This position is responsible for coordinating communications among various stakeholders and facilitating collaboration between committees. The Secretary organizes and schedules meetings, prepares agendas in partnership with the President, and ensures that all documentation is accurately maintained.

3. Publication Committee

This committee manages the publication process for thematic articles and journals produced by GA!.

Goals:

- Manage the publication process of thematic articles and journals produced by GA!
- Encourage members to regularly contribute to publications.
- Recruit guest articles.
- Producing the weekly news analysis.
- Managing the website
- Active use of the newsletter.

Objectives:

- Planning and executing the publication of journals and articles, including setting deadlines.
- Provide feedback on submitted articles to ensure quality and relevance.
- Communicating about publications through various channels to increase visibility
- Collaborates with the PR community

Quantified objectives:

- Publish one journal per quarter
- Publish one independent piece of writing on the website per month
- Having one guest article per month

The Publications Committee meets at least once every two week under the leadership of the Publications Director and reports to the Executive Board of its activities and results. Decisions are taken by consensus, with all members having a say. Any expenditure must be submitted to the Treasurer, who may or may not approve the expenditure. Amendments to the regulations are carried forward to the executive committee which is then voted on. Members of the committee are appointed by the board after selection procedure for a period of one (1) year with possibility of reappointment.

4. Podcast Committee

The Podcast Committee is dedicated to producing high-quality audio content that aligns with GA!'s objectives.

Goals:

- Produce quality podcasts in line with the objectives of GA!
- Increasing the foundation's impact through audio content.

Objectives:

- Develop a monthly podcast publication schedule.
- Produce a podcast every month.
- Identify and invite engaging guests from both student and professional backgrounds.
- Collaborate with other committees for thematic consistency in podcast content.

Quantified objectives:

- Produce a podcast every month, with every other month an expert and alternate with a GA! student member or student guest.

The Podcast committee meets at least once every two weeks under the leadership of the Podcast director and is accountable to the executive board for its activities and results. Decisions are made by consensus, with all members having a say. Any expenditure must be submitted to the Treasurer, who may or may not approve the expenditure. Amendments to the regulations are carried forward to the executive committee which is then voted on. Committee members are appointed by the board after selection procedure for a period of one (1) year with possibility of reappointment. A committee member may also be a member of no more than one other committee

5. Event Committee

The Event Committee focuses on organizing events that align with GA!'s mission and foster member interaction and interactions with other partners.

Goals:

- Organize events that promote GA!'s mission and facilitate member networking.
- Establish an external platform for discussions on relevant topics with various partners.

Objectives:

- Plan and execute regular events such as lectures, workshops, and networking sessions.
- Collaborate with external experts
- Organize a minimum of four events during the committee year.
- Evaluate past events to refine future activities.
- Together with PR and Secretary Company visits.

Quantified objectives:

- Host a minimum of four events per year, aiming for 75% member attendance at each event, including one symposium and one workvisit.

The Event committee meets at least once every two weeks under the leadership of the Event director and is accountable to the executive board of its activities and results. Decisions are made by consensus, with all members having a say. Any expenditure must be submitted to the

Treasurer, who may or may not approve the expenditure. Amendments to the regulations are carried forward to the executive committee which is then voted on. Committee members are appointed by the board after selection procedure for a period of one (1) year with possibility of reappointment. A committee member may also be a member of no more than one other committee.

6. PR/ & Acquisition Committee

The PR & Acquisition Committee aims to enhance the visibility and image of GA! while securing funds for its operations.

Goals:

- Identify and secure funding sources.
- Increase the foundation's visibility and strengthen its image.
- Develop and maintain effective communication channels with members and stakeholders via platforms like Instagram, LinkedIn, WhatsApp, and the website.
- Utilize the WhatsApp community to foster member engagement and discussions.
- Organize -together with Secretary and event Committee- company visits, and secure donations.

Objectives:

- Create a comprehensive communication strategy aligned with the foundation's goals.
- Actively promote events, publications, and podcasts through social media.
- Design visual materials and campaigns to boost member engagement.
- Disseminate survey results, podcasts, and magazine content to relevant audiences.
- Engage with students in pertinent master's programs across various universities to broaden outreach.

Quantified objectives:

- Secure 2 structural funding sources
- Secure for each event 1 project based funding sources
- Gain 200 followers on LinkedIn
- Obtain minimum 10 reactions per post

The PR committee meets at least once every two weeks under the leadership of the PR director and is accountable to the executive board of its activities and results. Decisions are taken by consensus, with all members having a say. Any expenditure must be submitted to the Treasurer, who may or may not approve the expenditure. Amendments are submitted to the executive board for voting. Committee members are appointed by the board after selection procedure for a period of one (1) year with possibility of reappointment. A committee member may also be a member of no more than one other committee.

Associate Research Fellows

Associate Research Fellows are students who are less active in the think tank. To be an Associate Research Fellow some requirements are to be made: at least 1 original textual contribution per year and the participation of 4 Monthly meetings per year.

Extraordinary members

Extraordinary members are Individuals connected to Utrecht University or past student members, granted by the Executive Board and the Strategic Board.

Advisory board

The advisory board is to day; Michiel Angenent- President of the Advisory Board-, Dr. Paschalis Pechlivanis, Dr. Stefanie Massink and Dr. Marloes Beers. The Advisory Board gives solicited and unsolicited opinions and reports on the strategic direction of the think tank, the products of the think tank, help the overall growth of the think tank and suggests new collaboration opportunities originating from within or outside the academical framework.

Physical products

Until now

The Thinktank published 11 podcasts, 3 magazines, 4 individual publications, 1 symposium, 12 monthly meetings, including 2 experts meetings. Since the summer, GA! decided to alternate the Monthly Meeting to Student Insight Nights and Expert Talks.

For the members insight night, the president designed a protocol to help students and the secretary to prepare for their presentation:

Think Session Protocol

For the secretary

1. Schedule

- Think sessions occur monthly, specifically every 2nd Monday.
- The secretary oversees session scheduling and coordination.

2. Subject Preparation

- The secretary ensures that each session features a prepared subject presented by either a board member, a think tank member, or an invited speaker, all in line with the foundation's mission.
- Rotation among presenters maintains variety and inclusivity.

Weeks Prior to Session

- **Think Tank Member Presentation:**
  - 4 weeks prior: Secretary confirms session availability and topic with the designated think tank member.
  - 3 weeks prior: Think tank member submits session material to the secretary.
  - 2 weeks prior: Secretary distributes preparatory material to members.
- **Invited Speaker (Professional) Presentation:**
  - 4 weeks prior: Secretary confirms session availability and topic with the invited speaker.
  - 3 weeks prior: Speaker submits session material to the secretary.
  - 2 weeks prior: Secretary distributes preparatory material to members.

Day of Session

- The secretary sends WhatsApp reminders to all members regarding the session and their availability.
- The secretary ensures that the session venue is ready and necessary materials are prepared.

During Session

- The presenter leads an engaging presentation, fostering discussion and debate among members.
- Members actively participate, offering perspectives and engaging in meaningful dialogue.
- The secretary takes comprehensive notes during the session for record-keeping purposes.

Checkpoints for Member presenting

Preparation

- Define clear objectives for the presentation.
- Outline main points and supporting evidence.
- Prepare thought-provoking questions for discussion.
- Optional: create visually appealing slides or handouts.

Structure

- Craft an attention-grabbing introduction.
- Organize content in a logical sequence.
- Plan discussion breaks at key points.
- Prepare a strong conclusion that ties back to the main points.

Engagement Strategies

- Incorporate interactive elements
- Use real-world examples or case studies.
- Plan for audience participation
- Consider multimedia elements to enhance engagement.

During the Session

- Encourage participation from the beginning.
- Use open-ended questions to stimulate discussion.
- Actively listen and respond to participants.
- Manage time effectively between presentation and discussion.

Other current collaborative projects:

1. 3 part podcast in collaboration with the Cold War Research Network on the felt consequences issued from the Cold War today.
2. A special issue Magazine with the course Spain in the world.
3. IRHP student participation via the Applied Research Lab of the Think Tank
4. Participation in the student panel of the Third edition of Spain today

Future projects

Apart from the structural future projects listed in the quantified objectives of the executive board, there are some interesting future projects:

1) A second edition of GA! symposium for September in collaboration with Speakers with other organisms.
2) Workvisits with companies/institutions.
3) Partnerships

Partnerships

Until now, GA! has made contact with different organizations.

- Utrecht University (MA IRHP, Humanities department),
- UCU PoliticsCO
- SIB

The president is busy looking for other options, including Clingendael.

- UHSK
- West Wing
- HCSS
- Clingendael
- NICC
- Corporations:
  - Deloitte
  - https://monnik.org/nl/corporate-3-landing/
  - Adviesbureaus
- Historical Magazines
- **Other departments of UU**
  - **PPE**
  - **etc.**

Finance

A research made by the treasurer named "Potential Subsidy Options for GA" has been added to the drive under the Treasurer section. Recent research into funding sources has identified four promising options included in the document. The last two, KF Hein Fonds and Utrecht Cultuurfonds, may prove particularly beneficial.

However, it is important to note that all funds reviewed over the past few weeks include provisions stating that support is provided on a project basis only. This means that while events such as "Spain Today" or symposia may qualify for funding, recurring costs like the website, which total €363 annually, are not eligible. This presents a challenge.

Thomas Vaessens has recommended exploring potential support at the departmental level. Investigating this avenue could yield additional funding opportunities.

Additionally, the only alternative for securing contributions from the IRHP master program appears to be through merchandise sales. However, this approach carries risks, as it requires an upfront investment with no guarantee of sales. Increasing crowdfunding efforts may also be considered.

Potential Subsidy options for GA:

- STUF (https://www.uu.nl/organisatie/doneren/subsidie/voor-studenten/stuf-vraag-subsidie-aan/stuf-subsidievoorwaarden)
    - This fund is only for individual activities. Requests need to be applied for at least 6 weeks in advance, events need to take place in Utrecht and events cannot be for ECTS but should contribute to the development of students. STUF cannot account for more than 30% of the event´s funding. The organization doing the request also needs to be a donor to the fund, offering at least 30 Euros annually.
    - This is one of the broadest funds available to UU students, offering funds for activities of all kinds.
    - That said, there are some issues for GA. The main one is that our large costs are not linked to the organisation of activities, but things like maintaining the website and banking costs, which STUF cannot help us with. Collaboration with other organisations like PoliticsCo or study associations allow GA to access UU locations. Considering the fact that our main issue at present is sustaining ourselves long-term by covering our constant costs, STUF is not ideal for now.
- Studentenwelzijn Fonds (https://studentenwelzijnfonds.nl/voorwaarden-2/)
    - I mainly looked at this one for the sake of completeness, unfortunately this fund is (somewhat predictably) unsuited. This fund is also focused on

individual projects, they have to be focused on student- wellness and have a notable effect on it.

- I can only really think of one possibility where this fund would be useful to us. Say we wanted to delve into topics related to the impact geopolitical challenges can have on people´s mental health and how an analytical perspective can help remedy that, thinking of these issues as problems that can be solved so that they don't become overwhelming, then we could maybe get money from them. Outside of that very specific case, I doubt we can expect much from them.

- K.F. Hein Fonds (https://kfhein.nl/aanvragen)
  - I honestly think this one is among the most interesting for us. This is a fund for initiatives in Utrecht without a political or religious motivation that is in some way connected to nature and sustainability, social/societal matters, culture and personal development or monuments. I believe that we can make a case for us fitting in the middle two.
  - Beyond money, they also have a location at the Maliesingel and can offer advice to new organisations. The fund is again on a project to project basis.
- Cultuurfonds Utrecht (https://www.cultuurfonds.nl/quickscan?quickscan=start|stichting)
  - This fund has a specific section on transfer of knowledge within the context of history, so in that sense we very much fit into one of its domains. This fund again falls on a project by project basis and does not cover day-to-day costs of running the foundation. It also includes a provision that the funds need to be (partially) funded by the organisation itself, meaning it cannot cover the costs of the activity on its own. This again restricts our options.

What all these funds, and every single other fund the Treasurer was able to find, have in common is that they are for individual projects, not the operational costs of running the foundation. It is these costs that are most significant for our sustainability as an organisation. In the context of Thomas Vaessen´s advice, the Treasurer therefore recommends that GA! get in contact with the department and/or with Dr. Marloes Beers to see if there are any possibilities of getting money from the department or even the IRHP master. While there are many funds that can help out with projects like our symposia, there are none willing to cover day to day costs.

As with every new initiative, costs have been made. All the costs since the beginning have been submitted with an invoice to the treasurer. To this day, those are the costs made:

Uitgaven (€)	Geld van	Uitleg	Datum			
260	Hugo	Foundation GA	26-7-2024			
260	Tom	Foundation GA	26-7-2024		Schulden GA (€)	Persoon
260	Jelle	Foundation GA	26-7-2024		1670,08	Hugo
260	Alicia	Foundation GA	26-7-2024		260	Tom
260	Christophe	Foundation GA	26-7-2024		260	Jelle
22,97	Hugo	Visite Kaartjes	26-7-2024		260	Alicia
16,6	Hugo	Margriet Wines	04-09-2024		260	Christophe
145	Hugo	Zaalhuur Sterrekamer	10-09-2024		20	Martin
396,42	Hugo	Lening aan GA	27-09-2024			
80,1	Hugo	KVK kosten	28-09-2024			
363	Hugo	Website Kosten 2024	17-09-2024			
363	Hugo	Website Kosten 2023	17-09-2023			
22.99	Hugo	Domein naam	20-10-2024			
21.18	Stichting	kosten Bank	16-10-2024			
20.00	Martin	kosten bloemen symposium	07-10-2024			

GA! is in contact with NGIZ for a substantial donation of 1500 euro's. With this donation, the following plan has been made:

- 748.49 euro- costs website
  - 363 reimbursement Hugo
  - 363 costs website next year
  - 22.99 domain naam
- 100 euro- reimbursement costs expert talk
- 150 euro- costs gifts experts next year
- 182 euro- costs bank account
- Rest return of money foundation establishment

Internal Rules of Procedure.

Article 1: Description

The GA! Foundation is a legally recognized entity based in Utrecht. A copy of the statutes is filed with the Chamber of Commerce in Utrecht.

Article 2: Organizational Structure

The GA! Foundation consists of the following bodies:

1. Strategic Board
2. Executive Board
3. Advisory Board
4. General Assembly of Fellows

Article 3: Membership

1. General Assembly of Fellows:
    - The General Assembly consists of Associate Research Fellows, both of whom do not possess voting rights within the foundation.
    - A representative from the General Assembly may contribute to Executive Board meetings when invited.
2. Types of Membership:
    - Associate Research Fellows: Students who contribute at least one original textual pieces annually and attend four monthly meetings.
    - Extraordinary Member: Those who have made a valuable contribution to the foundation (monetary, time or products) but do not fall within the target audience (i.e. post-graduates, donors, etc).
    -
3. Membership Structure:
    - The General Assembly is recognized as a member organ within the foundation, but it does not hold any structural power.
    - Associate Research Fellows are expected to be actively involved in the think tank's activities, while Visitor Research Fellows may participate more casually.

Article 4: Benefactors

1. Benefactors do not have voting rights in the General Assembly of Fellows but are entitled to discounts and participation in activities.
2. Benefactors are not required to demonstrate an affinity with Utrecht University.

Article 5: Yearly Contribution

1. Members of the General Assembly of Fellows, and extraordinary members are not required to pay an annual contribution.
2. They may be solicited for voluntary donations.

Article 6: Candidate Board

1. A candidate board consists of at least three members for the Executive Board.
2. The candidate board is responsible for proposing new members to the Strategic Board and ensuring continuity in leadership.
3. The candidate board needs to be approved by the Strategic Board.

Article 7: Decision-Making

1. Decisions within the Strategic and Executive Boards are made by consensus.
2. Expenditures must be submitted to both the Treasurer and the President of the Strategic Board for approval.

Article 8: Meetings

1. The Executive Board meets at least once a week, and all committees meet weekly as well.
2. Minutes from all meetings must be recorded and made available to all members within 48 hours in a special Whatsapp community Channel of GA!.

Article 9: Collaboration

1. The Executive Board shall facilitate collaboration between committees to enhance synergy and effectiveness.
2. Joint initiatives should be encouraged, allowing committees to work together on events, publications, and outreach efforts.

Article 10: Committees

Each committee shall operate under specific goals, objectives, and quantified objectives as outlined below:

PR & Acquisition Committee

- Goals: Enhance visibility and secure funding.
- Objectives: Develop communication strategies, promote events, engage students, etc.
- Quantified Objectives: Secure two structural funding sources annually; secure one project-based funding source for each event.

Event Committee

- Goals: Organize events promoting GA!'s mission.
- Objectives: Plan lectures, workshops, networking sessions, etc.
- Quantified Objectives: Host a minimum of four events per year with 75% member attendance at each event.

Podcast Committee

- Goals: Produce quality podcasts aligned with GA!'s objectives.
- Objectives: Develop a monthly schedule, invite guests, collaborate with other committees.
- Quantified Objectives: Produce a podcast every month.

Publication Committee

- Goals: Manage publication processes for articles and journals.
- Objectives: Plan publications, provide feedback on submissions, increase visibility.
- Quantified Objectives: Publish one journal per quarter; publish one independent piece monthly; feature one guest article per month.

A more detailed document titled "Composition of the Executive Board with Goals, Objectives, and Quantified Objectives" is provided to explain the different committees and directors' roles. Any changes to this document must be supported by the Executive Board and require approval from the Strategic Board.

Article 11: Executive Board Responsibilities

The Executive Board is responsible for managing day-to-day operations of the foundation:

- The President coordinates activities and fosters partnerships for collaboration.
- The Secretary manages communications with strategic partners and organizes meetings.

A more detailed document titled "Composition of the Executive Board with Goals, Objectives, and Quantified Objectives" will outline specific roles within the Executive Board. Any changes to this document must be supported by the Executive Board and require approval from the Strategic Board.

Article 12: Well-being and Inclusivity

1. The GA! Foundation is committed to creating an inclusive environment that respects diversity among its members.
2. All members are expected to treat each other with respect and dignity; any form of discrimination or harassment will not be tolerated.

3. Excessive or violent behavior is strictly prohibited within all foundation activities.

Article 14: Advisory Board

The Advisory Board provides strategic direction and support for growth opportunities within the think tank.

Article 15: Amendments

These Rules of Procedure may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the Strategic Board during a scheduled meeting on proposition of the Executive Board.

Vision for Long-term Growth

As president I have to formulate a long term vision of the development of the foundation and think tank.

Diversification

The objective is to grow the academic and non-academic diversification of background of the Executive Board and in the Assembly of Fellows.

GA! believes in the strength of multidisciplinary aspects of knowledge creation. GA! also believes in the strength of different non academical- backgrounds. Therefore, it is necessary to find solutions to encourage diversifications in academic and non-academic background.

Expansion of Impact and Reach

The objective is to build on the foundation's mission by extending its influence and relevance in both public and academic debate.

Therefore we can deepen partnerships with academic institutions like Utrecht University, other universities to offer fellowships. We can try to establish other GA sections in other universities. We can also try to partner up with bigger research institutes like Clingendael, HCSS or ISSG. Lastly, we could try to organize bigger events, in particular the symposia, by hosting annual symposia that attract students, academics, and policymakers to discuss global issues from a historical perspective.

Diversification of Funding

The objective is to sustain the foundation's non-profit nature while securing stable funding for operations.

We must prioritize obtaining grants, donations and subsidies for specific events and research projects, thinking nationally and internationally. We should explore deeper financial partnerships with universities and relevant institutions, as well as corporate sponsors that align with the foundation's goals of nonprofit education and historical analysis. We should use community-driven funding models, such as crowdfunding for large projects or offering memberships to support the foundation's long-term activities without compromising its nonprofit status.

Enhancing Research and Knowledge Production

We always need to strive to elevate the quality and visibility of GA's research output.

Therefore, we need to strengthen existing publications by ensuring regular high-quality content in accordance with the legal mandate to publish scientific journals and review articles. We need to continue producing monthly podcasts that explore contemporary issues with a historical lens, ensuring content aligns with academic standards and engages the public, aiming at enlarging professional as students attention for GA! We could develop specialized research tracks within certain Committees as the Podcast and the Publication committees who are specialized in certain themes like: Security, Sustainability,...

Professional Development and Student Engagement

The objective is to foster the next generation students of analysts by enhancing opportunities for professional development.

A concrete plan needs to be worked out but a mentorship program where students work closely with professors, historians, and industry professionals could be thought of. Furthermore, GA! could be organizing more career-focused events, workvisits that help students transition from academia to professional careers in international relations, history, and policy analysis.

Institutionalization and Sustainability

GA! needs to ensure its perenniality by embedding its operations within greater institutional frameworks and position itself strategically.

We can think for more inclusivity in the framework of Utrecht University, or other institutions mentioned above. But the biggest challenge will be the finance of the operations. Therefore we need to develop an internal strategy for sustaining operational costs through long-term financial planning, including reserve funds.

Vision Statement Example

Over the next five years, in line with our founding principles, GA! will expand and solidify its unique place in the Netherlands as a student-led think tank that uses history as a lens to analyze contemporary global issues. By creating a comprehensive platform for interdisciplinary learning, debate and research, and deepening our partnerships with academic institutions and communities, we will ensure that GA! becomes a leading voice in shaping the future, for students, professionals and society.